

Dear Parents & Patrons,

The federal education legislation, No Child Left Behind, mandates that all students must be proficient on reading and math academic standards by 2014. Schools are expected to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward that goal. The state goal for last year was to have 81% of all students in grades 3-6, 81% of all students in grades 7 and 8, and 83% of 11th graders proficient on the reading standards. The state math goals were: 83% for grades 3-6, 79% for grades 7-8, and 81% for grade 11. Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report which is available for public viewing on the Nebraska Department of Education website.

If a school does not meet the state goal two years in a row, in the same grade level and same subject, they are identified as "In Need of Improvement." A school can get out of School Improvement Status after all subgroups meet the AYP goals for two consecutive years.

Pierce Public Schools is in year 1 of Title I School Improvement Status. The following table illustrates our students' overall performance over the past two years.

	Reading		Math	
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2007-2008	2008-2009
Grades 3-6	All subgroups met goal	All subgroups met goal	One subgroup did not meet goal	One subgroup did not meet goal
Grades 7-8	All subgroups met goal	All subgroups met goal	All subgroups met goal	All subgroups met goal
Grade 11	All subgroups met goal	All subgroups met goal	Most subgroups did not meet goal	Most subgroups did not meet goal

One sub-group in grades 3-6 did not meet the 2007-8 and 2008-9 goal in math. Most subgroups in grade 11 did not meet the math goals for both years. Some examples of subgroups include: male, female, special education, free/reduced lunch, & race/ethnicity. Pierce Public Schools will remain in School Improvement Status until all subgroups are able to meet both the math and reading goals two years in a row.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires each school identified for Title I School Improvement to offer Public School Choice to all students who attend the identified school. Our students do not have another choice of schools within our district and as a result our students do not qualify for Public School Choice.

Because of the status, the school must develop and implement a two-year plan to help the subgroups to meet the goal. During the current year, a committee of the principals, teachers, and parents has developed and submitted a plan to the State Department of Education. The plan includes strategies that incorporate instructional strategies based on scientifically based research as well as to promote parent involvement. It is the hope of the district that these changes, with others will help us to meet the goal.

Please contact either building principal or me if you have any questions about the AYP status or the plan to improve the academic achievement of all subgroups at Pierce Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Sharen Luhr
Elementary Principal

Mark Brahmer
Jr./Sr. High Principal

Dan Navrkal
Superintendent