

Instruction - Notice to Parents of Children Enrolled in a School that Missed AYP for Two or More Consecutive Years

On District letterhead

Date:

Dear Parents:

Our school and District are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high learning standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. State and federal law also address student assessment and accountability requirements. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLBA) requires all states to measure each public school's achievement and establish annual achievement targets. Schools must reach these performance targets, known as "adequate yearly progress" (AYP), in order to reach 100% proficiency by the school year 2013-14. A school is identified for school improvement or corrective action if it misses making AYP for two or more consecutive years. All students and subgroups of 40 or more within schools, School Districts, and the State are calculated for AYP.

This notice is provided to you in accordance with the NCLBA because the school your child attends has been identified for: (*District checks*)

- School improvement.** You may have the *school choice transfer option* described below.
- Year two of school improvement.** You may have the *school choice transfer option* or the *supplemental education services option* for low-income families, described below.
- Corrective action.** You may have the *school choice transfer option* or the *supplemental education services option* for low-income families, described below.

What was the reason for the identification?

Your child's school was identified for school improvement for the following reason(s):

Information on how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other District elementary or secondary schools is available from the school's annual school report card.

What is the school doing in order to improve?

We are using our school improvement plan, developed as required by Illinois law, to address our school improvement needs, including those identified under the NCLBA. The School Board, administration, and school staff are collaborating on proven methods to improve student performance, including evaluating and improving the curriculum and instruction, increasing staff effectiveness, enhancing the learning environment, and increasing parental participation.

How can parents/guardians become involved in addressing academic issues?

Building and maintaining a high quality school is a job for the entire community, and we need your help in reaching these goals. We encourage you to participate in programs and activities for parental involvement. The school has meetings throughout the school year for parents/guardians to discuss and learn ways to help their children achieve.

What is the school choice transfer option?

The NCLBA requires schools identified for school improvement or corrective action to offer parents/guardians the chance to transfer their children to another public school within the District that is making AYP. Your child's school will participate in this school choice program. If you exercise the option to transfer your child and your child is eligible, the School District has certain obligations to provide or pay for transportation to the new school. If demand exceeds a school's capacity, priority will be given to the lowest-achieving students from the lowest-income families.

The school choice transfer is an option for the parents/guardians – it is not mandatory. You may believe it is better for your child to continue to attend his or her current school. In addition, the District may not be able to transfer every child in the same family to the same school. However, if you would like your child to be considered for transfer, please mail the attached form no later than _____. If we do not receive the form postmarked by this date, your child will stay in his or her current school. You will be contacted to discuss the specifics of your request. If you wish for your child to remain at his/her current school, no action on your part is required.

What is the option for supplemental education services (SES)?

The NCLBA requires schools identified for year two of school improvement or corrective action to offer supplemental educational services to students from low-income families. Rather than requesting a school choice transfer, low-income families may request extra help for their child attending his or her current school.

The term "supplemental educational services," also referred to as SES, refers to extra instructional help provided to students in reading and math. This extra help or tutoring is provided when school is not in session. If more eligible students request supplemental education services than the District can provide through Title I funding, the District will give priority to serving the lowest-performing students.

If you would like supplemental educational services for your child, please mail the attached form no later than _____. Upon receiving the completed form, we will provide you with a description of State-approved supplemental service providers from which you may choose. Please call the Building Principal if you would like help selecting a provider or have other questions about supplemental educational services.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

Attachments:

- Eligibility criteria for the federal Free or Reduced Breakfast or Lunch program
- Application for School Choice Transfer Option (current school is in school improvement or corrective action)
- Application for Supplemental Education Services (only if current school is in year two of school improvement or corrective action)

Revised: 03/16/05