



Hampton County School District 2  
319 4<sup>th</sup> Street East, P. O. Box 1028  
Estill, South Carolina 29918  
Telephone (803)625-5000 Fax: (803)625-2573  
*Dr. Walter Tobin, Interim Superintendent*

June 8, 2009

Dear Parents:

The **No Child Left behind Act** of 2001 requires states to annually identify Title I schools "*In need of improvement*" based upon the state's AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) report. If a school does not meet AYP for two consecutive years, the school is considered to be in need of improvement. A school in need of improvement is required to offer students the opportunity to transfer to another school in the district. This action is known as **School Choice**.

According to the state's preliminary report, Estill Middle School is in "*Restructuring*" and therefore should offer School Choice. This means that the school has not met AYP for more than seven consecutive years. The reason that the school did not meet AYP is because none of its subgroups met the academic proficiency target set by the state. The subgroups for Estill Middle School are: All students who receive subsidized meals, African American students and disabled students in the areas of mathematics and English/language arts. You should also know that the proficiency target only measures students who score proficient or advanced (not basic) on the state assessments. Please note that the proficiency target increases substantially each year.

Unfortunately, since our district has only one middle school, there is no other school in the district with the same grade as the one your child is in. Therefore, we are required by law, to notify you that school choice is not an option in our district. The law does allow for transfer to neighboring districts to the extent practicable; however, this is not mandated by law. We have notified neighboring districts, asking if they would accept students from our district. To date, we have not received any response. We will notify you if we receive a response from any district willing to accept students from our district. Please be aware that we will not provide transportation to any other district.

We are hopeful that when the test results of the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards) are analyzed and the fall AYP report is determined, Estill Middle School would have met AYP. This will mean that the school will be in a "*hold*" status due to the school's need of meeting AYP for two consecutive years in order to come off of the list of schools *in need of improvement*.

To help improve the school's academic performance, Estill Middle School is already implementing strategies to accelerate student achievement. Some of these strategies are included in the school's summary which is enclosed. Additionally, you will find included in the school's summary the school's test data and the rating of other schools like Estill Middle School.

The district is providing support to the school by the frequent monitoring of instruction conducted by district administrators throughout the school year. In addition, as another means of increasing student achievement, the district will be using stimulus funds to extend the school year for all students for the next two summers.

We hope that you will choose to keep your child at Estill Middle School and continue to work with the school to provide a quality education for all children. We encourage you to review the suggestions the school has enclosed on how parents can become more involved in helping to address the academic issues that led to the school being identified as *in need of improvement*.

A copy of this letter and the school's summary are found on the district's website at [www.hampton2.k12.sc.us](http://www.hampton2.k12.sc.us) under Departments/Federal Programs or Schools/Estill Middle.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter E. Tobin".

Walter Tobin, Interim Superintendent

# ESTILL MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMARY

## PACT PERFORMANCE 2008

### English/Language Arts

	Adv	Prof	Basic	Below Basic
Our School	2.0%	6.9%	36.0%	55.1%
Middle Schools like Ours	1.4%	10.0%	38.5%	50.4%
Middle Schools Statewide	6.3%	22.6%	40.4%	31.5%

### Science

	Adv	Prof	Basic	Below Basic
Our School	3.6%	4.8%	30.4%	61.3%
Middle Schools like Ours	4.7%	7.0%	29.4%	59.6%
Middle Schools Statewide	17.0%	14.0%	31.7%	38.3%

### Mathematics

	Adv	Prof	Basic	Below Basic
Our School	3.4%	7.5%	41.0%	48.1%
Middle Schools like Ours	3.5%	8.1%	39.5%	49.5%
Middle Schools Statewide	14.3%	16.4%	41.0%	29.3%

### Social Studies

	Adv	Prof	Basic	Below Basic
Our School	8.8%	14.1%	35.3%	41.8%
Middle Schools like Ours	5.4%	5.8%	32.5%	58.4%
Middle Schools Statewide	14.5%	11.9%	36.2%	38.8%

## Strategies Our School Will Implement in 2009-2010

- Implement the Sixth Grade Preparatory Academy
- Implement a behavior modification program (Positive Behavior In School)
- Use of Computers on Wheels (COWS) in each subject area
- Cluster Clubs base on the Individual Graduation Program
- Continue to use the TAP (Teacher Advancement Program) Model

## What Parents Can Do To Help

- Volunteer at the school.
- Monitor your child's homework, school attendance, and grades.
- Attend PTA and School Improvement Council meetings.
- Schedule regular conferences with your child's teachers.
- Monitor the amount of time your child watches television, plays video games, listens to music, talks on the telephone, etc.
- Encourage your child to read more.
- Read with and to your child.