

State of Willingboro Public School District

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, at the second anniversary of Dr. Ronald G. Taylor's leadership of Willingboro Public Schools, as Superintendent, he presented to the community stakeholders a comprehensive update of the 'State of the School District'.

While maintaining the momentum generated from a successful first year of "New Beginnings and New Initiatives", this year's mantra is "**Moving from Compliance to Excellence**".

An evening of excellence began with a District Showcase highlighting many of the district's initiatives and school-based programming, putting the spotlight on the success of the Alternative Education and Gifted & Talented classes; Early Childhood and 21st Century Educational offerings; Read180 Intervention System, *Naviance* the web-based College and Career Planning resource, and PSAT preparation programs. The showcase also accented the initiation of Academic competitions, and Job-embedded Professional Development opportunities. The District leaders have

also made tremendous strides in resolving all areas of State Monitoring, and have seamlessly moved forward with Phase II of the Construction Referendum.



Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools (left) and Mr. Kevin E. Guyton, Chief of Schools at District Showcase

Dr. Taylor reminded the Willingboro family of his passion for educational excellence, and the primary goal of student achievement, as he addressed the challenges and successes made under his leadership. "We must capitalize on our 'Year One' investments such as our *Read180* reading intervention program for struggling readers in grades 4-12; the implementation of our pacing and curriculum guides for elementary and secondary schools, as well as, our textbook adoption program, but despite noteworthy improvements, aggressive efforts to address compliance and declining student enrollment, there is much work to be done", Dr. Taylor commented.



Dr. Taylor at the podium after being introduced by Dr. Dale A. Talbert. Deputy Superintendent of Schools: seated (right)

In true Head Teacher fashion, Dr. Taylor also spoke about the new Performance Targets used by the New Jersey Department of Education to annually assess student progress in school districts. He provided compelling data showing progress made in student test scores from school year (SY) 2009-10 to present, but reiterated "although modest gains have been made, more must be done as we strive to have 'Blue Ribbon' schools in our district." A copy of his 'State of the District Address' is available in the Announcement section of the district's website (www.willingboroschools.org).

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