



**DATE:** September 15, 2015

**TO:** Muscatine Community District Parents

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress – District in Need of Assistance.

I am writing to inform you that Muscatine Community School District is one of 338 Iowa districts designated as a “District in Need of Assistance,” or DINA, under federal guidelines. We are DINA because a portion of our students did not meet the federal goal of 100% proficiency in Reading and Math for more than 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.

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

**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:

- 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.
- Communicate regularly with your child’s teachers about overall goals for the year and your child’s progress toward those goals.
- 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.

The Muscatine 2014-15 Report card can be found on our website at:  
<http://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/district/about/district-report-cards/>

Sincerely,  
Superintendent Jerry Riibe