



**Philadelphia  
Electrical and  
Technology  
Charter High School**  
[www.pettech.org](http://www.pettech.org)

**Established 2002**

1420-22 Chestnut Street  
(Chestnut at Broad)  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
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*Michael J. Nemitz*  
*Chief Executive Officer*

August 1, 2009

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

The 2008-2009 school year was again a year of many successes for the Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School (PE&T), including meeting all 13 targets for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with a 95.7% graduation rate. Our student growth model demonstrated great results with almost half of our students achieving two grade levels in only one academic year. This year, we are continuing to make a major push to improve our students' mathematics, reading, writing, and science skills, and again we need your help. Having excellent skills will benefit your child tremendously in whatever path they choose after high school. In reflecting on our students' performance on math and reading assessments, we have determined that our students will continue to need more supports in the coming year in order to achieve those skills. In this letter, I'll tell you about some of the results from our end of year assessments from last year, I'll describe some of our initiatives to improve our students' skills and test performance, and I'll identify some ways you can help your child and our whole school to achieve our goals this year. You can find more detailed information about what we were able to accomplish last year, our students' achievements, and our plans for this school year in our Annual Report, which is available on the school's website.

Since PE&T is a Title I school, you as parents have a Right-to-Know if your child has been taught for four (4) consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, and you have a right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers. I am pleased to state that at PE&T, 100% of our teachers are highly qualified. There is also an equitable distribution of teachers to ensure that poor and minority students are not taught at higher rates than other students by inexperienced teachers.

In the Spring of 2009, our 11<sup>th</sup> graders all took the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in Math and Reading, which gauge students' level of achievement of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Technically, all students are required to demonstrate Proficiency on the PSSA in order to graduate from PE&T or from any high school in Pennsylvania. As a measure of how the school is doing overall, the State uses student proficiency scores on the PSSA and other indicators to determine whether or not a student made AYP. It is essential that PE&T make AYP each year, or we may stand to lose essential federal funds, as part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). I am pleased to state that **PE&T made AYP in 2008-2009**. We had very significant increases in reading and math in Spring 2009 over Spring 2008, overall and in all subgroups. Our overall reading proficiency increased from 24.6% to 53.1% and our overall math proficiency increased from 24.6% to 44.3%. As a result, our 2008-2009 AYP status is "Making Progress: in Corrective Action I". Although we made AYP in 2006-2007, we did not make AYP in 2007-2008. In 2008, there was small difference in PSSA test performance between the 2007 11<sup>th</sup> graders and the 2008 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The difference on average amounted to approximately one more PSSA math question (1 out of 66) answered correctly and one more PSSA reading question (1 out of 52) answered correctly. Nevertheless, it is crucial that we make AYP again this year. We must meet all AYP targets for two consecutive years in order to reach the AYP status of 'Made AYP'. As a result, we will use all school improvement funds to target our neediest students.

Our PSSA results indicate the following groups of students did not meet the state’s academic targets:

	<b>PE&amp;T Proficiency Results</b>	<b>PA Proficiency Target</b>
Overall Student Proficiency	53.1% Reading, 44.3% Math	63% Reading, 56% Math
Black Student Proficiency	48.1% Reading, 40.5% Math	63% Reading, 56% Math
Economically Disadvantaged Student Proficiency	50.7% Reading, 40.8% Math	63% Reading, 56% Math

Please note that subgroups reported as targets consist of 40 or more students. To learn more about AYP and the Pennsylvania Accountability System, I encourage you to read the information on the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s website at [www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us).

We are pleased with our marked improvement over the last year. We are determined to ensure that your child will learn the skills they need in order to be successful. All of the members of our school community-- the school staff, students, and parents -- will need to commit to continue to work hard to again improve our students’ learning and test performance this year. We are fine tuning our successful improvement plan from last year to include **7 new strategies**. PE&T has already begun to implement a 14-point strategy for instructional improvement this year that includes:

- **School paid parking for increased parent involvement at all non-discipline related activities.**
- **Credit recovery system to monitor student academic progress quarterly.**
- **Student incentive reward system to motivate achievement growth.**
- **New media Smart center to enhance student research and career preparation.**
- **Extensive outcome driven supplementary in-school and after school remediation programs with the school goal of below grade level students achieving two grade levels each year in order to satisfy state proficiency requirements.**
- **Summer enrichment program for all incoming students.**
- **All instructional classrooms equipped with Smart technology.**
- Greater involvement of parents in test preparation (See [www.pagrow.com](http://www.pagrow.com))
- Assistant Principal of Accountability and Assessment to monitor individual student achievement growth from admission to graduation, to ensure instruction, curriculum and assessment are aligned to state standards and clarified to students by maximizing the use of state anchors for PSSA eligible content, and to oversee extensive benchmark assessment program (Pearson’s GMADE and GRADE, 4Sight and TerraNova testing).
- Curriculum-based use of our new Library to promote reading and research
- Continuation of our successful lunch time Reading Program (100 Book Challenge/Achieve 3000) in order address the 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level of our average entering 9<sup>th</sup> grader.
- Continuation of our successful math curriculum for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade which includes two new remedial courses (Pre- Algebra and PSSA Coach) as well as Algebra and Geometry in order to address the 5<sup>th</sup> grade math level of our average entering 9<sup>th</sup> grader.
- Continuation of our successful math curriculum in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to include PSSA Prep as well Algebra 2.
- Improved Digital Learning Systems (*Lincoln Interactive, StudyIsland*) for math/reading skills and elective courses.

We will continue to reach out to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for assistance in implementing our strategies. We have boosted our overall students’ skills significantly and have improved in both math and reading for all student subgroups. We firmly believe that we will continue

to improve in all areas for all students through our substantial commitments of time, energy and resources.

Moreover, your child may be eligible for free tutoring under the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program, part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Additional information about SES will be forthcoming. We will provide the required information to you as soon as it is made available to us. We will explain how you can get this extra academic help for your child in math and reading. If you are eligible, SES tutoring does not cost you anything. PE&T pays your child's tutor from federal funds provided generally for schools that serve the educational needs of large numbers of poor and needy families. (Transportation to the provider's site is not included, and you may have to pay for transportation).

Please know that the staff at PE&T takes pride in our relationship with you and your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 12th grade. However, schools classified as "Making Progress: in Corrective Action I" are legally required to notify parents that they have the option of transferring to another school or charter school within the District that has made AYP. If you would like to exercise your right to transfer your child to another school, we are asking you to complete the enclosed form "Request for School Transfer" and return it to Kayne Deissroth, Board Secretary, at 1420-22 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 by September 1, 2009 so that we can make the proper provisions. If you do not complete the form and return it by September 1, 2009, we will assume your child will remain with us at PE&T.

Parent support is essential to the success of PE&T. You can help your child to learn and help the school in a number of ways: communicating with your child's teacher, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, checking on your child's progress through PowerSchool, and participating in school decision-making. We will be updating PE&T Parent Involvement Policy this Fall. If you are interested in providing input into this policy, please call Anna DiVario at 267-514-1823 (Ext. 296). In addition, PE&T will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and to review parent rights under Title I on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 6PM in the Cafeteria.

Our success is measured not only by our test scores, but by other important measures, such as the successes of our graduates in college and the workplace, and our successful Co-Op program that we believe is second to none in the Philadelphia area. And, it is measured by our commitment to our mission and to providing a first-rate education, which is immediately evident to all who visit our school. We hope that you will continue to work with us this year in fulfilling our vision of high achievement for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nemitz  
Chief Executive officer

**Request for School Transfer**

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ would like to transfer my child to another school or charter school that has made AYP.

NAME OF NEW SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_