



ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

502 FIRST AVE
P O BOX 107
ELWOOD, NE 68937



Daren Hatch, SUPERINTENDENT
Telephone 308-785-2491

Kyle Hemmerling PRINCIPAL
Fax 308-785-2322

October 13th, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian/Patron,

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that all states create high academic standards for the core areas of reading, writing and math. The goal of NCLB is for every student to meet or exceed these standards by the school year 2014. The measure of annual progress toward these standards is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based primarily on the results of the Nebraska state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP.

In addition to measuring each school, NCLB also requires the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to annually review the progress of each school *district*. Based on Nebraska state testing results, the Elwood Public School District was identified by the NDE as a district in need of improvement for the 2015-16 school year. A district is identified for improvement if it meets this criterion:

Does not make AYP in all grade spans within the district-elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades6-8) and high school (grades 9-12)--for two consecutive years in either content area of math or reading, considering all eligible student subgroups.

To be removed from the district improvement status, the district must meet the grade span achievement standards for two consecutive years.

The Elwood Public Schools is dedicated to providing all students with a quality education that prepares them to be career and college ready. Evidence of our commitment to education is shown in the academic growth for both reading and mathematics as documented on the 2014-15 assessment results. Elwood Public Schools *Increased* the percent of students proficient in all seven grades in math and five out of seven grades in reading. If you would like to compare achievement scores in the district to others across the state, you may access the information on the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) *State of the Schools Report* at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov>.

As a Title 1 district identified in need of improvement, Elwood Public Schools is required to communicate the district improvement plan strategies specifically addressing the teaching and learning needs of low-achieving students. The goals and strategies identified in the plan intentionally focus on optimizing instruction for all learners using researched based practices with on-going professional learning for staff. When an LEA is identified for improvement, it must reserve not less than 10 percent of its Title I, Part A funds for high-quality professional development for instructional staff that is specifically designed to improve classroom

teaching. The LEA must continue to reserve and use these funds for this purpose during each fiscal year it is identified for improvement.

You are encouraged to contact the district office for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. Parents/guardians and students can monitor progress (grades K-12) by registering for and using Power School. Participating in parent/teacher conferences, and providing “at home” strategies to support reading and math learning are also key to supporting the home/school partnership.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Please call if you have additional questions about any details.

Sincerely

Daren Hatch
Superintendent
Elwood Public School