



West Burlington Independent School

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Theresa Ritters, Principal

DATE: 8/1/2015

TO: West Burlington Elementary Parents

SUBJECT: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress -
School Choice Options and Supplemental Educational Service 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 West Burlington Elementary 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 last year. As a result, our district is required by law to offer supplemental educational services, such as tutoring, to eligible students. A list of approved supplemental educational service providers is on the Iowa Department of Education website.

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 West Burlington did not make AYP:

Schools don't make AYP when they don't achieve one of the measures listed above. West Burlington is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

One or more subgroups did not make their growth target in math and/or reading.

How West Burlington Will Improve:

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 has already begun to identify areas for improvement. For example:

We have joined with UNI and the Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy Model to strengthen our instruction in the area of literacy.

We are working with the AEA Math consultant to increase the rigor of our math instruction and adopted a new math series, Everyday Math.

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 the West Burlington ISD already have begun providing technical assistance to West Burlington Elementary as required by the NCLB law.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP:

Parent support is essential to help your student reach his or her highest academic success, but parents may need ideas about the best way to be involved. A few suggestions include:

- Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every grade level. When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.
- Make sure that your child reads every night.
- Volunteer at the school. Every teacher needs volunteers to help in the classroom, or even with projects that can be done in your home. Other areas in the school, such as the office or cafeteria, also need volunteers.

HOW TO REQUEST SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

We will offer supplemental education services such as tutoring before or after school and summer school, for eligible students. Research from the federal government has shown that students who participated in supplemental educational services made significant gains in student achievement, and students who participated in multiple years did even better. If you have questions about whether your student is eligible, or about which service might best meet the needs of your child, contact Ms. Ritters at 319-754-5726. The district is not required to provide transportation to off-site supplemental educational service locations. Transportation to these sites will be the responsibility of the parent.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at West Burlington Elementary. The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. You'll note from our AYP report that West Burlington Elementary is scoring higher now than at any time in school history. We just missed the cut-off this year for student growth. We are also proud to report we are scoring at the top when compared to other schools in southeast Iowa.

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at West Burlington Elementary. 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.

Sincerely,

Theresa Ritters
Principal