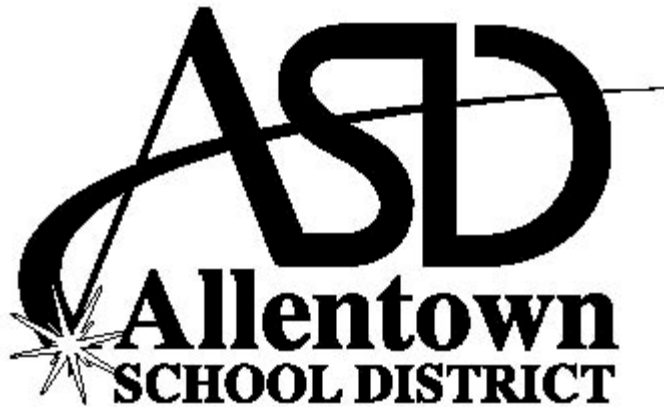


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**ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PSSA OVERVIEW SHOWS POSITIVE RESULTS FOR 2002**

(Allentown, PA, October 16, 2002)–In preliminary information received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, results indicate for the second year in a row the Allentown School District has improved student performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in both reading and mathematics. “In 2001 the Allentown School District had an approximate 10% decrease in the number of students scoring at the *Below Basic Performance Level* in their combined reading and mathematics scores. Using the preliminary data received from PDE for 2002, we are projecting an approximate decrease of an additional 5% in the number of students scoring in the combined reading and mathematics *Below Basic Performance Level*,” reports Dr. Karen S. Angello, ASD Superintendent. The data also indicate the school district has been successful at increasing, by approximately 5%, the number of students scoring in the Advanced Performance Level in the combined reading and mathematics scores over the same two years. A more detailed report will follow the release of the official results by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. When the State of the Schools and State of the District Reports are publicly presented, the District will provide data reflecting the changes in each category of performance.

PSSA Results Available to Public

The date of the release of the results of the PSSA by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is not confirmed. Please consult the state's Web site at www.pde.state.pa.us.

Superintendent PSSA Progress Report on November 21, 2002

For a complete understanding of the PSSA results, the public is invited to attend the November school board meeting to be held on Thursday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the ASD Administration Building. Superintendent, Dr. Karen S. Angello will present a progress report, discussing the PSSA results in light of strategic plans for future student achievement beyond Empowerment. The final round of tests scheduled for April 2003 will be a significant factor in the release of the district from Empowerment status.

ASD Staff & Student Recognition Event on December 5, 2002

For the second year, a "PSSA School & Student Recognition Event" is being planned for invited guests that includes school board members, students who scored proficient or advanced on both the math and reading 2002 tests, their parents and guardians, teachers, professional staff, community leaders and the media on Thursday, December 5, 2002, 5:30-9:00 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Allentown. The event is in compliance with Mandate #5, Strategy 1 of the District's Empowerment Plan, which reads, "...create a student recognition awards system that provides recognition for all students who meet academic goals on the PSSA."

As the fourth largest district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown School District educates approximately 16,500 students, and employs over 1,100 professional staff and administrators. Its mission is to provide the highest quality education for every child. For more information, please contact Karen S. Angello, Ph.D., ASD Superintendent, at 484-765-4230.

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