



Title Programs and Services

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To: Parents of Students Attending USD 417 Morris County
From: Julie Ford, Director, Title Programs and Services
Date: August 20, 2009
Subject: District Improvement

USD 417 Morris County participates in the federally-funded Title I program. This program provides extra help primarily in reading and mathematics to students in schools with high free and reduced lunch counts.

Title I requires every district to participate in the state reading and mathematics assessments. Title I also requires each state to determine if Title I districts and schools are making adequate progress each year toward the goal of having all students meet standard by 2014. If any of these districts or schools does not make adequate progress two years in a row, it is identified for improvement.

This notice is to inform you that USD 417 Morris County is identified for improvement in reading. It will be on improvement at least two years. It has to make adequate progress for two years to go off of improvement.

This means that the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) will work closely with the district in analyzing why the district is not making adequate progress in reading and in developing plans to address the problems. Overall, the assessment results in the district are good. Your teachers and administrators are working hard to ensure that all students in the district are learning!

If you have questions about being on improvement or on ways in which you can be involved and help, please contact your district.

417 Schools Meet State Standards, Except A Subgroup

USD 417 students did an excellent job on the State Assessment Tests, according to Diane Miller, superintendent of schools. She noted that 88.3 percent of the students who took the state reading assessment and 87.7 percent who took the math assessment met or exceeded standards. The state target is 76.7 percent in reading and 70.5 percent in math.

"Our district has done an excellent job for most students in both reading and math," Miller said.

USD 417, as announced earlier this week by the state Department of Education, did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in a small subgroup of Students with Disabilities (special needs), in reading.

Miller explained that to make AYP, each special subgroup of students also must hit the target. The minimum size of a subgroup (e.g. ethnicity, income level, special needs or English proficiency) must be 30 students. In many small schools, a subgroup of this size is not possible.

However, at the district level, the aggregate number (all district students together) may be at or above 30 and must meet AYP district-wide.

This is how a district, such as USD 417, can be on improvement and yet have no identified schools on improvement.

Miller said the USD 417 district-wide subgroup of Students with Disabilities includes 67 students. This group of students made the target in math, but they did not make the target in reading.

"The district has been planning and implementing interventions for our students so they can all be successful," Miller said.

August 13, 2009
Council Grove
Republican
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