

Residents Interested in Summit Education (RISE)

Introduction and Invitation

RISE is a coalition of Summit residents with a common interest: making the Summit Schools the best in New Jersey and the Tri-State Area. Our numbers include parents of past, current and future students both in public and private schools, as well as residents without children. We seek to be informed about challenges confronting Summit education, and to amass and offer thoughtful solutions from our diverse membership for the benefit of our students and our community. We advocate policies that will produce academic advancement. We engage with the Board of Education (BOE), the Summit School District Central Office Administration (Administration), and elected officials to review existing plans, to create awareness of issues, and to strengthen Summit's solid foundation for educational excellence.

This mission assists the BOE in meeting its aim of "informing and engaging parents and the broader Summit community through enhanced communication and outreach," as articulated in the BOE Focus Area #3. We hope our participation demonstrates our appreciation for the BOE's outreach.

We believe our efforts, begun in Spring 2012, should center on these most pressing issues:

- Continued vigilance over the safety of Summit schoolchildren, which implies upgraded state-of-the-art safety equipment, procedures and protocols;
- Solutions to space constraints—current and projected—so that Summit students have physical and psychological room to learn, and need not attend class in spaces intended for other purposes;
- Improvements to and understanding of Summit's curriculum, especially with regard to requirements of the Common Core Standards, which New Jersey has recently adopted, so as to elevate all students to a level of high achievement, reduce dependence on extra-curricular tutoring, and burnish Summit's reputation for academic excellence;
- Enhancements to current guidance offerings available to students as they prepare to exit the Summit schools for four-year colleges, trade schools, and the workforce, such that the individualized guidance each student receives honors his or her achievements and abilities, and prepares each student in a personal way for the next chapter in life;
- Adoption of a Best Practice approach, so that all schools benefit uniformly from the great ideas of Summit's talented teachers, principals, administrators, and PTOs.

We invite any interested member of the Summit community to engage with RISE to champion the continued excellence of our Summit Schools. To get on the mailing list, please contact 2013 RISE Co-Presidents Mary Coughlin and Juliet Eck at RISE07901@gmail.com. Email and a Facebook page are our only means of communication within our group at present. Our mailing list is not shared publicly, but the expected diversity of ideas, suggestions and concerns brought to light by our members will be shared publicly. In doing so, we hope to advance the best thoughts of our community for the benefit of Summit education.

Like us on Facebook @ RISE07901.