

# **AYP Letter for the Glen Ullin Public School Districts**

## **Our school is still Identified for Program Improvement**

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October 7, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our school is committed to maintaining a high quality education for our students, and we are working hard to provide continuous support to our teachers and our students as they work toward achieving the high academic standards we have set for them. The purpose of this correspondence is to share information regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

### ***What is Adequate Yearly Progress?***

Each year, as part of the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* Act, the state releases reports for each school building in the state of North Dakota. Historically, these reports have measured our students' performance in terms of the percentage of students who are at or above state-defined academic standards in reading and mathematics as measured by the North Dakota State Assessment. The reports are called Adequate Yearly Progress reports (otherwise known as AYP reports), and the school is required to share these reports with its parents/guardians.

### ***AYP Freeze Waiver***

In February 2015, the U.S Department of Education (USDE) provided to states the opportunity to apply for a waiver to freeze various elements of AYP. This is known as the AYP Freeze Waiver. This waiver allowed states to remove student achievement rates from the 2014-2015 AYP determinations, while retaining participation rates, graduation rates, and attendance rates. Only participation, graduation, and attendance will be reported for schools and districts in the state. The USDE provided this one-year freeze to allow states to better transition into new assessment systems. On May 20, 2015, the USDE awarded North Dakota this AYP Freeze Waiver.

### ***AYP Report (Based on the 2014-2015 State Assessment)***

Under the AYP Freeze Waiver, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) generated an AYP report for each district and school; however, the NDDPI did not report achievement data on the AYP report. Rather, the AYP report indicates if the district or school met AYP based on the following three indicators: 1) participation rates, 2) graduation rates, and 3) attendance rates.

The 2014-2015 AYP reports have an appearance similar to previous years' reports; however, the designated student achievement rates are blank, representing non-reportable achievement data.

### ***Did our School Make AYP?***

If you review the enclosed AYP report, you will notice that our school did make AYP based on the three indicators.

The NDDPI will report full student achievement rates in the 2014-2015 School Profile reports, which will be issued later in the fall 2015. The NDDPI will provide future notices regarding the release of these School Profile reports. North Dakota will revert back to a full AYP report, which will include student achievement rates, for the 2015-2016 AYP reports.

### ***Identification for Program Improvement***

All districts and schools previously identified for improvement must continue to implement interventions consistent with Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). However, as long as it meets AYP on participation, graduation, and attendance rates, it will not move to the next category in the program improvement timeline. Therefore, our elementary and district remain in program improvement status

for the 2015-2016 school year, but no new sanctions apply. The remainder of this letter outlines the interventions that will be implemented.

### ***What Does this Mean for Our School?***

Once a school has been identified as not making AYP for two or more consecutive years, the school enters what is called program improvement status. The information below outlines the sanctions our school must follow during this stage of its program improvement:

- Program Improvement Plan (required for all districts and schools) – Currently, a team of school personnel has developed a plan to raise mathematics and reading scores within our school. Glen Ullin Elementary and Public School District will be hosting a parent meeting on November 4 at 6:00pm in the library to review and revise our program improvement plan, further analyze student achievement data and other district data, and finalize our targets for instructional improvements and increased student learning. Please plan on attending this meeting so you can offer input on our decisions and learn how you, as a parent, can participate in our district efforts to leave no child behind.
  
- Professional Development Requirement– Our school is required to use 10% of the district's Title I allocation on professional development that is specifically designed to improve classroom teaching. Our school plans to continue implementation of the following high-quality, ongoing professional development within the school:
  - Grade level meetings with teachers in other districts
  - Training on Common Core Standards and implementation of standards
  - Standards based assessment
  - Reading and Math conferences
  - Learning and the Brain
  - Supporting student learning through technology

The state also offers our school professional development through program improvement initiatives, a monthly newsletter, as well as ongoing technical assistance and support.

- Additional Resources– Our school believes with the dedication of staff, the support of families, the cooperation of the community, and adequate resources, all children can succeed. Our school remains committed to *No Child Left Behind's* goal of closing gaps in the achievement among our students. For this reason, our school has undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure that all children attain proficiency, including:
  - 90 minutes reading blocks
  - I-station
  - RTI (Response to intervention)
  - Sustained reading time
  - Math and Reading Tutoring
  - Math and Reading Help Desk
  - Differentiated Instruction in reading, math, and all subject areas
  - Guided Reading
  - Accelerated Reading

- School Choice (required for all schools) – During our school’s duration in program improvement, we must offer parents school choice, which means that parents may transfer their students to other schools in the district that have met AYP status. However, since our school district has only one school to choose from (i.e., we are not a large district with more than one elementary school), the school choice provision is not available to parents.
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES) (if applicable for schools) – During our school’s duration in program improvement, we must provide the lowest-achieving, free and reduced lunch students with the opportunity to receive additional instruction in reading or mathematics beyond the regular school day. These instructional services are called supplemental educational services. In the upcoming weeks, you will receive a letter from the school explaining what SES is and how, if your child is identified as eligible, your child can participate.
- Corrective Action (if applicable corrective action phase. During the corrective action phase, the school must choose to undertake one of five corrective actions, including:
  - Implement a new curriculum
  - Extend school day or school year
  - Operate under new management
  - Replace key staff
  - Restructure the school

We selected to restructure the school at the elementary level, by assigning a Lead teacher who will supervise day-to-day operations, provide coaching to classroom teachers on curriculum and standards, and provide advice on concerns with students.

### ***Getting Involved***

As you can see in the activities identified above, we have strong plans for working to improve the educational programs at our school. We would like you and your child(ren) to continue to be active participants in our educational system. Please help support our high expectations for student achievement by participating in the school’s program improvement plan and offering input and support in our endeavors to raise student achievement. If you would like to be involved by volunteering at the school or participating on one of our school improvement committees, please contact the school at 701-348-3590.

Sincerely,

John D. Barry  
Superintendent