



Deshler Public Schools

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www.deshlerpublicschools.org

November 11, 2014

Dear Parent and Guardian,

You may have heard or read Deshler Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years under the federal legislation of *No Child Left Behind* in reading and math. This places Deshler Elementary, a Title I school wide program, under the category of "Needs Improvement for the academic years of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The measure of annual progress toward student learning is based on student results from the Nebraska state assessments (NeSA) administered to students in grades 3-8, and 11. NeSA is administered in late March or early April every year.

Schools are mandated to meet the Nebraska's academic and NCLB proficiency benchmarks in NeSA, as well as other indicators established by NCLB to make AYP. The NCLB goal is that all students (100%) will meet or exceed these standards by the school year 2013-14. However, Deshler Elementary did not have 100% attainment of that goal and is being categorized as a school building needing "improvement." This classification means Deshler Elementary has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by not reaching the established state target goals in reading and math for two consecutive years.

Determination of AYP is required by the US Department of Education for all school buildings and schools districts receiving federal funds. AYP refers to a minimum percentage of students who must meet or exceed academic proficiency standards established by the state. These standards must be met annually by all students and for each subgroup (gender, race/ethnicity, free/reduced meals, and special education) in reading and math.

Students in Deshler Elementary failed to make AYP in the years and categories noted:

- 2012-2013: Reading and Math (All Students); Reading and Math (All White Students);
- 2013-2014: Reading (All Students); Reading and Math (All White Students); Reading and Math (Free/reduced);

Although student results from the NeSA are used to determine AYP, Deshler Public utilizes other assessments to measure both student growth and achievement towards state standards.

Student results from other student assessments given in the spring of 2014, such as the NWEA and DIBELS, nearly 95% of Deshler Elementary students showed academic growth in reading, math, or both.

NCLB requires each school identified for Title I School Improvement to offer Public School Choice to all students who attend an identified school. Our students do not have another choice of schools within our District, and as a result our students do not qualify for Public School Choice.

Deshler Elementary receives federal funds to be used to defray educational expenses associated with the Title I program. These funds help students who are not achieving at proficiency levels in math or reading in high-poverty schools. One requirement of a school identified in school improvement is to establish a School Support 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 or parents from our school district.

Additional information about how Deshler Public Schools compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report on the Nebraska Department of Education web site, <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/>

All students benefit greatly from parents being involved in their child or children's education; we welcome your involvement at Deshler Elementary. 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. 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.

If you have questions about this information, please feel free to contact Dr. Al Meier at 402-365-7272. Thank you for your continued support of your child or children's education.

Sincerely,

Al Meier
Superintendent/Elementary Principal