

January 19, 2011

Dear Parents,

After conducting a special review of the Atlanta Board of Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has placed APS on “accredited probation.” That means that all of our high schools still retain their accreditation status and students may continue to apply to colleges, for the HOPE Scholarship and for other scholarships. However, we know that this is a serious matter, and in order to protect the continuing accreditation status of our schools, the Board must take corrective action.

SACS based its decision solely on Atlanta Board of Education governance issues. The agency’s decision is *not* in any way associated with the strength of the instructional programs in our schools. Our teachers and principals continue to work hard every day to ensure that your child receives a high-quality education. That’s our number one priority.

In the time ahead, you will receive information on how the board plans to address the six required actions outlined in the SACS report. The deadline to address each action is September 30, 2011, with two progress reports due in the interim. Depending on our improvement efforts, SACS will determine the continuing accreditation status of our schools.

For more information, please note the following:

- The full SACS report is posted on the district Web site, where we’ve created a special link on the home page to keep you informed.
- If you wish to view the SACS report in person, contact the principal of your child’s school.
- SACS officials will discuss their findings at the January 24, 2011 board meeting, which is open to the public.

I know that this is an anxious time for everyone, especially students and parents. I also know – and am grateful – that when the community of Atlanta truly comes together on behalf of students, we prove our ability to rise above even the most difficult of challenges. We need and value your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Beverly L. Hall, Ed. D.  
Superintendent