



Dr. Chris Belcher
Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Jack Jensen
Assistant Superintendent
Elementary Education

August 7, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The goal of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 is to ensure that all children in this country receive a quality education. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess all schools to determine if each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards set by the state. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered “in need of improvement.”

Based on the results of this year’s academic testing in reading/language arts and math, your child’s school, Field Elementary, did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons.

1. Field Elementary School is accountable for 3 groups in communication arts, and all 3 of these groups met the 2009 AYP communication arts target of 59.2% proficient/advanced. The school is accountable for 3 groups in mathematics as well, but none of these groups met the target of 54.1% proficient/advanced. The No Child Left Behind Act requires that all students (total number of students across grades and groups) and that every group of students meet the target in order to make adequate yearly progress in a content area.
2. The percentage of all students (total number of students across grades and groups) in this building who scored proficient or advanced (plus those who were on track to be proficient) in communication arts in 2009 is 56.6%, compared to 62.7% across the entire district. As noted previously, the 2009 AYP target for communication arts is 59.2% proficient/advanced.

The percentage of all students (total number of students across grades and groups) in this building who scored proficient or advanced (plus those who were on track to be proficient) in mathematics in 2009 is 36.4%, compared to 56.1% across the entire district. As noted previously, the 2009 AYP target for mathematics is 54.1% proficient/advanced.

Therefore, your child is eligible for public school choice options under the NCLB Act. There are two options available for your child.

1. Remain at the current school.
2. Transfer to a school in your district that has made adequate academic progress.

If you would like to exercise your NCLB choice option, please complete the Transfer Request Form included with this letter, and return it to Columbia Public Schools by **August 28, 2009**. The district will provide transportation for your child under an NCLB transfer as long as there is funding available. If the demands for transfers exceed available funding, the priority to provide transportation will be for low-achieving, low-income students. However, all students who request a transfer will be granted one.

Please remember that if you do not complete and return the transfer application by **August 28, 2009**, your child will remain at his/her current school. An envelope has been included for your convenience. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call 573-214-3400 or feel free to visit us at 1818 West Worley, and we will work with you to make sure your child finds a school that fits his/her needs.

Additionally, eligible students at Field Elementary School may receive supplemental educational services. This means that eligible students at this school have an opportunity to participate in academic tutoring beyond the school day. A letter about enrolling for supplemental educational services will soon be sent to parents of eligible children.

Because of this designation, the school must develop a plan for improvement. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan. We encourage you to become involved with your child's school to support school improvement. As a parent or guardian, you can help the school address raising our students' performance on state tests by:

- Attending parent-school meetings on student achievement
- Supporting and reinforcing your child's good study habits
- Reviewing your child's homework and test results
- Setting goals with your child for continued academic improvement

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack C. Jensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jack C. Jensen
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education