

August 8, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* federal law is designed to ensure that all students will meet performance goals on the state's high academic standards. If a school fails to meet these goals for two consecutive years, the school is identified as a School Improvement School. Northwood did not meet the performance goals in **reading** in all required subgroups.

Parents must be notified of a school's academic progress called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status. The Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test (OCCT) scores are reported in four performance levels: advanced; proficient; limited knowledge; and unsatisfactory. If a certain percentage of students do not score at the proficient or advanced level, then the school is identified as not making AYP. By 2013-2014, all students are required to score at the proficient and advanced level. The Scale for Academic Performance Index (API) ranges from 0-1500. Performance goals are measured for math, reading, percent of students tested, attendance and graduation rate. Performance goals for the 2010-2011 school year is as follows: Math API 1074; Reading API 1060; Percent of Students Tested 95%; Attendance Rate API 618; and Graduation Rate API 842.

The reasons for School Improvement identification for Northwood are as follows:

Performance benchmarks as reported in the Oklahoma School Accountability Report (with Confidence Intervals)

Subgroup	Northwood Reading API
Regular Education	890
American Indian	801
White	965
Economically Disadvantaged	792

NCLB requires the school to notify parents of eligible children of the option to transfer their child to another public school as far in advance as possible. However, Seminole does not have schools available to which students can transfer. Our school is working to improve curriculum and instruction through sustained professional development and mentoring for teachers and principal in reading strategies aimed at interventions for struggling students; restructuring to increase time in reading; emphasis on instructional time; progress monitoring; and a reading specialist on staff. Students most in need will be offered free before and after school tutoring, and summer school. More information on these services will be sent home in coming weeks.

Parent support is essential to the success of our school. We are asking parents to become involved in addressing the academic issues and help our school improve. Parents play a vital role in school improvement by communicating with their child's teacher, making sure children attend school regularly, helping with homework, encouraging their child to read, monitoring television/video game time, volunteering, joining the Parent Teacher Organization, or serving on a committee such as the School Improvement Committee.

The many successes of school cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. If ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal, and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure we achieve success for every student. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this issue or would like more information, you may contact me at 382-5800.

Sincerely,
Claudia Willis, Principal