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August 04, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of 2009 - 2010 academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Marion C. Early School District did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons:

- 1) The target percentages of students that must demonstrate proficiency on the MAP test are set each school year by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; this target is known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For the 2009-10 assessments, state targets were set at 67.4% of students scoring proficient or advanced in Communication Arts and 63.3% in Mathematics. These academic targets increase each year for students until 2014 when NCLB requires 100% of students to score proficient on the MAP in communication arts and mathematics. Because the targets increase each year, a school or district can be making progress that year and still be in school improvement.
- 2) All school districts are required to meet AYP as a whole (total student population) in addition to students in nine subgroup categories. The nine subgroups include: six race/ethnic groups (American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, White and Other/Non-response), students with disabilities, students with Limited English proficiency and students receiving free or reduced-price lunches. When a district doesn't reach the AYP target for one or more of the subgroups for two years, they are identified as "in need of improvement."

Because this is the second year of this designation, the school is considered to be in Level 2 of School Improvement. We will continue to implement the plan for improvement, which was developed last year. One important component of this plan is parent involvement in the implementation of the plan.

When a school does not meet AYP, school choice is offered. Since the Marion C. Early R5 School District only has one school with the K-5 grade level available, we are unable to offer public school choice.

When a school is identified as Level 2 of School Improvement and every subsequent year thereafter it is identified for improvement, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are available for eligible children. Information about SES and how to obtain services will be coming within the next two weeks to parents of eligible children. All students from low-income families, those that qualify for free or reduced school lunch, who attend a Title I school in its second year or above of school improvement are eligible for SES.


Information about public school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will also be available on the district's website at <http://www.mceonline.net>. This information will be updated periodically and toward the end of the school year.

We encourage you to become involved with your child's school to support school improvement.

You can help by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduating from school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies at home.

Information about *No Child Left Behind* and what parents can do to improve student achievement can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Tammy D. Condren  
Elementary Principal