

SUMTER COUNTY ELEMENTARY MATH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



Home of the **PANTHER CUBS!**

Dr. Lezley B. Anderson, Principal
Dr. Reneé Mays, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Connie Downs, Counselor

Mrs. Tawana Bettis, Counselor

Georgia Department of Education
Parent Notification Letter

NOTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT IN FOCUS SCHOOL FLEXIBLE LEARNING PROGRAM (FLP)

Required 2nd Notification

If your child is already being served in the SCES Flexible Learning Program (FLP) or you have already submitted an application for your child to participate/not participate in the program, you may disregard this notice.

February 12, 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Your child attends Sumter County Elementary School, which receives federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Despite the progress made by our students, our school has been designated as a Focus School under Georgia's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver for the 2013-2014 school year. This designation was based on 2011 state test data and, as a result, our school will be served for three years with additional supports and interventions beginning in July of 2012.

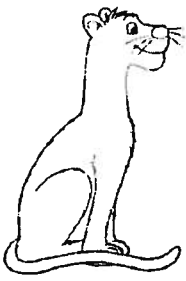
Focus Schools are 10% of Title I schools that have the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest-achieving subgroup or subgroups or, at the high school level, have the largest within-school gaps in graduation rates (within-school-gaps Focus School). 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).

According to 2011 Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) disaggregated data, math is the significant area of weakness for SCES. There is a 55% achievement gap between the lowest-achieving subgroup (24% of students with disabilities meeting/exceeding) and the highest achieving subgroup (79% of Caucasian students meeting/exceeding) in the area of math. Math is overall a significant area of weakness with only 67% of all students meeting or exceeding standards for the 2011-2012 school year.

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 the students in our school. One of the interventions we will provide throughout the next three years is a Flexible Learning Program (FLP).

A FLP offers academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation and other educational interventions designed to increase the academic achievement of students within our school. Therefore, as part of our





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efforts to improve student achievement and implement ESEA, **your child is eligible to receive FLP services.** FLP services began at our school on October 15, 2013.

The intervention plan uses a student-centered program of academic remediation activities designed to improve student achievement. The scientifically based strategies include direct instruction, small group instruction, scaffolding, and a computer based remediation. The intervention plan is conducted during the school day to meet the needs of the targeted at risk students and limit transportation and attendance concerns. Students served in the flexible learning program are pulled from the exploratory rotation three days per week. Exploratory classes included in the rotation are Art, Music, and Technology. The student teacher ratio is 10 to 1 or less. Using computer software, tutors develop a personalized math education plan for each student to address specific areas of weakness and gaps. Program staff develop portfolios for each student to include the personalized plan, work samples, data, and progress reports. Diagnostic testing and progress monitoring are administered and results are analyzed each grading period to ensure that goals are met. Adjustments are made as needed based on data. Instructional services are provided Tuesday through Thursday for 40-minute sessions each day in a designated classroom reserved specifically for the FLP.

To enroll your child in our school's FLP, please complete and mail the enrollment form to 438 Bumphead Road, Americus, GA 31719, fax (229) 924-8831, or hand deliver it to Dr. Renee' Mays by February 21, 2014. If this form is not returned, your child will be served by the school's FLP until written notice is received from you by Dr. Renee' Mays, FLP Coordinator, at 438 Bumphead Road, Americus, GA 31719.

This year, two (2) parent meetings will be held to provide more information on the FLP services being offered at our school. These meetings will provide you the opportunity to view first-hand the FLP services being provided to your child as well as provide you with a copy of our school district's written FLP plan. Please plan to attend one of these meetings which will take place on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 9:00 AM in the Media Center, and on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 5:00 PM in the Media Center.

For questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Renee' Mays, FLP Coordinator, by phone at (229) 924-7835, or by email at rmays@sumterschools.org. We want to ensure that our parents/guardians continue to be informed about the educational interventions we are offering to our students to increase student academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lezley B. Anderson, Ed. D.
Principal



GEORGIA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
438 Bumphead Road – Americus, Georgia 31719 – Phone 229-924-7835-Fax 229-924-8831

