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Assistant Superintendent

Dear Parents:

February 2007

Readington Township School District strives to provide students with the best possible learning environment. To that end, a committee of administrators, teachers, and parents will soon evaluate our current grouping practices in grades 4-8 and make recommendations to the Board of Education. Currently, our students are not grouped by ability level in any subject with the exception of Mathematics in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This means that students are randomly assigned to classes, regardless of their learning styles, ability levels, or performance. Although grouped by grade level, classes often consist of students who vary considerably in terms of their performance. Many educators and parents have expressed the desire to group students in such a way as to reduce this sometimes extreme variation in performance without compromising our commitment to providing rich and diverse experiences and perspectives within our classrooms. Reducing the span between students' performance levels may facilitate greater learning opportunities for individuals at all levels.

The concept of grouping is often associated with the term "tracking," a practice viewed negatively by the educational community. "Tracking" has been associated with the rigid placement of students in poorly-designed "tracks." Educators have criticized the concept of "tracking" as having low expectations and ultimately low performance for under-achieving students. Please be assured that we are not at all suggesting that we "track" students. Grouping students with similar peers at the grade 4-8 level, along with high expectations and opportunities for acceleration and/or support, offers a sound alternative to current grouping practices.

Your opinion is important to us as we move ahead. Please take a few minutes to read the following statements and circle whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:

1. Students perform better when they are grouped with students who perform at similar levels.

Strongly Agree                  Agree                  Disagree                  Strongly Disagree  
(Circle one)

(Answer #2 only if you circled "Disagree" or Strongly Disagree" for #1)

2. I would like students to be grouped with students similar in performance levels if movement between group is flexible, performance is closely monitored, teachers hold high expectations for all students, opportunities for acceleration exist, and schools solicit parent feedback.

Strongly Agree                  Agree                  Disagree                  Strongly Disagree  
(Circle one)

**We would like to receive a completed survey for each child in the family as follows:**

**For Grades K-5: Please return the completed survey to your child's teacher when you return his/her signed report card envelope. Child's grade level: \_\_\_\_\_**

**For Grades 6-8: Please have your child return the completed survey to his/her Social Studies teacher. Child's grade level: \_\_\_\_\_**