

O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amy Shane, Superintendent

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Dear Parents,

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in reading/language arts and mathematics. Each school and district must improve each year until all students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Our United State Department of Education established a minimum percentage of students who must meet or exceed academic proficiency standards on required statewide tests. The elementary grades' goal for the 2014-15 school year was 100% for reading and 100% for math. The goal is that all students will meet or exceed these academic proficiency requirements by the 2013-2014 school year.

Information about how our school compared to schools in our District and other schools in the State is available on the State of the Schools Report on the Nebraska Department of Education website at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/>

NCLB also requires that our state department of education annually review the performance of each district that receives funds under Title I of the NCLB Act. If a school or district's academic performance in any group or sub-group is lower than the state's required level, the school or district will be identified as not making AYP. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) website <http://www.education.ne.gov/> has student achievement data for reading and math. If any sub-group does not make AYP in the same subject for two consecutive years, they are designated as Needs Improvement.

During the 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 school years, O'Neill Elementary School was identified as not making AYP in two sub-groups in the area of:

- Reading

During the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 school years, O'Neill Elementary School was identified as not making AYP in two sub-groups in the area of:

- Math

For the 2015-16 school year, O'Neill Elementary has been classified as being in need of improvement year 5. This places the building in restructuring status.

- Inform parents of what the school is doing to address the identified need - During the 2014-2015 school year the school developed a re-structuring plan designed to improve student



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performance in the areas of reading and math. Parents and staff were encouraged to participate in the process of developing this plan. Members of the re-structuring team attended the National Title I conference in February of 2015 to gather research on best practices. The re-structuring plan was approved by the O'Neill School Board at their March 9, 2015 meeting. A copy of the re-structuring plan that will be implemented during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years is included in this mailing. It can also be found on our website at www.oneillpublicschools.org. In addition to the items mentioned in the enclosed plan, O'Neill Elementary uses a scientifically-based reading curriculum and other interventions for students in need of additional strategies in order to master content. We are also contracting with Exemplar Inc. for on-site reading coaching and Mrs. Brodersen works as a district reading and math coach. Mr. Woodle and a team of four elementary teachers attended the Marzano Academy during the summer and fall of 2015 and will attend two additional days in the winter of 2016. Additional staff will attend this Academy during the 2016-17 school years. Marzano's Instructional strategies are research based and shown to improve student performance. The school also continues to offer summer school to all students in grades K-6, Migrant summer school to those students that qualify and provides the Developing Eagles after-school and summer programs to their students.

- Submit a restructuring plan developed in cooperation with parents and staff, to the Nebraska Department of Education. We will continue to monitor the re-structuring plan as it is implemented. Anyone interested in joining the School Support Compact Team should contact Amy Shane at (402)336-3775 by November 30, 2015.
- Reserve at least ten percent of their annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators - The school will reserve 10% of its Title I allocation to provide staff development to teachers in the area of reading, math and instructional strategies. The school will also contract with Exemplar Inc. to provide professional development in the area of reading.
- Inform parents of what they can do to become involved in their child's education - See ways to become involved listed below;
- Provide technical assistance to schools identified as Title I schools in School Improvement - Technical assistance is being provided by Exemplar Inc., the Marzano Academy and ESU #8 personnel; and
- Notify parents and patrons about a component called school choice - School choice refers to other public schools in the district. Parents/guardians would have the option of transferring their student to that other public school. Since there is no other public elementary school in O'Neill, this option is not available.
- This identification also requires O'Neill Elementary to provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students (those students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program). A list of SES providers that have been approved by the State Department of Education that could provide tutoring services for your child is available on our website at www.oneillpublicschools.org and a paper copy is available in the superintendent's office at 410 E. Benton St. Parents who choose to have their children participate in SES are asked to contact O'Neill Public Schools at (402) 336-3775 by December 1st to enroll. A second enrollment window will be offered later in the school year. Once notice has been received, we will make enrollment arrangements as quickly as possible and will notify parents upon approval.

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and district to support improvements:

1. Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available



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from the Nebraska State Department of Education (<http://www.education.ne.gov/>) and the US Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/>) websites.

2. Talk with school staff about our school's plan to help students meet state standards in reading and mathematics.
3. Support and reinforce your child's good study habits and review their homework and test results.
4. Visit your child's school and volunteer.

Our entire staff is working diligently to ensure that every child meets high academic standards in a safe and caring learning environment. We encourage you to contact our school or district office for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in the district's improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Daniel Woodle
Elementary Principal

Amy Shane
Superintendent



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