

August 19, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of this year's academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Kearney R-I School District did make adequate yearly progress. However, based on last year's academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Kearney R-I School District did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons:

1. Communication Arts MAP scores for specific subgroups were below the state achievement target in 2008.
2. State achievement target in 2008 was 51. In 2009, the state achievement target was 59.2.

Because of this designation, the district must develop a plan for improvement. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan.

You can also help by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduating from school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies at home.

Information about *No Child Left Behind* and what parents can do to improve student achievement can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

Sincerely,

Jacque Banks

Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs

Kearney R-I School District