



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, NJ 08065

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William R. Blatchley
*Business Administrator/
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February 14, 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

Our school district was recently notified by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that Palmyra High School has been identified as a school in need of comprehensive support and improvement.

Expectations for a high-quality education are outlined in the federal education law, the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and in New Jersey's corresponding state plan, which was developed in collaboration with parents, educators and broader community members throughout New Jersey. This state plan describes how the NJDOE must identify schools most in need of improvement and then work with the district to support schools so that each and every child can learn and thrive in the school community.

New Jersey holds all of its schools to a high standard of performance so that your child, and every child, receives the best education available. Our district and school educators and administrators remain committed to working with all of you in our community to help all of our students achieve success both inside and outside of the classroom.

In the coming months, we will work as a community to look in-depth at the academic results of our students and, together with the input we gather from our educators and families, we will build a plan with specific student goals, action steps and timelines for improvement. This gives us a critical opportunity to utilize the resources we have at school, at home and within our community to address the needs of our students along with the needs of our educators and families who support them.

The NJDOE remains committed to supporting our school community as we improve outcomes for our students. Specifically, the NJDOE will support us as we work with parents, families, teachers, and community groups to identify our needs. This partnership will help determine important strategies for improvement, and together we can create plans to improve.

Included with this letter is a one-page review of New Jersey's process for identifying a school for improvement; this information may help answer some of your questions.

I encourage you to learn more about the *Every Student Succeeds Act* by visiting the NJDOE's website at www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA; in addition, the NJDOE homepage www.state.nj.us/education provides links to other useful education information in the state of New Jersey.

You have my commitment, and that of all our Palmyra educators, that the improvement status of Palmyra High School will provide an opportunity for us as a community, to define our expectations for our students and to provide your child with the best opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support as we take additional step to make positive changes in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools

"Education Takes Teamwork"