

seven generations

CHARTER SCHOOL



"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."
- Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

ESEA Flexibility Waiver Parent Notification Focus School Designation

August 31, 2017

Dear Seven Generations Families,

On August 20, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. The state's ultimate goal is to ensure that all students graduate college- and career- ready through the professional practice of effective teachers and leaders. ESEA/NCLB requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide information to help you understand what the waiver means for your and your child at our school.

Beginning with 2013-14 school year, PDE has transitioned from using Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's designation, to using four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate a Title I school as *Reward-High Achievement, Reward-High Progress, Focus, or Priority schools*. The four AMOs include measuring *Test Participation Rate; Graduation/Attendance Rate; Closing the Achievement Gap for All Students and Closing the Achievement Gap for the Historically Underperforming Students*.

Additionally, all public schools in the state now receive a *School Performance Profile (SPP)* score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score and details student performance through scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The SPP includes supports which allow schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Despite the progress and growth made by our students, SGCS was designated as a *focus school* in the 2013-2014 school year. This designation was based on 2012-2013 test data and our school will keep this designation for three years.

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Focus schools are 10% of the lowest Title I schools based on the highest achievement gap for the *Historically Low Performing* students AMO. The aggregate achievement gap is determined by the combined Mathematics and Reading PSSA scores and/or the Algebra 1/Literature Keystone exam scores. According to SPP data of 2012-2013, the area of focus for SGCS are:

- **Mathematics/Algebra 1 Proficiency- all students*
- * *Mathematics/Algebra 1 Proficiency- Historically Underperforming students*
- * *Reading/Literature Proficiency- Historically Underperforming students*

As a designated focus school, SGCS created a committee composed of parents, teachers, administrators, and board members in the winter of 2014 to create a *School Improvement Plan (SIP)*. This SIP addresses our AMOs and created systematic, school-wide interventions to increase student success. In June 2015, 2016, and 2017, SGCS SIP was reviewed, evaluated, and re-submitted to PDE.

Some examples of the interventions that are in SGCS SIP include:

- *Professional development for teachers on best instructional practices.
- *Utilization of diagnostic, prescriptive benchmark data tools for informing instruction.
- *Establishment of an Academic Support Team (MTSS) that analyzes school-wide data
- *Infusion of Apple technologies and software programs to provide more individualized instructional opportunities for students.
- *Collaborative partnerships with Penn State Lehigh Valley and Kutztown University to increase effectiveness of content instruction, differentiation, and co-teaching.
- *Additional instructional staff hired and resources acquired through School Intervention Grants.

An important part of the success of your child is parent participation and the support that he / she receives at at home. Please reach out to and partner with your child's teacher to learn how you can be more actively involved in providing opportunities to extend learning in the home.

Sincerely,


Paul Hunter, SGCS Principal/CEO

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