

November 5, 2010

Dear Parents,

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 56% of all students in grades 3-6 proficient on the reading standards. Reading goals are now NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) related; hence, there is a lower requirement than in the past. The state math goal was 83% for grades 3-6. Math was still based on our local outcome scores for the 2009-10 reporting period. It will be NeSA related for the 2010-11 school year. Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report that can be accessed at [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov).

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 Elementary School is in year 2 of Title I School Improvement Status. The following table illustrates our overall performance over the past three years in grades 3-6.

Reading			Math		
2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
All subgroups met goal.	All subgroups met goal.	All subgroups met goal.	One subgroup did not meet goal.	One subgroup did not meet goal.	All subgroups met goal.

One sub-group in grades 3-6 did not meet the 2007-08 and 2008-09 goal in math. 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 this status, the school was required to develop and implement a two-year plan to help the subgroups to meet the goal. During our first year, a committee of the superintendent, principal, teachers, and parents developed and submitted a plan to the State Department of Education. The plan included staff development activities and obtaining resources to help teachers incorporate instructional strategies based on scientifically based research as well as promoting parent involvement. A Title I math teacher and aide have been hired to provide additional help to our students. It is the hope of the district that these changes, along with others, will help us to meet the goal. As parents, you are encouraged to take an active role in your child's education. Helping with homework, listening to your child read and looking at the contents of your child's book bag each day are supportive actions that you can take. Maintaining good communication with your child's teacher is another effective way of helping him/her achieve success at school.

Please contact either the elementary 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,

Dan Navrkal  
Superintendent

Sharen Luhr  
Elementary Principal