

November 2012

Dear Wickliffe Parents and Community Members,

Our school recently received its new letter grade from the State Department of Education as part of a statewide reform initiating an A-F School Grading System.

This grade reflects several different factors, such as test results of all students, growth factors that compare test results from multiple years as well as growth in the 25 percent lowest performing students, and whole school performance factors such as attendance, graduation and dropout rates.

As parents or community members, you help to play a role in the grade our school receives. We are able to receive bonus points based on the number of school climate surveys we receive each year. You can assist by supporting and reinforcing the hard work needed by your student to learn the information taught in school. One way to do so is by volunteering in the school because we also receive bonus points based on the involvement of parents and community members in our school. As we look ahead to improving our letter grade in the future, we'll be working with you on ways to increase these bonus points.

Our letter grade is important for several reasons. Though it should be seen in light of a complete context and is one measure of our performance, it shows areas where we are doing well and it highlights areas where we need to improve.

Perhaps more importantly, this new report card provides more straightforward information than performance ranking systems used in the past that were confusing and cumbersome for the average parent or community member to understand. The information provided in the report card is clear cut and is available to you online as well.

We hope you will view this grade as a way to become more involved in Wickliffe. As part of this new reform, State Superintendent Janet Barresi has launched Raise the Grade Together — an effort to help every school in the state improve and succeed.

Help us raise the grade together by taking the mission of educating children as a community approach. Where you see weak areas in student achievement or attendance, help us to shore up those areas by offering mentoring assistance. As always, we need volunteers to help in a classroom or in the media center at our school. Attend school functions. Communicate with us about your child's needs.

Together we can strive for excellence in all areas of education. Together we can raise this grade.

Sincerely,



Donald Pullen
Superintendent Wickliffe School

Parents Notification Regarding the No Child Left Behind Report Card 2011-12
Parent Notification Letter

November 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 A-F Report Card for school and district accountability.
- How our school is doing in meeting those requirements.
- The challenges identified for us and what steps we are taking to help all our students achieve.

1. State Requirements

As you may know, all schools must now meet rigorous state and federal accountability requirements: With this new **State A-F Report Card there is a Federal Waiver**: The indicators for the State A-F Report Card are divided into 4 components as follows:

- 2012 Student Achievement: Reading/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Math results from all state mandated tests
- Overall Student Growth: Includes number of students who showed growth from previous years tests in Reading and Math.
- Bottom Quartile Student Growth: Includes students who have been identified in the bottom 25% tested and if they showed growth from one year to the next
- Whole School Performance: Includes student attendance rate, dropout rate, advanced coursework, with bonus in school climate and parent/community engagement.

2. How Our School Did This Year

The data reflects that we are currently experiencing weaknesses in both math and reading. The letter grades demonstrate that we are not successfully reaching these students. We did receive a letter grade of C (Average) and did not receive a designation for the 2011-12 school year. From grades 3 thru 8 we did not demonstrate enough growth with regard to overall student growth rate. We do recognize that we have areas of weakness and are continually addressing weaknesses and assessing the effectiveness of our programs.

3. What Are The Challenges of A-F

A-F looks at Wickliffe as a middle school even though we are classified by state terms as an elementary. This means we are held to a different standard because we serve students through 8th grade. The advanced coursework category will always be a struggle for Wickliffe as we do not have a large enough student population to be able to offer this and it will always hurt our letter grade.

4. 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.

-Benchmarking

Buckle Down for Math and Reading

DIBELS

-Expanding technology in the classrooms and labs

-Implementing tutoring programs (Reading Sufficiency Tutoring for grades K-4)

-Utilizing our 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 A-F Report Card 2011-12 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