



October 7, 2008

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that beginning with the 2009/2010 school years, The E.S. Weiant Preschool program will merge with the Newark City Schools preschool program and the Licking County Educational Services Center Flying Colors preschool program.

For the last several years the E.S. Weiant Center has proudly worked with Newark City and other Licking County school districts to provide early childhood services to children eligible for preschool special education and their typically developing peers. The schools, in partnership with the Licking County Board of MR/DD, have paid the costs for the program.

With the growth in the number of students served by Newark City Schools and the Licking County Educational Services Center through its Flying Colors program, the numbers of children requiring early childhood services at E. S. Weiant have declined significantly. Merging the programs will result in a continuation of the high quality services your children have enjoyed, and a more efficient expenditure of taxpayer dollars through elimination of duplicate programs.

While Newark City Schools and the Flying Colors Preschool concentrate on the educational and academic needs of your children, the Licking County Board of MR/DD will continue to support children eligible for MR/DD services through its service coordination (case management), family support services, and other programs.

We want you to have this information now so that you are prepared to plan accordingly for next school year. We hope that some of the E.S. Weiant staff will continue to serve your children as employees of Newark City Schools and the Flying Colors.

If you have questions about the 2009/2010 school year please feel free to call Mark Severance, Director of Early Childhood Programs for Newark City Schools at 670-7025, if your child is a Newark City Schools student. If your child attends one of the other Licking County schools you should contact your districts Special Education Coordinator or Davelyn Ross, Early Childhood Director for the Licking County Educational Services Center at 349-1629.

Sincerely,

Nancy Neely
Superintendent

Cc: Keith Richards and Mark Severance, Newark City Schools
Nelson McCray and Davelyn Ross, Licking County Educational Services Center

Molly Kurtz, Director of Education, ES Weiant Center
Special Education Coordinators, Licking County Schools
Chanda Busse and Laura Cohen, LCBMR/DD Service Coordination