

Cut Bank School District 15
District Not Making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
Letter to Parents
School Year 20 14 - 20 15

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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 state department of education established a minimum percentage of students who must meet or exceed academic proficiency standards on required statewide tests. The goal is that all students will meet or exceed these academic proficiency requirements by the 2013-2014 school year.

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 district's academic performance is lower than the state's required level, the district will be identified as not making AYP.

For the 20 14 - 20 15 school year, our school district has been identified as not making AYP and is classified as being in need of improvement. A district with this classification has the responsibility to:

- consult with parents and school staff when developing the District Improvement Plan to identify and address the specific reasons for low student achievement. This plan explains how the district will use Title I and other funds to improve Title I schools;
- reserve at least ten percent of their annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators;
- select and implement a scientifically-based curriculum; and
- provide technical assistance to schools identified as Title I schools in school improvement.

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 from our state department of education and the US Department of Education (www.ed.gov) websites.
2. Talk with district staff about our District Improvement 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. If you are a parent of an eligible student who attends a low-performing Title I school, ask about Supplemental Educational Services that may be available for your child. Supplemental Educational Services are extra academic services provided to eligible Title I students outside of the regular school day.
5. If you are a parent of an eligible student who attends a low-performing Title I school, ask about School Choice options to transfer your child to a better performing public school in the district, if available.
6. 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 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,

Name

Title

Telephone Number

Email Address