

# *Sycamore Park Elementary School*

451 Radio Lane  
Culpeper, Virginia 22701  
(540) 825-8847 (phone)  
(540) 825-6384 (fax)

Principal  
Valeri L. Meza

Assistant Principal

## **Public School Choice and/or Supplemental Educational Services Parental Notification Letter**

August 5, 2009

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Sycamore Park Elementary School receives federal funds from the Title I Program. These funds help students who are not achieving at grade level in high-poverty schools. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires schools to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) goals each year in reading/language arts and mathematics. As a recipient of Title I funds, Sycamore Park is required to meet AYP by improving student achievement or face increasingly serious consequences. To make AYP, schools must meet all twenty nine benchmarks. Schools that do not make AYP for two or more consecutive years in the same subject area are identified as being in School Improvement. Sycamore Park has been in improvement since 2007-2008. To get out of improvement, schools must meet AYP for two consecutive years.

For the 2009-2010 school year, Sycamore Park did not make AYP in **two subgroups**. The school division's report card and the most recent AYP status report for your child's school can be found at [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/) or at Sycamore Park Elementary School. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your options for the 2009-2010 school year as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act.

**Option 1** - Year 1 of Title I School Improvement which means the school has failed to make AYP in Reading for two consecutive years and is required to offer public school choice.

**Option 2** - Year 2 of Title I School Improvement which means the school has failed to make AYP for two consecutive years after being identified for Improvement and is required to offer public school choice **and** supplemental educational services.

As previously stated, a school must meet AYP goals for two consecutive years in reading to move out of Title I School Improvement. The school is working to improve its academic performance by implementing a Tiered Reading Program with highly researched-based instructional methods. Additionally, the VADOE (Virginia Dept. of Education) works closely with the LEA (Local Education Agency) and the school division is working with Sycamore Park to improve the academic performance of the school by providing professional development, technical support and by working collaboratively with the staff on initiating new programs. Parents are encouraged to participate in improving the school's academic achievement by becoming involved in the school by attending parent-teacher conferences, meetings, school activities and remember to read with your child each night.

Even though Sycamore Park did not make AYP for the 2008-2009 school year, Sycamore Park will be accredited by the Virginia Department of Education and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Sycamore Park is also a lead RTI (Response to Intervention) Pilot School for the Virginia Department of Education.

Under NCLB, all students enrolled in a Title I school in School Improvement have the opportunity to enroll in a school not designated for School Improvement. This transfer option is

known as public school choice. For the 2009-2010 school year, your child may remain at Sycamore Park Elementary or transfer to one of the following schools not identified for School Improvement:

**A) A. G. Richardson Elementary School** located at 18370 Simms Drive, in the town of Culpeper. A.G. Richardson has 541 students. It is accredited by the VA Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the past 6 years. It has also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) five out of six previous years. For A.G. Richardson's most recent AYP status report visit [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/).

**B) Farmington Elementary School** located at 500 Sunset Lane, in the town of Culpeper. Farmington has 426 students. It is accredited by the VA Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the past 6 years. It has also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for six years and was designated as a Distinguished Title I School.

**C) Emerald Hill Elementary School** located at 11245 Rixeyville, north of Culpeper, off Route 729, outside the town of Culpeper. Emerald has 848 students. It is accredited by the VA Dept. of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for the past five years. It has also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) five out of six previous years. For Emerald Hill's most recent AYP status report visit [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/).

**Your options for your child during the 2009-2010 school year are to:**

- 1. Remain at Sycamore Park Elementary School;**
- 2. Remain at Sycamore Park and if eligible, receive Supplemental Education Services (SES) (free tutoring services);**
- 3. Enroll in another designated school of choice**

If you choose to exercise the public school choice option, please complete and return a "Public School Choice Transfer Request" form (enclosed) for *each* child requesting a transfer by **August 21, 2009**, and return it to Barbara White at 450 Radio Lane, Culpeper Virginia 22701. The school division will respond to your request by September 7, 2009, with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. If your request is granted, your child's transportation to the new school will be provided by the school division until Sycamore Park moves out of Improvement. When Sycamore Park moves out of improvement, your child may remain at the new school until they finish the fifth grade; however, you will be responsible for providing transportation. If the request for transfers exceeds available funding, priority must be given to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families.

Please contact Barbara White at (540) 825-3677 if you have questions about public school choice. We encourage you to visit with Valeri Meza, Sycamore Park principal, during visitation on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> if you have specific questions regarding your child's academic program or performance.

Detailed information about supplemental educational services, which are free academic assistance or tutoring, will be sent to eligible students after program details have been established.

Sincerely,

Ms. Valeri L. Meza  
Principal

Dr. Bobbi F. Johnson  
Superintendent

Enclosures: Public School Choice Transfer Request Form