

Norfolk Public Schools

Administration Office / 512 Philip Avenue / PO Box 139 / Norfolk, NE 68702-0139 / 402-644-2500



November 2, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian/Patron:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that all states create high academic standards for the core areas of reading, writing, and math. The goal of NCLB is for 100% of all students to meet or exceed these standards—regardless of disabilities, English language proficiency, or any other life-impacting circumstances. The measure of annual progress toward these standards is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based on the results of the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP. Reauthorization of this law was scheduled in 2007. We have yet to see something new, but legislators are working toward it.

Based upon the Nebraska 2014-15 state testing results, Improvement Shown is the status for Norfolk Public School District, thus, it remains as a district in need of improvement-year 1* for the 2015-16 school year. Required scores have not been met for two years in a row in various grade levels in reading and math. The strict standard set forth by the federal NCLB law, states that one child in one grade affects an entire district's classification as not meeting standards because they simply did not pass the state test. While NPS does have more than just one student not meeting proficiency, in the last five years of state accountability, NPS scores have improved exponentially. District wide NPS Reading and Math scores have grown eleven percentage points. Science has improved six percentage points and writing eleven percentage points. In order to be removed from the district improvement status, the District must meet AYP goals for two consecutive years that caused the Need Improvement designation to no longer be considered as being in Need of Improvement under NCLB. For this to happen, all students (100%) in the NPS district would have to pass the state test for two years in a row.

As a Title 1 district, Norfolk Public Schools is required to address the teaching and learning needs of low-achieving students. The goals and strategies identified in the plan focus on instruction for all learners, using research-based practices with professional development for staff members. NPS will allocate 10% of Title I grant money to professional development for our teachers and the remaining 90% is utilized to provide high quality instruction and research-based interventions for students struggling in the areas of reading and math.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit our District website, contact the District Office, or school building for additional information on how you can become involved in school improvement efforts. In addition, our Infinite Campus student information system is an excellent avenue for following up on your child's learning and achievement. Norfolk Public Schools is committed to your child's success and our mission of preparing all students to pursue their goals for the future.

Thank you for your support,

Dr. Jami Jo Thompson