

ESSA Accountability - 2020-21 Participation Rate Improvement Plan Form											
School Name: Silas Wood 6 th Grade Center	Contact Person: Marijean Scardapane										
School District Name: South Huntington UFSD	Contact Person's Phone Number: 631-812-3059										
School BEDS Code: 580413030005	Contact Person's Email Address: mscardapane@shufsd.org										
Subject(s) and Subgroup(s) for which a Participation Rate Improvement Plan is Required:	English Language Arts Assessments										
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Please provide a brief explanation of why the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school year participation rates were below 95%. (250 words or less)	See below										
Provide a brief description of the Consultation and Collaboration process for development of the plan.	See below										
List the Stakeholders who consulted and collaborated on the development of the plan, and the dates of meetings.	See below										

Describe the chosen strategies and key activities to be implemented to improve Participation Rate.	See below
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Please Note: Title I funds must be used to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds

Explanation for low participation:

- Many parents have concerns and misconceptions about the tests including: teachers will teach to the test, the government will have too much information about their child, their child will be disappointed by the low scores, that the curriculum will be negatively impacted, that the teachers will be negatively impacted by the scores, that students are tested too much.
- Some students believe the tests are optional, and in many households, the students are conveying this misinformation to parents who may not speak the language
- Because parents are able to opt out students right up to the day of the test, it is difficult for administrators to reach out to those parents to alleviate concerns
- Language difficulties
- Peer Pressure (among parents and students)
- Because many students do not take the tests, the test data is not seen as valuable by parents and teachers

Consultation and Collaboration process:

The committee correspond by email on April 13, met on April 14, and corresponded through google docs on April 23. The committee:

- discussed the reasons we are required to do the plan, including reviewing the data used to make the determination
- conducted a self-assessment, including a list of possible explanations for our participation rates
- developed a list of recommended actions we can take to improve participation for each subgroup and the school as a whole. Our discussion included a review of a draft email to parents, and information posted on the nysed.gov/assessments-toolkit
- Based on these recommendations, we wrote our PRIP.

List of Stakeholders (Committee):

Stephen Toto - Principal
 Curran, Denise - Support Staff
 Kristin Bernard - Teacher
 Karen Mushorn - Department Chair
 Adam Oblatz - Assistant Principal
 Helen Dogiakis - Parent
 Maria Chimenti - Teaching Assistant
 Mari Scardapane - District Administration

Key Strategies and Activities to be implemented prior to 2020-21 test administration:




Silas Wood's key strategy will be to improve communication in order to alleviate the concerns of parents and students. Specifically, Silas Wood will implement the following activities:

- A letter to parents from the principal that specifically addresses areas of concern as well as misconceptions identified in the committee meetings. The letter will be constructed based on the sample letters in the Nysed Assessment Toolkit. This letter will be sent home (by backpack and email) early in the year, and again, as additional concerns surface, several times as the test administration date gets closer. These letters will go home in English and Spanish.
- The principal will send test date reminders through School Messenger phone calls in English and Spanish in order to ensure parents without email are receiving information about the tests.

- In addition to general letters, letters that are targeted to the concerns of specific subgroups will be utilized. Special Education parents will need to be reassured about which modifications apply during the tests. They will also be reassured that their children will not be “pressured” during the testing period itself. ELL Parents will be reassured about the tests that can be taken in the student’s home language.
- At New Parent Orientation meetings, slides taken from the NYSED Assessment Toolkit will be used to allay parent concerns.
- At PTA meetings, slides from the Nysed Assessment Toolkit will be used to allay parent concerns and to build a culture where parents/students view the tests as a valuable way to “build stamina” for exams they will be taking later in their careers.
- NYSED Assessment Toolkit slides will also be used in SEPTA, and Bilingual Advisory Committee meetings to allay parent concerns and correct misconceptions.
- Parents who do choose to opt-out of testing will be encouraged to do so by an earlier date in order to alleviate the peer pressure among parents and students to opt out on the actual day of the test.
- School and district social media platforms will be utilized to send reminders and create a positive feeling about the assessments.

ESSA Accountability - 2020-21 Participation Rate Improvement Plan Approval

By signing below, the Board of Education of the district or Board of Trustees and superintendent or principal certify that the 2020 – 21 PRIP has been approved and adopted by the district.

Chief School Administrator's Name: Stephen Toto
Chief School Administrator's Signature: 
Date: April 24, 2020
Board President's Name: Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D.
Board President's Signature: 
Date: April 28, 2020
District Superintendent's Name: David P. Bennardo, Ed.D.
District Superintendent's Signature: 
Date: April 24, 2020