

Keokuk Community School District

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DATE: 10/09/2015
TO: Keokuk Community School 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 **Keokuk 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 REACH PROFICIENCY GOALS ON THEIR READING AND MATHMATICS TESTS 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 Keokuk Community School District 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. **Keokuk Community School District** is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

- Grade level, subject area, proficiency percentage, and state target
- 4th grade, math, 60% (64% was the state AYP goal)
- 11th grade, math, 90% participation (95% required)
- One or more subgroups did not meet their target

You'll note that some of the improvement areas relate specifically to instruction, such as reading or math, and some relate to test participation. That is because we are required to test 95% of our students. If we fall below that mark, we automatically are cited by the federal law, regardless of how well the students performed on the test.

HOW Keokuk Community School District WILL IMPROVE:

Although we have many indicators that show **Keokuk Community School District** 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:

- New Reading and Math Curriculum
 - Reading: K-5
 - Math K-5 (Beginning 2014-2015)
 - 9-12 (Beginning 2014-2015)
- FAST/Iowa TIER (Beginning 2014-2015)
- LexiaCore5 (Beginning 2015-2016)
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) via Great Prairie Area Education Agency
- Professional Learning Communities
- Common Formative Assessment (K-5)

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.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Keokuk Community School District. The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. You'll note from our district report card at www.keokukschools.org that each school at **Keokuk Community School District** has a number of success stories.

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at **Keokuk Community School District**. 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.

Sincerely,

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