



WALLACE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65-R

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Wallace NE 69169

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November 5, 2015

Thomas H. Sandberg-Superintendent
Shari Goodenberger-HS Principal

Stephanie McConnell-Guidance Counselor
Kory Rohde-Activities Director

Dear Parents,

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that all states create high academic standards for the core areas of reading, writing and math. The goal of NCLB is for every student to meet or exceed these standards by the school year 2014. The measure of annual progress toward these standards is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based primarily on the results of the Nebraska state assessments (NeSA) given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation rate and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP.

NCLB also requires the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to annually review the progress of each school district. Based on (NeSA) Nebraska state assessment results, Wallace Public Schools was identified by NDE as a district in need of improvement for the 2015-16 schoolyear. A district is identified for improvement if it meets this criterion:

Does not make AYP in all grade spans within the district: elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) for two consecutive years in either content area of math or reading, considering all eligible student subgroups.

To be removed from district improvement status, the district must meet the grade span achievement standards for two consecutive years.

If you would like to compare achievement scores in the district to others across the state, you may access the information on the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) *State of the Schools Report* at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov>.

As a Title I District identified in Need of Improvement, Wallace Public Schools is required to communicate the district improvement plan strategies specifically addressing the teaching and learning needs of low-achieving students. The goals and strategies identified in the plan intentionally focus on optimizing instruction for all learners using research-based practices with on-going professional development for staff.

Wallace Elementary School is also identified as a school in Need of Improvement. According to 2014-2015 state student assessment (NeSA) results Wallace Elementary is in Year 1 of Title I School in Need of Improvement for the 2015-2016 schoolyear under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Wallace Elementary is required to meet reading and math goals of 100% proficient in multiple subgroups in order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If one of these subgroup goals is not met, the school is labeled as not meeting AYP. In 2014-2015, Wallace Elementary did not meet AYP in one subgroup in Reading and two subgroups in Math.

The identification of being in Year 1 of Title I in Need of Improvement for the elementary school requires Wallace Public School to offer Public School Choice. 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.

You are encouraged to contact the district office at 308-387-4323 for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. Participating in parent/teacher conferences, attending parent/family nights and providing "at home" strategies to support reading and math learning are also key to supporting the home/school partnership.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year. Please call if you have additional questions about any details.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Sandberg, Superintendent