



ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ELWOOD, NE 68937



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October 20th, 2015

Dear Parent/Patron

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that according to 2014-2015 state student assessment results Elwood Public School is in Year 2 of Title I School Improvement for the 2014-2015 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Schools are expected to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward that goal. The state goal for last year was to have 100% of all students in grades 3-8, & 11, be proficient on the reading and math standards. Elwood Public School has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three consecutive years. Elwood Public School scores on the NeSA Reading and Math Assessments improved over last year, However, for the third consecutive year the subgroup of Free and Reduced Lunches has been listed as not making adequate yearly progress in reading and math. Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report on the Nebraska Department of Education web site at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/documents/SOSR.html>.

Elwood Public School receives federal funds from the Title I program. These funds help students who are not achieving at grade level in math or reading in high-poverty schools. One requirement of a school identified is to establish an Accountability Compact Team to assist in planning and evaluating strategies for improvement in the elementary school. Members of the team include staff from our district, ESU staff, NDE staff, and a parent from our school district.

We are concerned about the academic progress of all of our students. The School Improvement Team, with district and state assistance, has identified reading and math as the areas of concern and has chosen scientifically researched programs. The team has selected to change the teaching model to effective educational strategies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Student test scores, state assessment scores, and teacher input were all considered in making this decision.

Because Elwood Public School has been identified as a school "in need of improvement" it must offer Public School Choice. However, because Elwood Public School is the only elementary school in our district there is no transfer option available to our students.

This identification also requires Elwood Public School to provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students (those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs). Enclosed is a list of SES providers that have been approved by the State Department of Education that could provide tutoring services for your child. Parents who choose to have their children participate in SES are asked to contact the Elwood Public School office at (308) 785-2491 by November 25th to enroll. Once notice has been received, we will make enrollment arrangements as quickly as possible and will notify parents upon approval. The SES program will begin on January 4th 2016. A second enrollment window will be offered later in the school year. Once notice has been received, we will make enrollment arrangements as quickly as possible and will notify parents upon approval.

We welcome your involvement at Elwood Public School. There are many ways to participate including offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, and attending parent conferences with your child's teacher(s). Other ways to support your child's success are to assure that your child is prepared, attends school each day, and has completed their homework.

The Title I targeted assistance parent involvement policy was reviewed this past fall and will again be reviewed this upcoming fall on a date to be announced later. You are welcome to be a part of that review process.

If you have questions about this information, please feel free to contact Mr. Hemmerling at the school.

Sincerely

Kyle Hemmerling
Principal
Elwood Public School

Enclosures
SES Provider Selection Form
SES Provider List