



# NEWSLETTER

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Superintendent

## Hempstead UFSD

"A Better Future for Every Child"

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## FOCUS ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All staff participated in on-site professional development sessions on September 9, 2009. The elementary staff received job embedded training in the Scott Foresman Reading Series; some of the topics discussed were vocabulary development, assessments, and differentiated instruction, etc. Dr. Watkins facilitated an informative session with all custodial staff. The teaching assistants and clerical staff participated in a customer service workshop. All district employees received an overview of the *Failure is Not an Option*: six principles that guide student achievement. This overview provided a framework by which staff can begin the process of developing a common vision/purpose using data and each school's mission statement to guide and improve the efficacy of our schools. Our next district-wide professional development training will be held on November 3, 2009.

## EXPANDING LITERACY IN PRE-K



We are pleased to announce that our Pre-K Center is a recipient of the **Building to Literacy Federal Grant**. This is **3.2 million dollars** over a three year period to serve Hempstead School District and the District's Universal Pre-K Program along with Long Island Head Start in Central Islip, South Country and Wyandanch. The overarching goal of this project is to ensure that all children can begin (Kindergarten) with the literacy foundation required to succeed academically.

The primary objective will be to increase the time spent in systematic and explicit literacy instruction. We expect to improve children's oral language, phonological awareness, print awareness, alphabetic knowledge, and early writing. This project will enable us to provide our pre-school age children with cognitive learning opportunities in high quality language and literature rich environments.



### Planning for Hempstead High School Makeover



As we all are aware, there is much work to be done in order to **return Hempstead High School to the prominence of yesteryear. The Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR) has been commissioned to assist in transforming the High School.**

The Center for Secondary School Redesign (CSSR) is a nationally respected organization dedicated to secondary school improvement. Following a preliminary meeting with CSSR, we have developed a process for HHS improvement. The initial steps entailed a team comprised of CSSR staff and HHS Redesign Team (consisting of parents, teachers and students) shadowing a student for an entire day. The purpose of this activity was to get the decision makers to see/understand the school from a student's perspective. Upon completion of the shadowing activity and the collection of other data, CSSR will meet with the Board of Education, faculty and staff, and parents to discuss findings and to recommend next steps to improve our high school. The CSSR visits were held on October 5, 6, and 7, 2009.

### FREE AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



As per the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, parents of eligible Hempstead High School students may register their children for **free Supplemental Educational Services (SES) tutoring this school year. Eligible students are those enrolled at Hempstead High School and who are eligible for free or reduced lunch status.**

SES services are meant to help students catch up if they are behind in important subjects like reading, language arts, and math. This school year, the **maximum SES amount per eligible child is \$3,183.70. The services are paid for by the school district. The number of hours of tutoring the child receives is dependent upon the hourly rate the SES provider charges.**

SES services may include one-on-one tutoring, small group work, on-line tutoring or after-school classes. SES services can take place at various locations, including the school site or the student's home. SES services must be provided by New York State Education Department-approved providers. For information on how to apply for SES tutoring for your eligible High School child, please contact the Office of Funded Programs, Compliance and School Improvement at (516) 292-7111 ext. 1421.

