



Union County T.E.A.M.S. Charter School and High School/College Leadership Academy  
515-517 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908.754.9043 \* FAX 908.754.7790

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*"Become a Part of the Journey – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education"*

Melinda B. Johnson  
Director of Instruction

Sheila L. Thorpe  
Executive Director

## **SINI PARENT RIGHT-to-KNOW LETTER**

September 29, 2011

Dear UC T.E.A.M.S. Parents and Families:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis every three years.

We are pleased to announce that we made AYP in grades 3 through 5 Mathematics, and 100% Proficiency in grade 5 Mathematics. However, we have been designated as a School in Need of Improvement (SINI) because we did not make AYP in grade 6 through 8 Mathematics and 3 through 8 Language Arts Literacy according to state calculations. (See attached NJ ASK data Chart 1.1 and AYP Fact Sheet 1.2.) Also, please go to the NCLB STATE REPORT at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/> for more information on NCLB. The school improvement requirement that applies to UC T.E.A.M.S. is checked below:

√ *Year 2 – Supplemental Educational Services: Our district will provide supplemental educational services (SES) to eligible students.*

There are a number of factors affecting the district's AYP status. The district is working to curve achievement gaps due to the enrollment expansion. Some of the steps we plan to implement this year to address the problem(s) that placed your child's school in improvement status include the following:

### **Option #1**

Project RISE

**Dates:** November 29, 2011 – May 3, 2012

**Grades:** 1 through 8 (eligible students)

**Description:** Eligible students will receive assistance in the classroom or in small groups during the regular school day. Additionally, these students will be required to attend one hour each of tutoring in Math and/or Language Arts Literacy on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school. All schedules and specific program information will be mailed to you in a timely fashion and we need parental support.

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## **OPTION #2**

### **SES Provider (Parental Choice)**

**Dates:** November 2011 – May 2012

**Grades:** 3-8

**Description:** Eligible students have the opportunity to participate in after-school or Saturday tutoring with one of the state approved SES providers. Parents will receive the SES application in the mail and will have the opportunity to select three choices for the SES Provider.

The state is also active in helping the school and district achieve its academic goals by sponsoring trainings, school support teams and guidance. We will assemble a school improvement committee to develop a school improvement plan that identifies areas of need and programs and activities to help increase student achievement. As a parent, you are encouraged to contact the school to provide input to the school improvement plan and see how you can become involved in helping the school address high academic achievement.

We want to continue serving your child, and we’ll use all the resources available to us to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. As a district, we have implemented a parental involvement policy with a 5-hour volunteer program, which all parents have been asked to sign. We encourage you to become involved in this and other initiatives at the school by contacting the Building Administrator, Melinda Johnson at (908)754-9043. Building and maintaining a high-quality school, is a job for the entire community.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,

Chief School Administrator

CHART 1.1

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# NJ ASK DATA CHART

SPRING 2011

Subject	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>LAL</b> Language Arts Literacy	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>68.8%</b>
<b>Math**</b>	<b>82.3%</b>	<b>83.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>
<b>Science*</b>		<b>94.5%</b>				<b>81.3%</b>

\*Science is not included in AYP calculations. (Administered only in grades 4 and 8).

\*\*Mathematics scores in white met AYP requirements!

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Chart 1.2

### Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Fact Sheet

This chart identifies the level of proficiency a school must achieve based on the annual state assessments given during the 2010-2011 school year. These results are used to determine a school’s improvement status for the 2011-2012 school year.

Subject	Percent of Students Proficient		
	Elementary Grades 3, 4, & 5	Middle Grades 6, 7, & 8	High School Grade 11
Language Arts Literacy (Reading/Writing)	79%	86%	92%
Mathematics	83%	80%	86%

AYP is calculated for the total school population and for subgroups with students who have been enrolled in the school for the full academic year. The subgroups are as follows:

- Total Population
- Students with Disabilities
- Limited English Proficient
- White
- African-American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Native American
- Hispanic
- Other
- Economically Disadvantaged

NCLB allows for a “safe harbor” provision so that schools are not penalized for a particular student group’s performance being below the goal, providing sufficient progress is made. For example, if the student group improved its performance by decreasing the number of students not proficient by at least 10 percent over the previous year, the student group would make AYP by qualifying for the safe harbor provision.

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