

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

For the 2007–2008 school year, your child is registered at Milford Mill Academy. Milford Mill Academy has been identified, based on 2006 High School Assessment (HSA) proficiency AYP data, by the Maryland State Department of Education for School Improvement Year 1. In an effort to help you understand what that means, the following questions and answers have been provided:

Why has Milford Mill Academy been identified for school improvement?

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, schools must meet specific achievement targets in attendance, reading, and math. These annual improvement targets demonstrate whether or not a school has made “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP). The 2006 HSA results indicate that Milford Mill Academy made AYP; however, Milford Mill Academy did not make AYP for 2005 HSA. A school must make AYP for two consecutive years in the same reported area to exit school improvement.

How does Milford Mill Academy compare to other schools in our county and state?

2007 HSA results indicate that Milford Mill Academy did meet AYP in the areas of reading and mathematics; however, 2006 MSA results indicate that Milford Mill Academy did not meet AYP in the area of reading and math. As such, Milford Mill Academy remains identified by the Maryland State Department of Education for school improvement. The chart below compares the percentage of students who scored proficient on the 2007 HSA for Milford Mill Academy with the average scores for Baltimore County and schools across the state.

ALL STUDENTS	MILFORD MILL ACADEMY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	MARYLAND SCHOOLS
	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient
2007 HSA READING (English 10)	54.2	68.3	70.9
2007 HSA MATHEMATICS (Algebra/Data Analysis)	41.8	55.1	63.5

ALL STUDENTS	MILFORD MILL ACADEMY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	MARYLAND SCHOOLS
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	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate
2007 HSA GRADUATION RATE	86.47	83.30	85.24

What does it mean to be a school in improvement?

As a school in improvement, Milford Mill Academy must evaluate curriculum, instructional time, staffing, and administrative needs and make the necessary changes to ensure that the issues that are significant to meeting achievement targets are addressed in the school improvement plan for the upcoming year.

What is the Milford Mill Academy staff doing to improve student achievement?

The School Improvement Team at Milford Mill Academy is continuously analyzing school data to determine how to improve performance in reading and/or mathematics. Milford Mill Academy staff will be continuously monitoring and evaluating student performance.

During the 2007-2008 school year Milford Mill Academy will be implementing the following strategies to further improve student achievement:

Student Achievement in Reading and/or Mathematics

ENGLISH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-2008

The 10th grade English team will implement the following strategies for the 2007-2008 school year in order to improve student achievement on the English HSA.

1. All 10th grade English teachers will utilize on a daily basis the MSDE public release items of previous HSA questions.
2. Teachers will implement all prescribed lessons in the English 10 World Literature Curriculum.
3. English teachers will/ have participated in county in-service course for teaching the 10th grade World Literature course to include the MSDE Governor’s Academy.
4. English teachers will use AVID methodologies to include Socratic seminars and Cornell Note Taking.
5. English teachers will have a minimum of one afternoon per week for coach class.
6. English 10 teachers will administer short cycle and benchmark assessments and after analyzing the data, teachers will re-teach the lowest scored concepts.
7. Ninth (9th) grade and 10th team and chairperson will work collaboratively with Office of English for staff developmental activities.
8. English teachers will increase writing in their daily instruction with focus on the BCRs and ECRs.
9. HSA data will be included on teacher’s evaluation under Teacher Competencies.
10. Chairperson will observe English teachers weekly.
11. Teachers will utilize all supplemental materials provided by BCPS and incorporate them into the curriculum lessons, i.e. “re teaching” materials.
12. Letters have been sent home to parents informing them of the importance of the test as well as the after school tutorial.
13. After- School English Tutorial is offered for two hours per week through a partnership with New Antioch Baptist church.
14. English teachers will work closely with the inclusion teachers and guidance to monitor students with special needs and students not passing the course with a C or better.
15. Juniors who did not meet success in the HSA have been placed in the Accelerated English course.
16. All teachers work with their content team leader and department chair to analyze data and improve instruction.

Algebra 1 Improvement Plan for 2007-2008

All Algebra 1 teachers will implement the following strategies for the 2007-2008 school year in order to improve student achievement on the H.S.A exam.

1. Teachers will utilize the MSDE website so as to access released H.S.A questions.
2. Teachers will implement all prescribed lessons in the Algebra 1 curriculum guide.
3. Teachers will adhere to the BCPS suggested calendar of instruction without skipping lessons.
4. Milford Mill Academy will provide the Math Modeling Course to juniors who have not passed the H.S.A Algebra 1 exam.
5. Algebra 1 teachers will incorporate Cognitive tutor program within each unit.
6. Algebra 1 teachers will provide a minimum of one afternoon coach class per week.
7. Teachers will also encourage students to participate in the H.S.A-Algebra 1 review class on Tuesday & Thursday after school. This service is provided through a partnership with New Antioch Baptist Church.
8. Teachers will apply for the Governor's Academy for the summer of 2008.
9. Algebra 1 teachers will assign homework daily so as to reinforce skills taught in class.
10. Algebra 1 teachers and chairperson will work collaboratively with Office of Mathematics.
11. Algebra 1 & Math Modeling teachers will utilize all supplemental materials provided by BCPS and incorporate them into the curriculum lessons.
12. Algebra 1 & Math Modeling teachers will create daily instructional activities based on the BCPS curriculum guide and use assessments in H.S.A format.
13. Algebra 1 & Math Modeling teachers will maintain contact with parents both verbally and with written reports.
14. Teachers will work collaboratively with the inclusion teachers/instructional aide and guidance to monitor students with special needs and their progress within Algebra 1 or Math Modeling classes.

What is Baltimore County Public Schools doing to increase student achievement?

The *Blueprint for Progress*, a framework for improving student achievement, provides clear direction for everyone involved in education in Baltimore County. The *Blueprint for Progress* is built on a foundation of clear standards, quality instruction, and individual accountability. In addition, all students in BCPS receive instruction based on concepts in the Core Learning Goals. Baltimore County Public Schools provides professional development to assist teachers to develop the talents of students and provide each student access to a rigorous education. Additionally, Milford Mill Academy receives technical assistance from its area office in the development and implementation of its school improvement plan.

What can parents/guardians do to help Milford Mill Academy increase student achievement?

Parents/guardians can assist the efforts of the school by making sure their children come to school on time every day, ready to learn. In addition, parents can check that all homework assignments and school projects are completed on time. Parents are encouraged to participate in parent education activities, attend all parent-teacher conferences, and learn more about how to help their children at home and at school. Parents should tell teachers they want to hear from them as soon as problems occur so that they can work together to find solutions. A list of parent support services is available on the district's Web site: www.bcps.org

Sincerely,

Nathaniel J. Gibson, II, Principal
Milford Mill Academy
C: NW Area Office
Department of Research, Accountability, and Assessment