

Parents Notification Regarding the No Child Left Behind Report Card 2010-11
Parent Notification Letter

March 30, 2012

Dear Parent:

At Wickliffe Elementary we are committed to setting high goals so that every student can succeed. Recently, you may have heard reports about how our school is doing meeting state and federal requirements. These standards are complicated so we want to make sure that all parents understand how they work. This letter will tell you:

- Oklahoma uses the Academic Performance Index (API) for school and district accountability: pieces of the API are used to measure Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is a federal requirement mandated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- How our school is doing in meeting those requirements.
- The challenges of AYP and what steps we are taking to help all our students achieve.

1. State and Federal Requirements

As you may know, all schools must now meet rigorous state and federal accountability requirements: **State:** Our State's requirements are called Academic Performance Index (API). The seven indicators are divided into 3 components as follows:

- Oklahoma School Testing Program: Reading/Language Arts and Math results from all state mandated tests
- School completion: Includes attendance, dropout and graduation rates.
- Academic Excellence: ACT scores and percent of students participating, Advanced Placement (AP) credit and college remediation rates in Reading and Math.

Federal: The federal requirement called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), under NCLB, focus on four indicators of educational success, including:

- Math achievement
- Reading/Language Arts achievement
- Student participation in testing
- Student attendance rates or graduation rates as applicable.

For each indicator, a specific statewide performance target was established. According to NCLB regulations, AYP is an all or nothing determination; in other words, school and districts must meet all targets for all measurable student groups in order to meet AYP.

Regarding testing, eleven specific student groups are required to meet the statewide performance targets:

- All Students
- Regular Students
- Major Racial/Ethnic Groups:
 - African American
 - American Indian
 - Hispanic
 - Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Caucasian
 - Other
- Economically Disadvantaged Students
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP)

2. How Our School Did This Year

The data reflects that we are currently experiencing weaknesses in both math and

reading. The sub groups that could be calculated (must have enough students enrolled for calculations) also demonstrate that we are not successfully reaching these students. We did make Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2010-11 school year. From grades 3 thru 8 we did demonstrate areas of growth regarding the number of students who scored satisfactory and above in the areas tested. While we are pleased with this we do recognize that we still have areas of weakness and are continually addressing weaknesses and assessing the effectiveness of our programs.

1. What Are The Challenges of AYP

AYP gives all or nothing results. Under NCLB, a school either makes AYP or it does not. There is nothing in between. It is as if the only two grades are pass or fail. A school can be very close to meeting the goals or not meet them at all. Schools or districts may have a very high overall API score, but still need to make improvements in specific student groups (race, IEP, ELL or economically disadvantaged students.)

2. How Are We Helping Our Students Achieve

We are currently working even harder than ever to help all our students achieve. Following are some of the initiatives we have implemented this year:

- Professional Development for all staff revolving around classroom instruction practices that work, understanding data and how to use it to guide teaching/ learning, implementation of CCSS, etc.
- New Curriculum and Curriculum Resources
 - Buckle Down for Math and Reading
 - New 3rd grade texts for science/social studies that can be used to build reading skills
- Expanding technology in the classrooms and labs
- Implementing tutoring programs (Reading Sufficiency Tutoring for grades 3-8)
- Building a resource center to give students more 1 on 1 instruction in math and reading
- Utilizing Data to drive instruction and make decisions for students educational needs...utilization of ALCA web by teachers to track student test scores for a period of 3 to 5 years

Copies of our No Child Left Behind Report Card 2010-11 can be accessed:

1. www.wickliffeschool.com
2. www.ok.gov/sde
3. By request we can provide you with a hard copy.

Please call me if you have more questions about how we can help your child achieve.

Sincerely,
Donald Pullen
Superintendent, Wickliffe Elementary School