ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER PARENT NOTIFICATION –

FOCUS SCHOOL DESIGNATION

***[xx-xx-xxxx]***

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On February 9, 2012 the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. ESEA/NCLB requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school’s academic achievement as well as the school’s designation under Georgia’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Georgia’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the GaDOE will transition from needs improvement (NI) school designations based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to Reward, Priority, Focus and Alert Schools designations based on ESEA Flexibility Waiver formulas. Title I schools will now implement specific programs and interventions based on Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools status. In addition, the GaDOE ESEA Flexibility Waiver outlines Georgia’s new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The state system will give parents, students, teachers and families a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver also eliminated Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice (Choice). However, schools designated as Priority or Focus will be required to implement and develop Flexible Learning Programs (FLP) beginning June 2012. Alert Schools may also implement and develop FLP if they choose to do so. The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver provides greater flexibility in designing a FLP tailored to the needs of the schools. As a result, these identified schools will have the capacity to serve more students in need of additional academic support.

Despite the progress made by our students, **[Insert School Name]** has been designated as a Focus School under Georgia’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver for the **[Insert School Year]** school year. This designation was based on 2011 test data and our school will keep this designation for three years.

Focus Schools are 10% of Title I schools that have the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest-achieving subgroup or subgroups or, at the high school level, have the largest within-school gaps in graduation rates (within-school-gaps Focus School). They can also be Title I high schools with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years that are not identified as a Priority School (low-graduation-rate Focus School).

**(Provide an explanation of where the school has gaps between subgroups for achievement or graduation rates or what the high school’s graduation rate is and why).**

As a Focus School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community, and our school district office to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our low-performing student subgroups. (**Describe interventions the school is providing to address low achievement of students).**

An important part of the success plan for [**Insert School Name**] is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that, as a parent/guardian, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, contact **[Insert Contact Name], [Insert Position]** at **[Insert Phone Number]** or **[Email Address].**

Thank you for all that you do to support your child’s education.

Sincerely,

**[Insert Name]**

Principal