

# Marion C. Early Schools R-V

"A Great Place to Learn"

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August 03, 2011

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 the 2010-2011 academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Marion C. Early Schools did make adequate yearly progress.** However, Marion C. Early Schools must make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years before exiting school improvement status.

The district remains in a delayed status during the 2011-12 school year. During the academic testing year 2009-10, the Marion C. Early Schools 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 third year of this designation, the district is considered to be in Level 3 of District Improvement, Corrective Action, Delayed. We will evaluate and update the plan for improvement that has been developed. One important component of this plan is parent involvement in the implementation of the plan. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will review the district's progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the plan and may impose additional sanctions.

You can also 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,

Eric J. Kurre  
Superintendent