



Adel DeSoto Minburn

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Greg Dufoe, Superintendent

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Date: September 2015

To: DeSoto Intermediate Parents

Subject: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress – Corrective Action, School Choice Options and Supplemental Educational Service Options

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires schools to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a school does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the school receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Schools or districts are cited if they a) don’t meet 95% participation rate for assessments, b) don’t meet student achievement goals, or c) don’t meet attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or graduation rate for high school.

I am writing to inform you that DeSoto Intermediate School has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goals on their reading test for three consecutive years. The proficiency goal is 100% of all students proficient on the Iowa Assessments. As a result, our district is required by law to offer your student school choice, to transfer to another school within the district that has not been designated as a school in need of assistance. We also will be offering supplemental educational services, such as tutoring, to eligible students. A list of approved supplemental educational service providers is on the Iowa Department of Education website.

Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited school in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

Why DeSoto Intermediate didn’t make AYP:

Schools don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above. DeSoto Intermediate is listed because not enough students met their goal in the following area:

- DeSoto Intermediate overall achievement rate for: Reading- 90% proficient for all students, not meeting the AYP goal of 100% of all students.
- DeSoto Intermediate overall achievement rate for: Math- 83.6% proficient for all students, not meeting the AYP goal of 100% of all students.

You’ll note that some of the improvement areas relate specifically to instruction, such as reading or math, and some relate to test participation. That is because we are required to test 95% of our students. If we fall below that mark, the federal law automatically cites us.

How DeSoto Intermediate will improve:

We know that continuous improvement is important to ensure all of our students are reaching their highest potential. Using data about the students and their achievement, our staff already has begun to identify areas for improvement. For example:

- Title I services
- Small group instruction based on student need
- Professional Development Plans target additional literacy learning strategies for all staff including interventionists (special education, Title I)
- Supplemental services provided tutoring and summer school opportunities
- Problem solving teams are convened monthly to develop intervention plans for students who are struggling in the area of literacy.
- Grade level PLC teams meet weekly to problem-solve interventions for students who are struggling with literacy skills.

Some student groups may require additional instructional interventions, pending a review of our current programs and services. In addition, the Iowa Department of Education and the ADM School District already have begun providing technical assistance to DeSoto Intermediate School as required by the NCLB law.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Schools that have missed AYP for three consecutive years are required to implement a corrective action from the following list of options:

- Replace the school staff who are relevant to the failure to make AYP
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum, including professional development- Reading
- Significantly decrease management at the school
- Extend the school day or school year
- Restructure the internal organization of the school
- Appoint one or more outside experts to advise the school- Math

DeSoto Intermediate has chosen the following corrective action: Institute and fully implement a new curriculum, including professional development. The reading curriculum team has worked for two years to work through the Iowa Core to develop units of instruction, including resources and professional development to support accelerated student learning. Full implementation of these units began in 2015-2016.

In the area of math, we are working with our local Area Education Agency to gain further knowledge in the area of number sense and math instructional strategies aimed at math interventions.

How parents can help:

Parent support is essential to help your student reach his or her highest academic success, but parents may need ideas about the best way to be involved. A few suggestions include:

- Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every grade level. When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.
- Help your child with his or her homework. If you are unable to help, contact the school to request a tutor.
- Volunteer at the school. Every teacher needs volunteers to help in the classroom, or even with projects that can be done in your home. Other areas in the school, such as the office or cafeteria, also need volunteers.

How to request school choice:

Our schools are not able to provide school choices because there are no other schools available for student to attend.

How To Request Supplemental Educational Services:

We will offer supplemental education services, such as tutoring before or after school, for eligible students. Research from the federal government has shown that students who participated in supplemental educational services made significant gains in student achievement, and students who participated in multiple years did even better. A list of approved service providers is attached. If you have questions about whether your student is eligible, or about which service might best meet the needs of your child, contact the DeSoto Intermediate office at 834-2424. The district is not required to provide transportation to off-site supplemental educational service locations. Transportation to these sites will be the responsibility of the parent.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at DeSoto Intermediate School. The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. You'll note from our school report card at www.adel.k12.ia.us that each class at DeSoto Intermediate School has success stories. For instance:

- ADM has a long history of test scores above the state, AEA, and national average
- District ACT Composite score of 23.7
- AP Honor Roll recipient
- High rate of dismissal from intervention programs which show successful completion
- Small group instruction focused on individual learners, providing flexible grouping

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at DeSoto Intermediate School. We are also committed to continuous improvement, and so will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to benefit student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance, and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jodi Banse
Principal
DeSoto Intermediate School

“Experiencing Success Today, Achieving Dreams Tomorrow.”