

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that parents be notified in writing of the School Improvement status of their child's school. That law requires that the letter be sent at the beginning of each school year.

If you have any questions about this, please contact your child's school.

August 20, 2008

Dear Bishop Spaugh Community Academy Parent or Guardian,

As a parent at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy, you have options for your child in the 2008-09 school year that require careful consideration. Please read this notice, taking special note of deadline dates and contact names and phone numbers you can access for additional information.

According to 2007-08 assessment results in math, Bishop Spaugh Community Academy is in the restructured phase of Title I School Improvement for the 2008-09 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Schools enter this phase after not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for six years Bishop Spaugh Community Academy did not make AYP in the 2007-2008 school year and the restructuring plan will be implemented for the 2008-09 school year. We will not have reading test results available until mid-November, therefore this information is based in math scores only. 22.8% of schools in our district made AYP for 2007-08.

As a school receiving Title I funds, we must make AYP in improving student achievement or face increasingly serious consequences. Title I funds help students who are not achieving at grade level in high-poverty schools.

In addition to implementing our Restructuring Plan, we will continue to offer public school choice to all parents of students enrolled at Bishop Spaugh. Also, the school system must offer free tutoring services to students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. (Eligible families may transfer to another school or receive free tutoring services, but not both.)

Your child's options for the 2008-09 school year are to:

- 1. Remain at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy or**
- 2. Enroll in another designated school of choice using the Choice process available in January 2009 for the 2009-10 school year; or**
- 3. If eligible, remain at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy and receive free tutoring services.**

More information on each of these options is below.

1. Remain at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy

The staff at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 8th grade. If you want your child to remain at Bishop Spaugh, you don't need to take any additional action.

The many successes at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your past and continued support.

However, we are concerned about the academic progress of all of our students. We've identified the following instructional strategies in which to focus, with district and state assistance. We've identified the following instructional strategies in which to focus, with district and state assistance: We are pleased that we continue to increase our student achievement, hire highly qualified staff and considerably reduce our suspensions while working with the school district to provide high quality curriculum support for staff.

With parent and school input, the district developed a plan for Bishop Spaugh's restructuring. The restructuring plan includes one of the following alternative governance arrangements:

- Reopening as a charter
- Replacing all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal
- Entering into a contract with a private management company
- Turning the operation of the school over to the state.

The district considered the following options: *[List those applicable.]*

- *[Changing the governance structure so that school-based management and decision making is diminished and district control, monitoring, and oversight is increased.*
- *Reconstituting the school into smaller learning communities.*

Bishop Spaugh chose the following strategies for our Restructuring plan:

The restructuring of Spaugh Middle School began in 2006-2007 with the appointment of a new principal who has focused on improving the quality of instruction both by hiring new teachers and by bringing in Literacy and Math facilitators to begin the process of increasing the effectiveness of all teachers. Having established a school climate that is conducive to learning, the Spaugh staff is ready to take the next step toward academic success. Bishop Spaugh will adopt for 2008-2009, the Quantum Learning for Teachers Program. QL is a professional development program for educators that provides a proven, research-based approach to effective design and delivery of curriculum. Components of the model focus on leadership, research-based teaching methods, cognitive psychology, learning and life skills, parent involvement, and school improvement through evaluation. The model seeks to make content more meaningful and relevant to students' lives. QL is based on three core beliefs: (1) all people can learn; (2) people learn differently; and (3) learning is effective when it is engaging and challenging. Teachers learn to become the 'maestro' of his or her classroom, responsible for the orchestration of strategies to obtain desired outcomes. The method includes iteration

where the strategies build and spiral on each other with frequent review to strengthen the students' understanding and competency. Educators learn strategies for accelerating learning, making content more meaningful, and supporting standards-based curriculum, improving effective classroom management, presentation skills, designing engaging lessons, and identifying and reaching all types of learners. The program includes steps for building a strong foundation, a positive atmosphere of rapport and respect, and a supportive environment.

We welcome your involvement at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy. There are many ways to participate including becoming a member of the *Parent Teacher Association*, offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, and attending parent conferences with your child's teacher(s), making sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day, and monitoring your child's homework.

Bishop Spaugh Community Academy will have its annual meeting to develop our parent involvement policy and to review parent rights under Title I and other information in the On September 9th beginning at 6:00 pm.. The Title I district-wide parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall and you may want to be a part of that review process. If you have questions about these opportunities, please call Bishop Spaugh Community Academy.

2. Enroll in another designated school

If you want to enroll your child in another school, you will have the opportunity to make the choice through the lottery application process in January. A list of applicable schools will be provided to you through this process.

The district will respond to your request by written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Bishop Spaugh. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be allowed to attend the choice school through the 8th grade. If the request for transfers exceeds available funding, priority must be given to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families.

If you are the parent of an exceptional child please call the Exceptional Children Department at 980-343-6960 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. If you are the parent of an English language learner please call the English as a Second Language Department at 980-343-0432 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

3. Remain at Bishop Spaugh and receive free tutoring services

- 4. The free tutoring program for students who receive free or reduced-price lunch and choose not to transfer from Bishop Spaugh Community Academy will be offered at**

the school site after the school day or at a specific provider's site outside of school hours, by several providers during the 2008-09 school year. If there is not enough funding for every child requesting services, eligible students with the greatest academic need will receive first priority.

You will be provided with a brief description of tutoring providers and their services at the beginning of each semester.

If your family is eligible and you have completed the "Student Enrollment Form." After receiving your request for services, the district will confirm your request. Next, an agreement with the service provider, including specific achievement goals for your child, will be established. (The public identity of any child who is eligible for, or receiving, these free tutoring services remains confidential until the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) gives written permission.)

If you have questions about any of these options, please call the Title I Office at 980-343-6950. In addition, more information about public school choice and free tutoring services, also known as supplemental educational services, can be found on the Web at www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb. We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for each student.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Superintendent, Title I Director

Information regarding *(School)* NC School Report Card can be found at <http://www.ncreportcards.org/src/>. Information regarding Choice, SES, and Corrective Action can be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/>.