



Harford County Public Schools

102 S. Hickory Avenue ♦ Bel Air, MD 21014 ♦ 410-838-7300 ♦ Fax 410-893-2478

Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Monday, May 23, 2011

School Year: 2011-2012

Dear William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School Parents,

Each year, all Harford County Public School students are required to take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) standardized tests that measures student achievement. The results of these tests are used to determine whether schools are meeting target goals for student achievement set by the state. The state standards are known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If a school has not met AYP for two years in a row, the school is identified as being in “school improvement” and parents have the option to transfer their child to another school through the Title I Transfer Option process.

William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School is a Title I school in “school improvement” because it did not make AYP in 2009 and 2010. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Reading subgroups: “All Students” – 2010, African American – 2010, White (not of Hispanic origin) – 2010, Free / Reduced Meal Status – 2009, 2010, Special Education – 2009, 2010. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Math subgroups: Free / Reduced Meal Status – 2009, 2010, Special Education – 2009, 2010. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School students have the option to transfer to William S. James Elementary School or Deerfield Elementary School. Transportation to the new school is provided by Harford County Public Schools.

The following is enclosed in this packet:

- William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School MSA testing information for reading and math for SY 2009-2010. This school data shows you how your child’s school is performing for all students and for all subgroups.
- William S. James and Deerfield Elementary Schools’ MSA testing information for reading and math for SY 2009-2010. These pages show how the two schools are performing that you can select for your child to transfer to compare with William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School.
- Title I Application to Request Transfer
- Frequently Asked Questions

To help you better understand the Title I Transfer Option process and your options, a **Parent Informational Meeting for the Title I Transfer Option will be held on June 6, 2011 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. in the OPR cafeteria.**

Everyone at William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School is proud of how hard our staff, families, and students have worked this year. At the beginning of the 2010-2011 School Year William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School created two 30 minute intervention blocks during the day, one for reading and one for mathematics. We are currently utilizing all certificated staff, including reading specialists, math coaches, teacher specialists, and special area teachers to provide interventions to our students.

Over the past year, we also have instituted the Watch D.O.G.S. (*Dads of Great Students*) Program. This program incorporates grade level parent visitation days, in order for Dads to participate in their child's school day as well as interact with the employees of William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School. There are currently 110 family members that have participated in the program and we welcome their involvement in our school.

Also, Title I Schools in "improvement" receive additional resources to support activities to increase the level of student achievement. For example, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School receives:

- Additional resources for teacher training
- Additional resources for instructional materials
- Interventions for students who have difficulty meeting the standards
- Additional Technology
- Additional Materials for instruction

You are encouraged to get involved in helping to support school improvement at William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School. You can help improve your child's achievement by:

- Seeing that your child attends school every day
- Participating in parent engagement activities
- Attending all parent teacher activities
- Monitoring your child's progress
- Ensuring that your child completes homework assignments

I encourage you to use this information to determine the option that works best for you. Please also contact me to discuss current school progress, and to see what new improvements and initiatives are planned for next year. If you choose to transfer your child to either William S. James or Deerfield Elementary Schools, please submit your Title I Application to Request Transfer no later than June 21, 2011 to the Title I Office at 102 S. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014.

Additional information about the Title I transfer option is also displayed on the William Paca/Old Post Road's school website: https://www.edline.net/pages/William_Paca_Old_Post_Road_E

March 1, 2012 will be the deadline for accepting Title I Applications to Request Transfer for the 2011-2012 School Year. If school choice is required in for future years, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School will begin its school choice planning for the 2012-2013 School Year in the spring of 2012. The March deadline is set in order to make those early plans and to support parents in their school choice decision, if needed.

The 2010-2011 MSA results will be communicated to you once they are released. If William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School does not make AYP for the 2010-2011 School Year, the school will be in the second year of School Improvement. In addition to continuing to offer the Title I Transfer Option, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will be offered to any low-income students attending William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School. SES provides additional academic instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students in schools in the second year of improvement. These services, which are in addition to instruction provided during the school day, may include academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation, and other supplemental academic enrichment services. Further information will be provided once the 2011 MSA results are announced.

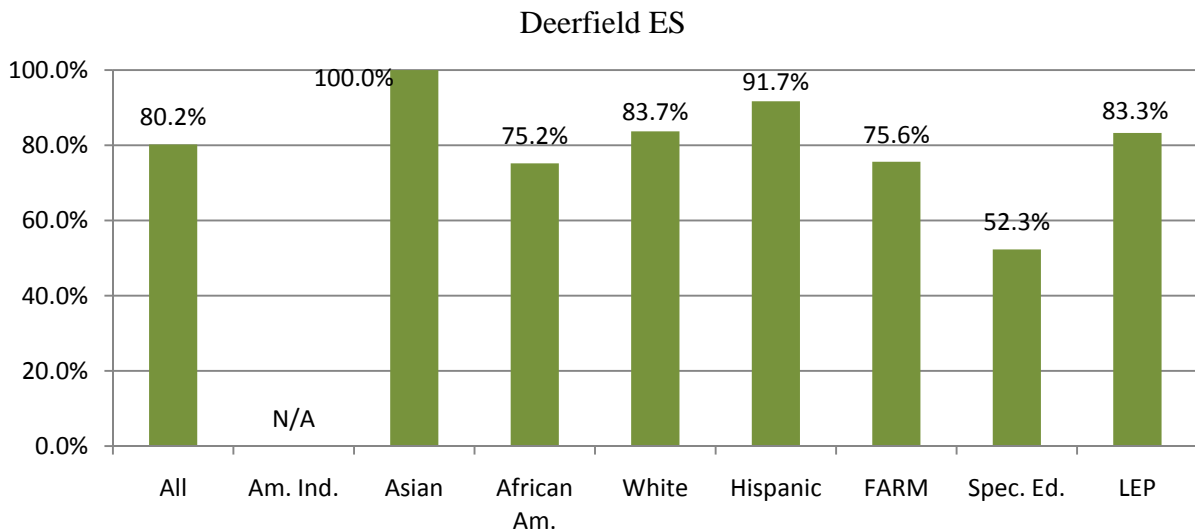
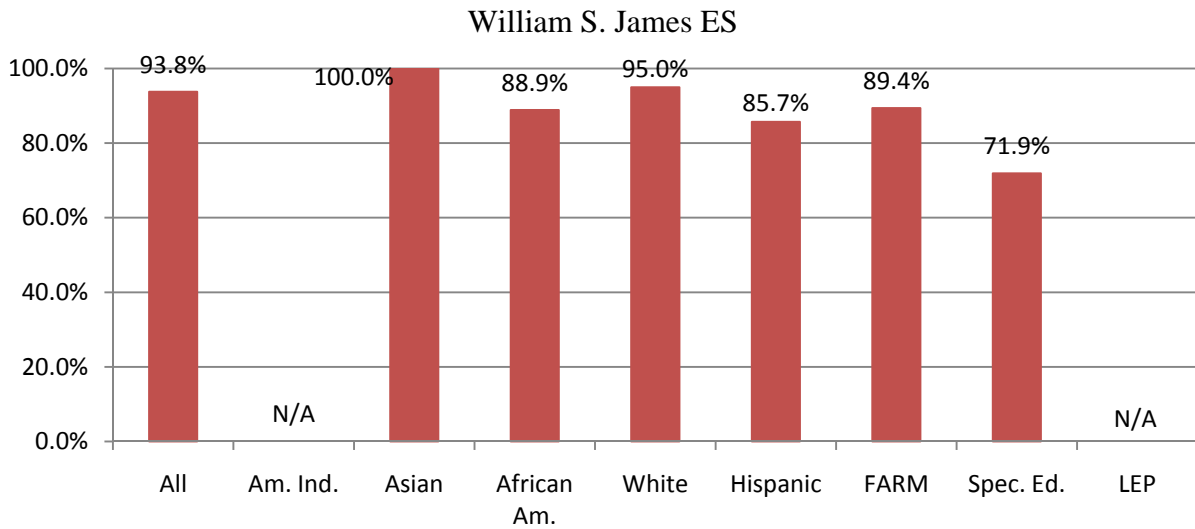
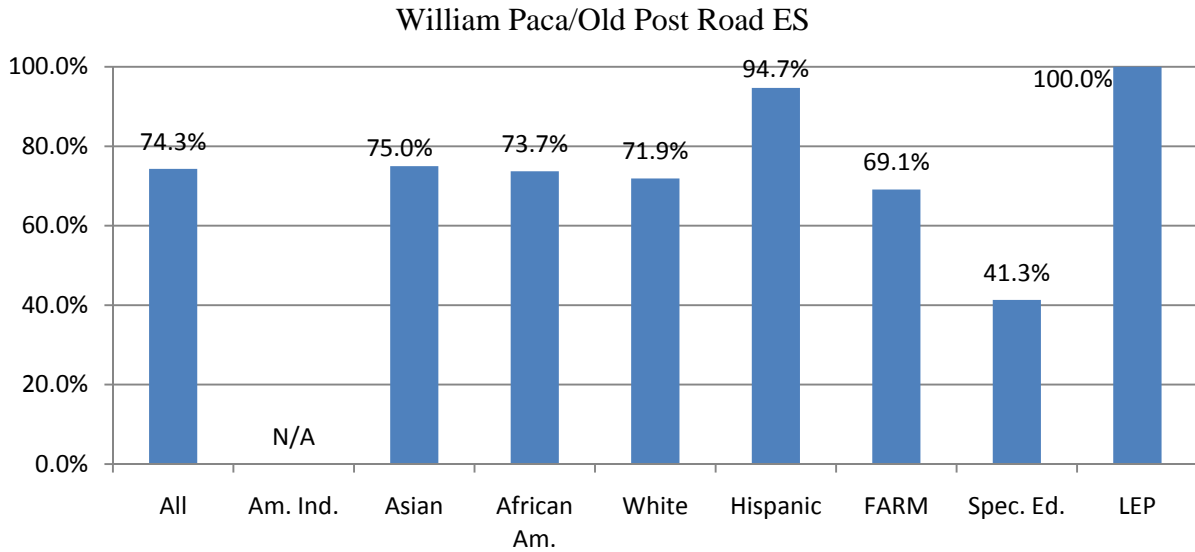
If you have any questions or concerns, and want to discuss your options further, please contact me or the HCPS Title I Office at 410-588-5278.

Sincerely,

Gail Dunlap

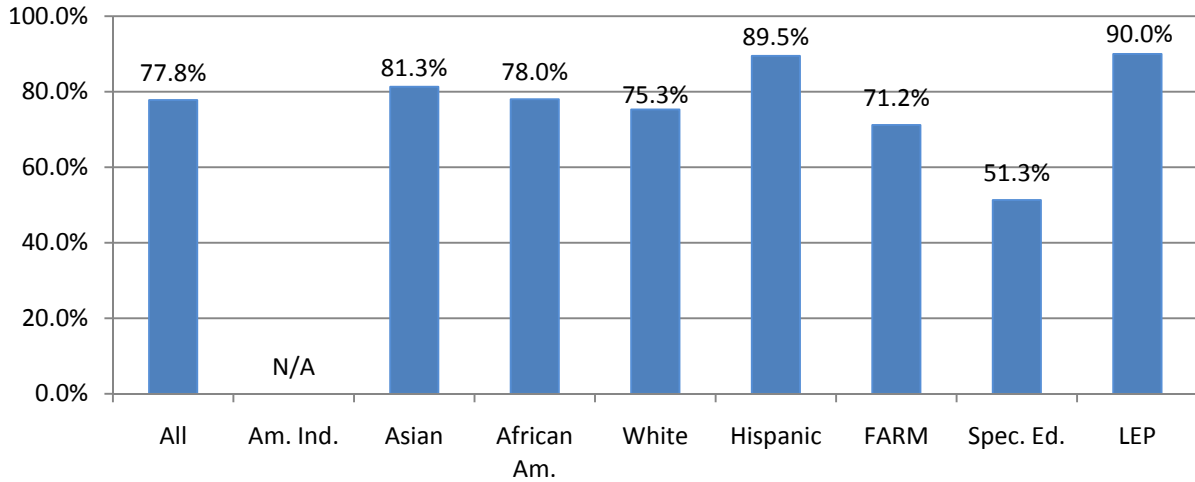
Gail Dunlap
Principal, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School
2706 Old Philadelphia Road
Abingdon, MD 21009
410-612-1566/2033
Proud to be a Title 1 School

AYP Data incorporating MSA and Alt-MSA Information for School Year 2009-10:
2010 AYP Reading Proficiency Comparisons

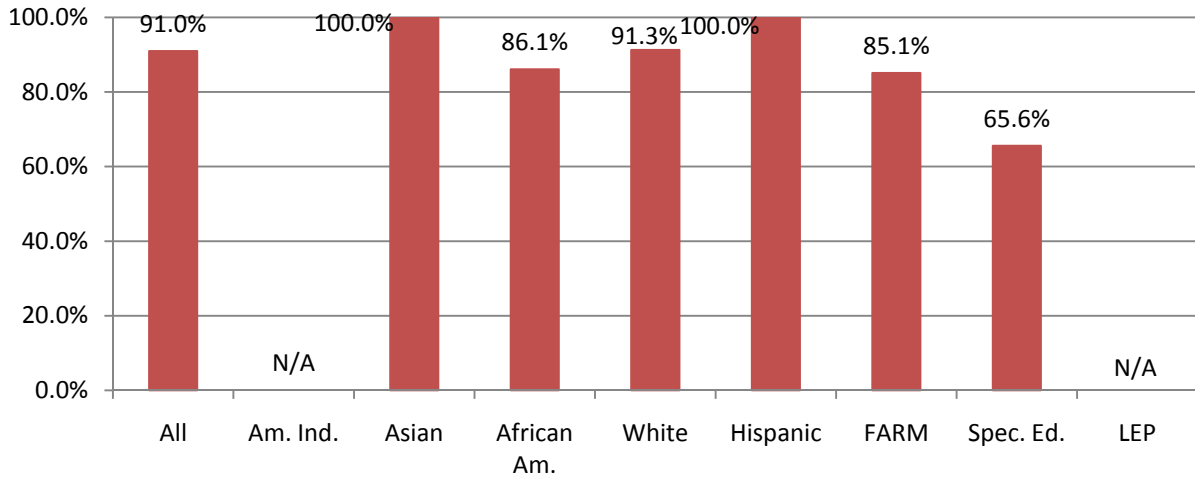


2010 AYP Math Proficiency Comparisons

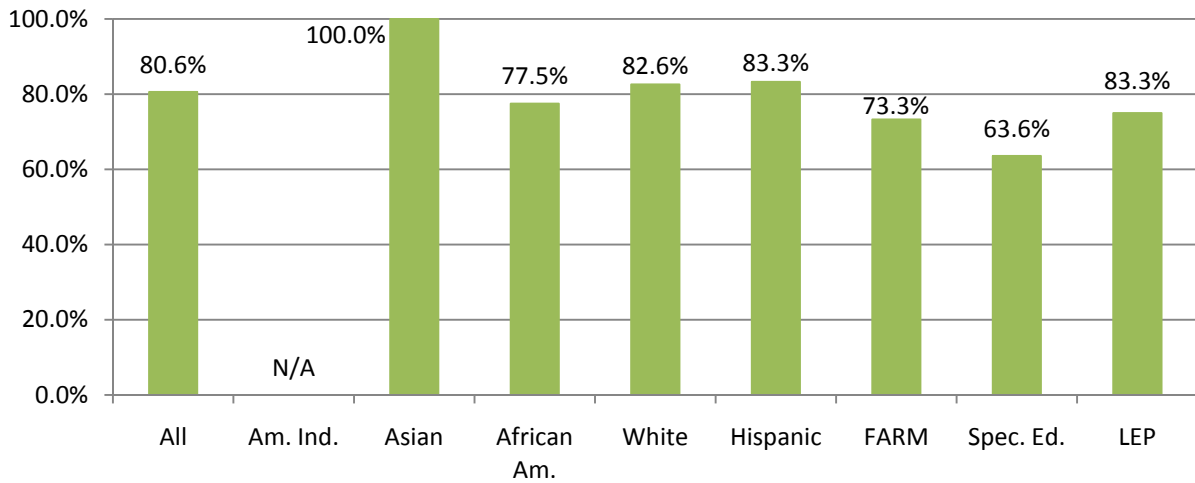
William Paca/Old Post Road ES



William S. James ES



Deerfield ES





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Title I Application to Request Transfer William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School School Year: 2011-2012

Deadline Date: June 21, 2011

Student Name: _____ (**Please Print**) Grade: _____ SSN or Student ID: _____

Student Address: _____ (**Please Print**)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ (**Please Print**)

Daytime Telephone Number: _____ Evening Telephone Number: _____

Return the completed application to William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School or to: HCPS Title I Office,
102 S. Hickory Ave.
Bel Air, MD 21014

Write the numbers in the blank boxes next to each school beginning with number 1 as your first choice, 2 for your second choice.

Write "1" for your 1 st Choice and "2" for your 2 nd choice	School Name/Address	Telephone Number	Grades
	William S. James Elementary School 1 Laurentum Parkway Abingdon, MD 21009	410-638-3900	K-5
	Deerfield Elementary School 2307 Willoughby Beach Road Edgewood, MD 21040	410-612-1535	K-5

I am aware that transportation for my child to attend the school(s) above will be provided.

Students living in the William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School attendance area would be offered two transportation options.
(Please put a check by the option that applies)

 Option 1

- Ride bus to school and from school using a bus stop in the student's neighborhood to either Deerfield Elementary School or William S. James Elementary School – specific bus service would be set up via a collaborative effort between the Title I Office staff and the Transportation staff.

If bus service is being requested, please enter your student's bus pick up information.

AM Bus Pickup Address: _____ (**Please Print**)

PM Bus Drop off Address: _____ (**Please Print**)

Centralized Bus stops will be created based upon this information.

 Option 2

- Parent transports to and from either Deerfield Elementary School or William S. James Elementary School

*If you have any questions or need assistance completing this application, please call the Title I Office at 410-588-5278.

Signature of Parent/ Guardian _____ Date: _____

Your response must be returned to the Title I Office no later than June 21, 2011 to participate in this process. Please place this form in the enclosed return envelope.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is AYP?

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is how the federal government through the No Child Left Behind Act determines if public schools are meeting its student achievement goals. Harford County School receives the data from the Maryland School Assessment tests administered each year in March. Students scores are grouped in one of three categories: basic (below grade level), proficient (on grade level) and advanced (above grade level).

2. How does a school meet AYP?

AYP is determined by the number of students in grades 3-8 in a school that score proficient or advanced on the MSA. Each spring you will receive your child's scores in the mail for all sections of the test. These scores determine the schools AYP status. A school must meet the state targets for progress overall and for all subgroups within the school (low income students, students with disabilities, African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, limited-English proficient students).

3. What does it mean that my school hasn't met AYP?

It means that, even if your school has made continued progress, more is needed. There is a portion of students at your child's school that are scoring in the basic range-below grade level on the test.

4. Who can apply to a different school through the Title I Transfer Option Process?

Students at Title I schools that have not met AYP for two or more academic years in a row.

5. Do I have to choose a transfer school? Can I stay at the school that I currently attend?

No you do not have to choose a transfer school. If you are pleased with your school, your child/children may remain there without doing anything at all for next school year. Choose the schools that works best for your children-this includes your current school.

Please note that the Title I Public School Choice Transfer Option with transportation applies as long as your child's home/boundary school is in school improvement. If this home school comes out of school improvement they may remain at the school of choice but no transportation can be provided. He/she may remain in the school of choice until she/she has completed the highest grade in that school. This transfer option does NOT apply to your child's feeder middle/high school. School choice ends at the elementary level. Your child would continue grades 6-12 in the boundary area where you reside.



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6. Where can I get more information about this process?

Contact the Title I Office at 410-588-5278 for more information.

7. What are Harford County Public Schools and the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) doing to improve student achievement?

Harford County Public Schools is in the process of creating a system of great schools by:

- Allocation of Title I funding to each school
- Giving principals more autonomy to make decisions based on the students/community needs
- Involving families as partners

MSDE provided professional development and technical support to Harford County Public Schools in:

- Understanding and interpreting needs assessment data
- Providing technical assistance to support the implementation of Harford County Public Schools' School Choice Option