



# 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

Date: Wednesday July 20, 2011

School Year: 2011-2012

Dear William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School Parents,

This letter contains the 2010-2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) information. As you may recall on May 23, 2011 the first window opened for the Title I Transfer Option. The closing date for the first window was June 21, 2011. Now that the 2010-2011 AYP scores have been released, a **second window** has been opened for the Title I Transfer Option for any interested parents. This second window, which opens on July 20, 2011, will close on August 3, 2011. This will be the last window to apply for the Title I Transfer Option for the 2011-2012 school year.

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”, following the Comprehensive Developing pathway, because it did not make AYP in 2009, 2010, and 2011. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Reading subgroups: “All Students” – 2010, 2011, African American – 2010, 2011 White (not of Hispanic origin) – 2010, Free / Reduced Meal Status – 2009, 2010, 2011, Special Education – 2009, 2010, 2011. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Math subgroups: “All Students” –2011, African American –2011 Free / Reduced Meal Status – 2009, 2010, 2011, Special Education –2009, 2010, 2011. William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School students have the option to transfer to Abingdon Elementary School, Deerfield Elementary School or stay at William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School. **Note: William S. James Elementary School is no longer a receiving school for the Title I Transfer Option.** Deerfield Elementary School is a school in “local attention”, because it did not make AYP in 2011. Deerfield Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Reading subgroups: All Students, African American, White (not of Hispanic Origin), Free / Reduced Meal Status, Special Education, Limited English Proficient. Deerfield Elementary School did not make AYP in the following Math subgroups: All Students, African American, White (not of Hispanic Origin), Free / Reduced Meal Status, Special Education. Transportation to the new school is provided by Harford County Public Schools. Please note: Abingdon Elementary School’s hours are from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Deerfield Elementary School’s hours are from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The following is enclosed in this packet:

- William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School MSA testing information for reading and math for SY 2010-2011. This school data shows you how your child's school is performing for all students and for all subgroups.
- Abingdon and Deerfield Elementary Schools' MSA testing information for reading and math for SY 2010-2011. These pages show how the two schools are performing compared with William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School.
- Information about Supplemental Educational Services (SES)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Title I Application to Request Transfer

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 and grade level parent visitation days, to increase parental involvement. 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 Abingdon or Deerfield Elementary Schools, please submit your Title I Application to Request Transfer no later than Wednesday August 3, 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: <http://www.tinyurl.com/wpopr>

William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School is 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 school year begins and during back to school nights.

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*

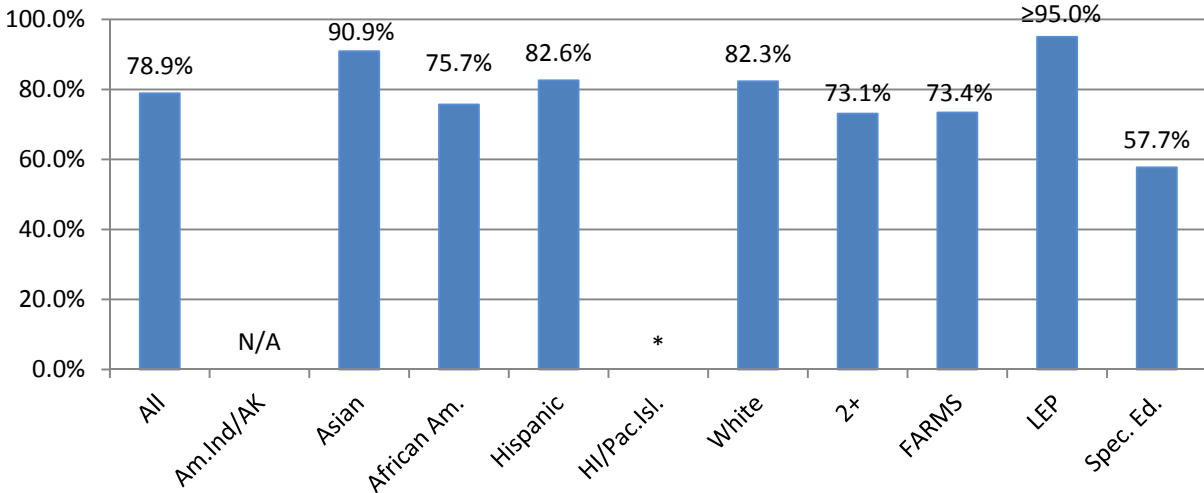
Gail Dunlap  
Principal, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School  
2706 Old Philadelphia Road  
Abingdon, MD 21009  
410-612-1566/2033  
Proud to be a Title 1 School

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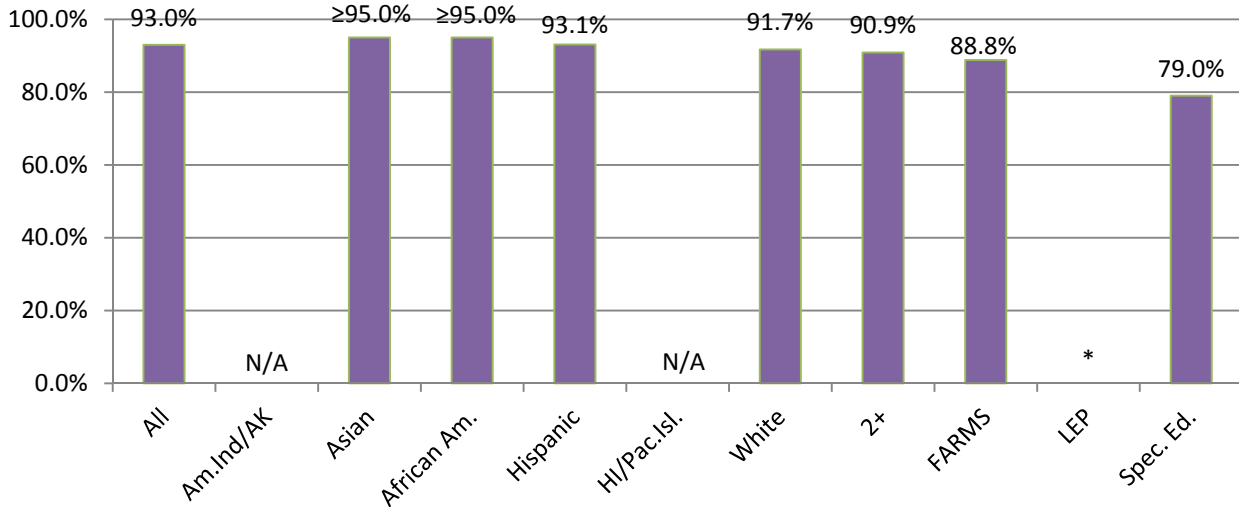
AYP Data incorporating MSA and Alt-MSA Information for School Year 2010-11:

**2011 AYP Reading Proficiency Comparisons**

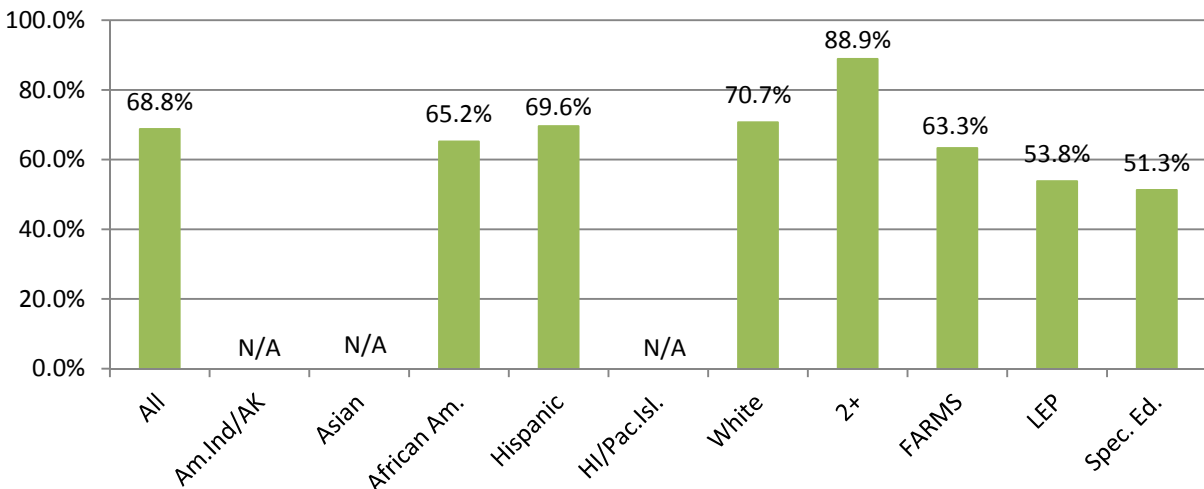
William Paca/Old Post Road ES



Abingdon ES



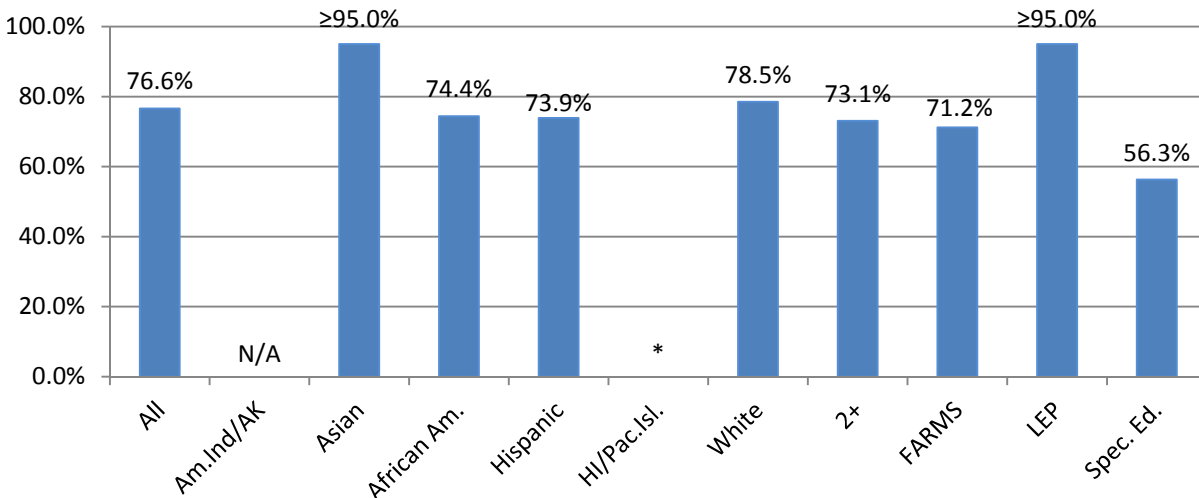
Deerfield ES



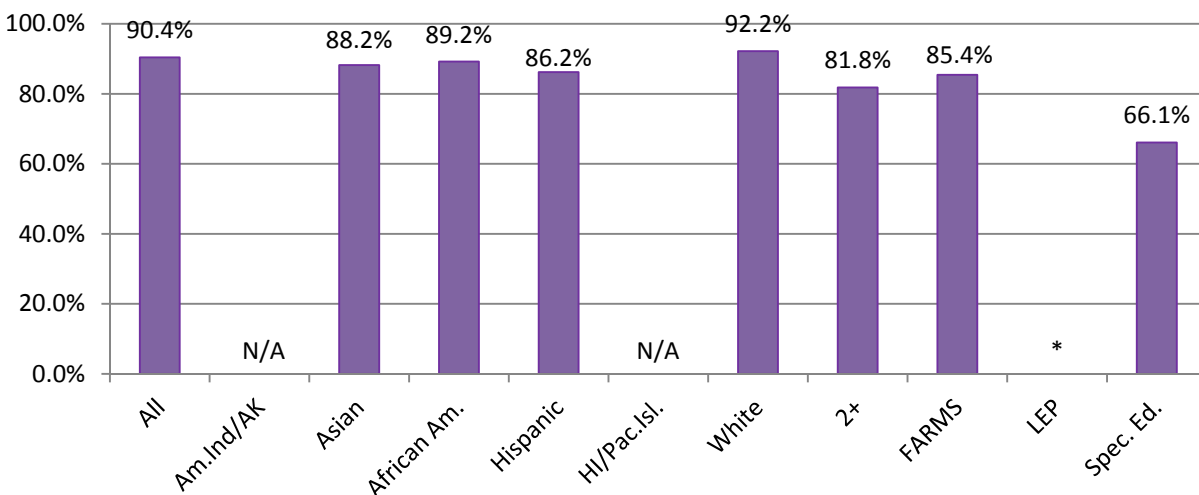
'\*' indicates no students or fewer than 10 students in category, or '\*' indicates the percentage for the category is either ≤5 or ≥95 and the corresponding counts have been suppressed. 'N/A' indicates too few students for AYP rules.

**2011 AYP Math Proficiency Comparisons**

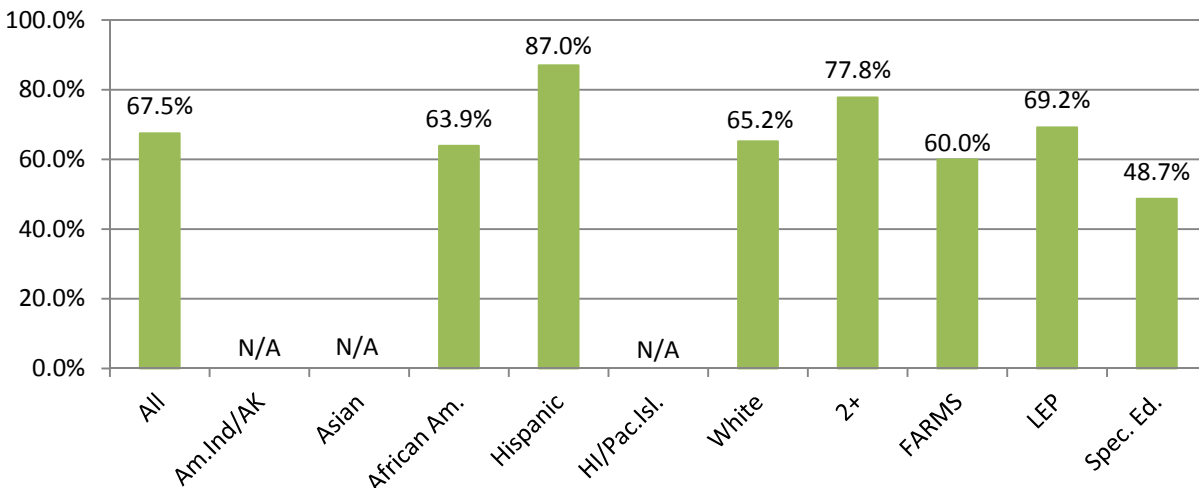
William Paca/Old Post Road ES



Abingdon ES



Deerfield ES



\*' indicates no students or fewer than 10 students in category, or '\*' indicates the percentage for the category is either  $\leq 5$  or  $\geq 95$  and the corresponding counts have been suppressed. 'N/A' indicates too few students for AYP rules.



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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. What is Supplemental Educational Services (SES)?

The term SES refers to extra academic help (tutoring) in subjects, such as reading and mathematics, which is provided to eligible Title I students who are enrolled at a Title I school that is in the second year of School Improvement. The tutoring is provided by private vendors, otherwise known as SES providers (e.g., Sylvan Learning, Catapult Learning, etc.). SES is offered during after-school hours and may take place at the school, in a home, or at another location. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) maintains a list of approved SES providers who provide these services.

## 7. Who is eligible to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES)?

Eligible K-5 students during the 2011-2012 school year are those who:

- 1) Are enrolled in William Paca/Old Post Road ES or Magnolia ES for the 2011-2012 school year  
**AND**
- 2) Qualify to receive free or reduced priced meals

## 8. Where can I get more information about this process?

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

## 9. 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
- Providing technical assistance to support the implementation of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) in Harford County Public Schools'.



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

**Deadline Date:** Wednesday August 3, 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 <sup>st</sup> Choice and "2" for your 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice | School Name/Address   | Telephone Number | Grades |
|---|---|------------------|--------|
|   | Abingdon Elementary School<br>399 Singer Road<br>Abingdon, MD 21009             | 410-638-3910     | K-5    |
|   | Deerfield Elementary School<br>2307 Willoughby Beach Road<br>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) (**Note: Abingdon Elementary dismisses at 3:30 p.m. and Deerfield Elementary dismisses at 4:00 p.m.**)

       **Option 1**

- Ride bus to school and from school using a bus stop in the student's neighborhood to either Abingdon Elementary School or Deerfield 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 Abingdon Elementary School or Deerfield 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:** \_\_\_\_\_