



CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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DATE: November 7, 2015
TO: Central Elementary School Parents
SUBJECT: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress and School Choice Options

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires schools to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a school does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the school receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Schools or districts are cited if they a) don’t meet 95% participation rate for assessments, b) don’t meet student achievement goals, or c) don’t meet attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or graduation rate for high school.

I am writing to inform you that Central has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goals on their reading and math tests for two consecutive years. As a result, our district is required by law to offer your student the opportunity for school choice to another school within the district that has not been designated as a school in need of assistance, if possible, for the 2015-16 school year.

Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited school in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

WHY CENTRAL DIDN'T MAKE AYP:

Schools don't make AYP when they don't achieve one of the measures listed above: a) 95% participation rate for assessments, b) student achievement goals, or c) 95% attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or 90% graduation rate for high school. Central is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

- Proficiency percentage in the area of Math and Reading in designated sub-groups.

You'll note that some of the improvement areas relate specifically to instruction, such as reading or math, and some relate to test participation. That is because we are required to test 95% of our students. If we fall below that mark, we automatically are cited by the federal law, regardless of how well the students performed on the test.

Under the NCLB law, only schools receiving federal Title I funding must offer school choice options, if available.

HOW CENTRAL WILL IMPROVE:

Although we have many indicators that show Central is offering a top-quality education, we know that continuous improvement is important to ensure all of our students are reaching their highest potential. Using data about the students and their achievement, our staff already has begun to identify areas for improvement. For example:

- Just Right Reading Groups for all students.
- Individual and small group instruction for students in the area of math.
- Professional Development for teaching directly tied to improving math and reading instruction.

“Preparing Learners Today for Tomorrow”

Some student groups may require additional instructional interventions, pending a review of our current programs and services. In addition, the Iowa Department of Education and Nevada Schools district already have begun providing technical assistance to Central as required by the NCLB law.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

The support a child receives at home is in direct relation to the success a child experiences at school. There are several actions families can do to support learning. Please consider the following ideas that may work for you and your family.

- Make sure your child attends school regularly each day and is on time.
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher about goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Set up a daily time to talk about your child's school day, including math and the types of problems they solved today.
- Talk to your child about HOW they solved those problems and WHY they used that strategy. Sharing out is an excellent way for your child to retain the knowledge.
- Read to and with your children. Find time each day to read a story, magazine or something online with your child. Twenty minutes a day makes a life long influence in their reading skills.

HOW TO REQUEST A SCHOOL CHOICE:

Unfortunately, our school is not able to provide school choices because there are no schools available for students to attend.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Central. The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate that our students' achievement. You'll note from our school report card at <http://www.nevadacubs.org/district/47-annual-progress-reports> that each class at Central has a number of success stories.

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at Central. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and so will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to benefit student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance, and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Goecke
Central Principal

Joel T. Fey
Central Assistant Principal