

August 2, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The federal education legislation, No Child Left Behind, requires 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 7-8 and 83% of 11th graders proficient, or higher, 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 compares to other schools in the state will be available on the State of the Schools Report. It will be available for public viewing on October 1, 2010.

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." In the case of Minatare Elementary School, due to our small size, grades 4, 5, and 6 scores are used. A school can get out of school improvement status after all subgroups meet the AYP goals for two consecutive years.

Minatare Elementary did not meet AYP for the past three years and is in year 2 of Title I School Improvement Status. The past year our overall reading score was 55%. Subgroup (free and reduced meal students, minority students, and special needs students) scores were also below the needed level. Areas of needed improvement are being identified and methods to address these needs will be developed. Minatare Elementary will remain in School Improvement Status until all subgroups are able to meet the reading goal 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.

Minatare Elementary will develop and implement a three-year plan to help meet the goal. A committee of the principal, teachers and parents will develop and submit a plan to the State Department of Education. The plan will include strategies to promote parent involvement as well as incorporated instructional strategies based on scientifically based research. The District will implement several changes intended to help raise student achievement. It is the hope of the district that changes recommended by this group will help us meet the goal this year.

You may contact me if you are interested in more information on the improvement plan or wish to become a member of the committee.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Cody

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