



Liberty 53 School District
650 Conistor
Liberty, Missouri 64068
(816) 736-5300
Fax (816) 736-5306

Office of the Superintendent

August 17, 2011

Dear Liberty Parent/Guardian,

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act 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 a district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered "in need of improvement."

In 2011, the Liberty 53 School District's overall student population continued to excel toward No Child Left Behind AYP proficiency targets in both communication arts and mathematics. NCLB guidelines for 2011 required 75.5% of all students tested to be proficient in communication arts and 72.5% of all students proficient in mathematics. NCLB requires that student proficiency be reported in sub-groups areas. Student proficiency as reported by NCLB sub-groups areas are: School Total, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black (Not Hispanic), Hispanic, American Indian, White (Not Hispanic), Other/Non-Response, IEP, LEP and Free/Reduced Lunch.

Liberty 53 School District did not meet requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress in the following sub-group areas:
(Please note: local school districts are required by the U.S. Department of Education to use the sub-group descriptor language listed below.)

- Three sub-group populations did not meet the NCLB standard of 72.5% proficiency in mathematics.
 - Sub-group populations of Black (Not Hispanic), Hispanic, and Free/Reduced Lunch did not meet NCLB targets.
- Seven sub-group populations did not meet the NCLB standard of 75.5% proficiency in communication arts.
 - Sub-group populations of School Total, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black (Not Hispanic), American Indian, White, Free/Reduced Lunch, LEP students did not meet NCLB targets.

The district has discovered inaccuracies in demographic sub-group areas of NCLB reporting from the state that may impact final sanctions and AYP status for the district. However, the district is required to send this letter with the scores that have been processed by the state at this time. While the Liberty 53 School District continues to experience annual improvement in academic achievement and is consistent as a high performing school district, the challenge to meet the proficiency targets of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act still exists. Although the district subgroups gained or made improvements, the proficiency levels for the state tests increase each year based on No Child Left Behind. Therefore, the Liberty 53 School District was designated as "District Improvement Level 3, Corrective Action, Continuing" based on the NCLB / AYP targets.

A district's inability to meet NCLB proficiency targets in just one sub-group in either communication arts or math results in a designation of failure for the district as a whole in its effort to meet federal AYP targets. **Although the goals of No Child Left Behind, including accountability for student achievement, are worthwhile, the law fails to recognize a district's overall progress toward meeting the objective of success for each child.**

The district must develop a plan for improvement due to the "District Improvement Level 3" designation. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan. You can help by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduation from high school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies with your child at home. Information about No Child Left Behind and what parents can do to improve student achievement is available at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

Thank you for your continued support of Liberty 53 School District and your interest in your child's education. We are looking forward to a successful school year and will continue our efforts to meet the needs of each student.

Sincerely,

Mike Brewer
Superintendent
Liberty Public Schools