



## Aiken County Public Schools

1000 Brookhaven Drive Aiken, South Carolina 29803

Office of Federal Programs

(803) 641-2403 FAX (803) 641-2569

August 1, 2013

Dear Parents of Students Enrolled at Paul Knox Middle School,

Based on the Federal ESEA Accountability System, Paul Knox Middle School is in its second year of identification as a Focus School. When identifying a school as a Focus School, the ESEA Accountability System considers achievement gaps and factors those as part of a school's overall achievement level.

In the summer of 2012, the State Department of Education identified Paul Knox Middle as a Focus School because of achievement gaps between subgroups of students, specifically, African-American students versus non-African-American students, disabled students versus non-disabled students, and subsidized meal students versus non-subsidized meal students. Because of this, the school district is offering parents the option to transfer their child to a school that is not identified as a Priority or Focus School. The following schools are schools of choice for the 2013-2014 school year: **Jackson Middle and New Ellenton Middle**. As a parent, you have the option to keep your child at Paul Knox Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year or transfer your child to one of these schools of choice with transportation being provided. Attached is a comparison of Paul Knox Middle's data to the data from the schools of choice.

The teachers and administrators of Paul Knox Middle School believe that your child will make as much progress at Paul Knox Middle School as he/she would at the school of choice. The following strategies are being implemented by the school, district, and State Department of Education to assist the school in closing achievement gaps among subgroups of students for the 2013-2014:

- The school and district will offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES), or after school tutoring, to students who remain at the school and earned a "Not Met" on the PASS. More information regarding SES will be sent to parents in September.
- The school will provide an instructional coach to give support and instructional training to teachers on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.
- The school will provide reading and math intervention classes to give additional assistance to struggling students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.
- The school will provide additional technology for classroom instruction that supports teaching the SC state standards and the Common Core State Standards.
- The school will provide reduced class size in the core content areas for grades six, seven, and eight.
- The school will provide focused professional development for teachers on early release Wednesdays.
- The school, district, parents, and community will update and implement an improvement plan to target areas of improvement.
- The school and district will continue to use the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program to develop targeted instructional strategies and make student-driven instructional decisions.
- The school, district, and state will provide assistance to teachers to improve instructional strategies.

If you choose for your child to remain at Paul Knox Middle School, we ask that you support the school by providing the following assistance: assist your child with his/her schoolwork; volunteer in teachers' classrooms; participate in parent workshops and parent-teacher conferences; and serve on the school's Title I Planning Team.

If you wish to transfer your child to one of the Schools of Choice for the 2013-2014 school year, you must complete the attached form and return it to Paul Knox Middle School office by mail or in person before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2013. You will be notified by return mail if your request to transfer is accepted. Please note that due to a limit in the federal funding available to cover bus transportation costs, the school district may have to limit the number of students whose transportation can be provided. Priority for bus transportation will be given to those students who are from low-incomes and have the greatest academic need.

Sincerely,

Jeanie Glover

Director, Office of Federal Programs

**Paul Knox Middle School**  
**School Choice Form for the 2013-2014 School Year**

If you wish to transfer your child, please complete the following information. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Incomplete or illegible forms will delay the process for your child. If you would like for your child to remain at Paul Knox Middle School, you do not need to complete this form.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade for 2013-2014: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) where one or both parents may be reached during the day: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to transfer your child for the 2013-2014 school year, **please indicate your choice.**

My 1<sup>st</sup> Choice is      ☐ Jackson Middle      ☐ New Ellenton Middle

My 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice is      ☐ Jackson Middle      ☐ New Ellenton Middle

**Please check all that apply:**

- ☐ My child requires Special Education services and has an IEP.
- ☐ I wish for the school district to provide bus transportation to my school of choice.
- ☐ I wish to provide my own transportation to my school of choice.

Return this form to Paul Knox Middle School, 1804 Wells Road, North Augusta, South Carolina, 29841, before 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 30, 2013. Forms may be submitted in person or by mail. Forms received after the deadline may not be considered for the 2013-2014 school year. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jeanie Glover at 803-641-2403 or by email at [jglover@aiken.k12.sc.us](mailto:jglover@aiken.k12.sc.us).

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**For District Office Use Only:**

Notification of School Location for 2013-2014:

☐ Parent    ☐ Home School    ☐ Receiving School    ☐ Academic Officer    ☐ Transportation    ☐ SFS    ☐ Special Education

☐ Approved    ☐ Denied    Reason for Denial \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul Knox Middle**

**Address:** 1804 Wells Road  
North Augusta, SC 29841

**Telephone**  
**Number:** (803) 442-6300  
**Principal:** TBA

**Spring 2013 PASS Scores****Report Card Grade for 2012-2013: D**

|                | % of Students Met<br>and Above in ELA | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Math | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Science | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Social Studies |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Grade 6</b> | 73.8                                  | 64.3                                      | 77.5   | 75.8  |
| <b>Grade 7</b> | 69.0                                  | 66.4                                      | 73.9   | 57.8  |
| <b>Grade 8</b> | 62.0                                  | 62.5                                      | 75.8   | 64.4  |

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**Jackson Middle School**

**Address:** 8217 Atomic Road  
Jackson, SC 29831

**Telephone**  
**Number:** (803) 279-3525  
**Principal:** TBA

**Spring 2013 PASS Scores****Report Card Grade for 2012-2013: C**

|                | % of Students Met<br>and Above in ELA | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Math | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Science | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Social Studies |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Grade 6</b> | 75.5                                  | 63.7                                      | 71.2   | 58.8  |
| <b>Grade 7</b> | 69.7                                  | 63.3                                      | 69.7   | 57.8  |
| <b>Grade 8</b> | 62.3                                  | 75.4                                      | 64.9   | 61.4  |

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**New Ellenton Middle**

**Address:** 814 Main Street South  
New Ellenton, SC 29809

**Telephone**  
**Number:** (803) 652-8200  
**Principal:** Shunte Dugar

**Spring 2013 PASS Scores****Report Card Grade for 2012-2013: A**

|                | % of Students Met<br>and Above in ELA | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Math | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Science | % of Students Met<br>and Above in<br>Social Studies |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Grade 6</b> | 66.7                                  | 71.0                                      | 45.7   | 79.4  |
| <b>Grade 7</b> | 70.0                                  | 48.6                                      | 64.3   | 51.4  |
| <b>Grade 8</b> | 64.1                                  | 82.1                                      | 64.3   | 72.2  |