

**ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS*  
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 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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August 15, 2011

Dear SRU Middle School Parent or Guardian:

Under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), this letter is being sent to notify you of SRU Middle School's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status. Based on the 2011 PSSA reading and math assessments, SRU's status has moved from Warning to School Improvement I.

AYP is determined by how successful districts and schools are in meeting state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic progress. To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well for each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic (ED) status, Individual Education Plan (IEP)—Special Education, and English Language Learner (ELL) status. The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of "targets" that must be met to make AYP. **In 2011 SRU met 15 out of 17 targets for AYP. AYP was not met for the subgroup IEP.** Following is a table indicating percentage of students scoring proficient or above.

| Year      | SRU Reading<br>All Students | Subgroups<br>Reading |      | State<br>Reading | SRU Math<br>All Students | Subgroups<br>Math |      | State<br>Math |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------|---------------|
|           |                             | IEP                  | ED   |                  |                          | IEP               | ED   |               |
| Year 2011 | 65.3                        | 16.9                 | 55.1 | unavailable      | 77.7                     | 26.8              | 65.9 | unavailable   |
| Year 2010 | 67.1                        | 25.6                 | 54.0 | 71.9             | 78.7                     | 39.7              | 69.2 | 76.3          |
| Year 2009 | 63.2                        | 31.8                 | 52.7 |                  | 80.6                     | 55.2              | 73.6 |               |
| Year 2008 | 69.6                        | 26.8                 | 51.1 |                  | 80.2                     | 40.4              | 71.1 |               |

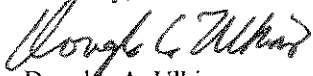
In April 2010, SRU developed a School Improvement Plan targeted to increase performance with at-risk and IEP students. Faculty will continue to receive training on implementing Learning Focused School Instructional Strategies in the classroom. Regular education teachers will be collaborating on a regularly basis with learning support teachers to ensure that the academic needs of IEP students are being met. Last year, a Title I reading teacher position was added at SRU to provide additional support in reading. Our Special Services Director has restructured the learning support services to better assist students.

According to NCLB, SRU Middle School must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement. The Athens Area School District is exempt from offering school choice since there is not another school building available to offer the choice to transfer.

**What can you do?** Parent support is essential to the success of SRU Middle School. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The many successes at SRU Middle School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. Our challenge, our goal and our commitment is to ensure that ALL students are progressing. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student. Any comments regarding SRU's AYP status should be directed to SRU Principal Mr. Donald Jones (djones@athenasasd.org).

Sincerely,

  
 Douglas A. Ulkins  
 Superintendent

BOARD PRESIDENT: KAREN BRENNAN BOARD SECRETARY: MARY MERRALL

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER IN COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE IX AND SECTION 504.