



DATE: November 1, 2014

TO: Muscatine Community District Parents

SUBJECT: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires districts to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a district does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the district receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Districts in Need of Assistance (DINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Schools or districts are cited if they a) don’t meet 95% participation rate for assessments, b) don’t meet student achievement goals, or c) don’t meet attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or graduation rate for high school.

I am writing to inform you that Muscatine Community School District has been designated as a “District in Need of Assistance,” or DINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not make proficiency in Reading and Math for two consecutive years.

Please know that the DINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited district in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

WHY MUSCATINE DIDN’T MAKE AYP:

Districts don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above: a) 95% participation rate for assessments, b) student achievement goals, or c) 95% attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or 90% graduation rate for high school. Muscatine is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

- Grade level, subject area, proficiency percentage, and state target: reading and math
- Graduation rate

HOW MUSCATINE WILL IMPROVE:

Although we have many indicators that show Muscatine is offering a top-quality education, we know that continuous improvement is important to ensure all of our students are reaching their highest potential. Using data about the students and their achievement, our staff already has begun to identify areas for improvement. For example:

- The district needs to build and implement a guaranteed curriculum that is taught with fidelity by all teachers across content and grade levels.
- The district needs to implement sound and research-based instructional strategies that support ALL student learning.
- The district needs to identify those students who are below and above grade level and provide them with additional support during the school day.



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HOW PARENTS CAN HELP:

Parent support is essential to help your student reach his or her highest academic success, but parents may need ideas about the best way to be involved. A few suggestions include:

- Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every grade level. When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.
- Help your child with his or her homework. If you are unable to help, contact the school to request a tutor.
- Volunteer at the school. Every teacher needs volunteers to help in the classroom, or even with projects that can be done in your home. Other areas in the school, such as the office or cafeteria, also need volunteers.

Although we have a lot of work to do we are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at Muscatine. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and so will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to benefit student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance, and welcome your suggestions.

The Muscatine 2013-14 Report card can be found on our website at:

<http://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/district/about/district-report-cards/>

Sincerely,
Superintendent Jerry Riibe