

**DATE:** 10/1/2010

**TO:** Lincoln Elementary Parents

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress –  
Supplemental Educational Service Options

Dear Parents:

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 happy to inform you that Lincoln Elementary has met all of the federal guidelines. Lincoln Elementary is now considered “in delay” status because Lincoln Elementary students improved their test scores in 2009-10. After meeting the guidelines for two years (2009 AND 2010 testing), Lincoln Elementary will be off “delay” and, more importantly, off the federal SINA list.

Our district is required by law to offer supplemental educational services, such as tutoring, to eligible students until we are off the federal SINA list. A list of approved supplemental educational service providers is attached.

**LINCOLN ELEMENTARY MADE AYP FOR 2009-2010:**

Schools don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above. Lincoln Elementary subgroups scores that put us on the SINA list have improved but this must happen for two consecutive years.

**HOW WILL LINCOLN ELEMENTARY CONTINUE TO 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:

- Implementation of SuccessMaker- a computer lab program with engaging, individually-tailored supplemental instruction in both reading and math
- Implementation of READ 180 and SYSTEM 44 to meet the needs of readers below proficiency levels
- Opportunity during professional development for staff to analyze student data and collaborate to strengthen reading and math instruction
- Student afterschool program to promote homework completion and assist in academic areas of concern

**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 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 available at Lincoln Elementary or may be accessed at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate>. If you have questions about whether your student is eligible, or about which service might best meet the needs of your child, contact David Hoffman, Lincoln Principal at 319-653-3691. 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 Lincoln Elementary.** The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. For instance:

- Teachers receive relevant information about student achievement from SRI and SPI testing
- SuccessMaker reports in both reading and math in grades 4-6 provide weekly data on student progress
- All teachers at Lincoln are highly qualified and certified to teach in their specific area of assignment.
- Seventy-percent of the Lincoln teachers hold Masters' degrees in education.

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at Lincoln Elementary. We also are committed to continuous improvement and 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. If you are interested in learning more about the Lincoln Action Plan for the school year, the Lincoln SINA Team will present November 10 at the monthly Washington CSD Board Meeting or call the Lincoln Office at 653-3691. We welcome your input.

Sincerely,

David Hoffman  
Lincoln Elementary Principal