

Forrest County Agricultural High School
Elizabeth H. Yankay, Ph.D.
Superintendent

August 1, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school is committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. Forrest County Agricultural High School has strong, dedicated staff committed to teaching the challenging academic content and interpersonal skills that help students develop into productive citizens.

In January 2002, the U.S. Congress passed a new federal education law called *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*. The federal law requires states to set specific requirements that schools must meet each year. To meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) each year, a school must test at least 95% of the students in each subgroup (all students, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and students in each of five racial/ethnic subgroups) and each subgroup must meet the student proficiency standards based on scores from the tests administered at certain grades or in certain courses -- the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT), 2nd Edition; the Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) tests in Algebra I and English II; and the MS Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks (MAAECF) Alternate Assessments. In addition, schools with a graduating class must meet the required graduation rate and schools without a graduating class must meet the required attendance rate.

If a school does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same area (reading/ language arts, mathematics, or graduation/attendance rate), it is identified as "in need of improvement" -- Year 1. Based on Preliminary 2009-10 AYP Results, Forrest County Agricultural High School has been identified as "in need of improvement" -- Year 2. We have not met the 95% participation rate for testing students for two consecutive years.

While we are not able to provide another school in our district or a neighboring district for your child to attend, we are offering before and after school tutoring services for eligible students. If you are interested in these services, please complete and return the enclosed form.

We are developing a rigorous school improvement plan and teachers are being provided high quality training. We want you to know that the Mississippi Department of Education will support the district improvement process through a comprehensive professional development program. We encourage you to provide input as we strive to help all of our students succeed now and in the future. To find out about ways you can get involved with our school, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Yankay at Forrest County Agricultural High School at (601) 582-4102 or eyankay@forrestcountyahs.com.

Parents are not only critical to a student's success, but to the success of the school as well. NCLB recognizes this, detailing the parents' responsibilities in becoming active members of the school community. Under NCLB, parents are to be a part of the school's improvement

processes. Parents may help create the school's Parent Involvement Policy, the school's roadmap to increasing parental involvement and building capacity among parents to help their children achieve at high standards. Parents may also help write the school's School Improvement Plan, the plan to raise student achievement in the school. It is clear that parents, as well as school, district, and state staff, are accountable for raising student achievement. In addition, to becoming involved in drafting the school's School Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy, there are various other school-based programs in which you can become involved. You can become more involved in your child's school by:

- Participating in parent involvement activities that assist you in learning how to increase your child's achievement level.
- Visiting your local school Career Center.
- Keeping well informed about what is going on in your child's school by reading monthly school newsletters.
- Becoming involved with the school parent organizations.
- Becoming a parent volunteer at school.
- Talking with your child's teacher about other ways you can help in the classroom and at home.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. It would be our privilege to continue working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Yankay, Ph.D.
Superintendent

**SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
FORREST COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
2008-2009**

Please return to Forrest County Agricultural High School on or before November 21, 2008.

Student's Name _____
(Please Print)

_____ My son/daughter **WILL** participate in the free tutoring sessions called the supplemental educational services program offered at Forrest County Agricultural High School as described in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

By signing, I understand that if funds are insufficient to cover the free tutoring for all of the students who choose to participate, participation will be based on prioritized academic need as defined by the district.

I understand that the school district will enter into an agreement with the provider and that I will be notified of the time to meet with the staff of Forrest County Agricultural High School to set achievement goals for my child.

I understand that I will be regularly informed of my child's progress.

I understand that I need to notify the school if my child stops attending the tutoring sessions.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Parent/Guardian)

(Daytime Telephone Number)

(Evening Telephone Number)