

EAST RAMAPO PRESS RELEASE

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EAST RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED FOR PROGRESS

Both of East Ramapo's high schools - Ramapo and Spring Valley - were recently removed from the list of New York State high schools that are not meeting standards for specific student sub-groups. The State Education Department released the list of high schools "in need of improvement" on September 12, 2006. Neither East Ramapo high school is on it. Both schools had been designated for the previous two years as "requiring academic progress".

Under the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, a school is placed on the "needs improvement" or "requiring progress" list if, in either mathematics or English language arts, at least one sub-group of students does not meet annual performance targets for two years in a row. In order to be removed from the list, all of the school's sub-groups must meet achievement targets for two consecutive years.

Dr. Mitchell Schwartz, Superintendent of Schools, responded to the State's announcement by saying, "Although there are many aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act that put an unfair burden on districts such as ours, we are very pleased that our two high schools have earned the status of removal from the State's list. The talent and dedication of our staff operating as a team have prevailed. Congratulations to Spring Valley High School and Ramapo High School on your excellent academic progress!"

The high school principals are pleased about the positive recognition but aware that there is still much work to be done. Beverly Davis of Spring Valley said, "Our relentless focus on student learning, coupled with an understanding of their individual strengths and weaknesses, is clearly leading us in the right direction. This is an enormous job, but one that has to be done if all of our children are to be successful."

Jean Fields, Principal of Ramapo High School, noted an increased focus on student and staff learning. "Our staff is to be commended for the fine and tireless work that they do. We have come to understand that learning is paramount for the students as well as ourselves. Our challenge now is to continue to get a little better each year."

The positive news about Ramapo and Spring Valley High Schools comes just a few months after the State Education Department announced that nine of East Ramapo's elementary schools were identified as "high achieving/gap-closing" schools.

The chart below identifies each accountability sub-group of high school students and whether each met the Annual Measurable Objectives for mathematics and ELA in the past four years.

Group	MET ANNUAL YEARLY PROGRESS (YES OR NO)															
	Ramapo ELA				Spring Valley ELA				Ramapo Math				Spring Valley Math			
	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
All Students	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Students with Disabilities	No	s	Yes	s	s	s	s	s	Yes	s	Yes	s	s	s	s	s
Black	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Hispanic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	s	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	s	s	Yes
Asian or Pacific Islander	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	s	Yes	Yes	s	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	s	Yes	Yes	s
White	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limited English Proficient	No	No	Yes	s	Yes	Yes	s	No	No	No	Yes	s	Yes	No	s	Yes
Economically Disadvantaged	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Final AYP Determination	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No*	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

“s” denotes a sub-group that had fewer than 30 students and therefore was excluded from accountability reporting.

*Spring Valley High School must make AYP for ELA in 2006-07; otherwise the school will be designated as “requiring academic progress” for ELA.