



## Notice to Parents and Guardians:

As part of *No Child Left Behind*, all students are required to meet a certain proficiency level on state assessments. This is referred to as Adequate Yearly Progress. This includes sub groups of students such as special education as well. If a school has a group of students or even a subgroup that does not meet the required proficiency rate two years in a row then that building is listed as “needs improvement,” and they must send a notice to parents informing them that they did not meet the requirement. This notice also allows parents public school choice options for those districts that have multiple schools to choose from; AGPS does not. Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools’ students have steadily improved on their test scores, and continue to outperform their peers in many districts across the state. Initially, 1 subgroup elementary special education did not meet the AYP proficiency rate in reading. The required proficiency rate was **100%**! Because of the size of our school district and the number of students in this particular subgroup, we do not qualify for the exceptions that some districts have been granted. Because of this, Ashland-Greenwood Elementary has been identified as Needs Improvement – year 3. I understand that is hard to comprehend, in good faith, a 100% proficiency expectation. However as our own Nebraska Commissioner of Education Matthew Blomsted has stated in the past, *“When states and districts agree to accept federal funds there are strings attached. Attached to NCLB Title I funding is the stipulation to have statewide assessments and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions for every public school in the state.”* He also states, *“The Nebraska Department of Education does not agree with current federal policy.”*

For the 2012-13 school year, our students’ test scores were all-time highs for AG students on the Nebraska State Assessments (NeSA). For the 2013-14 school year, our students once again set new benchmarks of excellence and improved their scores in nearly all of the areas tested! In 2014-15 our students put forth another strong effort and even improved in some areas. We are very pleased and proud of the academic performance of our students. We are committed to excellence and focused on improvement. Our district school improvement plan currently focuses on improving reading and math performance outcomes for all students. We are currently in the process of updating our school improvement plan. Our School Improvement Team welcomes involvement and input from all stakeholders. If you are interested in becoming part of the School Improvement Team you can express interest by contacting Jill Finkey, AGPS Curriculum Supervisor: [Jill.Finkey@agps.org](mailto:Jill.Finkey@agps.org). There are many additional ways to be involved including volunteering, attending parent-teacher conferences and ensuring your child is prepared, attends school each day, and has completed his or her homework each day.

State and local education agencies are working together to identify potential resources to assist schools in meeting the needs of all students. Districts are required to extend Supplemental Educational Services for eligible students. Elementary students who are qualified for free and reduced price lunch are potentially eligible. Priority will be granted to eligible students based on their current level of performance and need in reading. For a list of Supplemental Services potentially available please visit [www.agps.org](http://www.agps.org) and click on “schools”; “Ashland-Greenwood Elementary” and then “Supplemental Educational Services.” At this same location is a link for “parent expectations” and “responsibilities” for accessing these services. Parents of eligible children interested in having their child receive supplementary services should complete and return attachment “A” on the reverse side of this letter by Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> to the elementary school building. A second enrollment period will be available from January 4<sup>th</sup> through January 19<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, in the coming year, current law requires us to form a corrective action plan. This plan will likely include accessing additional resources to help increase student achievement in the specific area of concern.

You can review Ashland-Greenwood Public School’s data in more detail by accessing the State of the Schools Report at the Nebraska Department of Education’s website: [www.education.ne.gov/](http://www.education.ne.gov/). You can also access all other Nebraska schools and compare their results. This letter serves as the required notice per Federal Regulation.

We are very excited about the progress our district is making. Our improvement leaves us encouraged. We appreciate your support. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

I commend our students, educators, administrators, Board of Education, families and community as a whole. Success is a group effort!

Respectfully,

Dr. Zachary G. Kassebaum

---

**ATTACHMENT A: SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDER SELECTION FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Students Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Year

**CHECK THE BOX THAT APPLIES:**

My son/daughter WILL participate in the Supplemental Educational Services program as it is described in No Child Left Behind.

- I am selecting the state approved provider from the list made available to me.
  - I select \_\_\_\_\_  
(State-approved provider's name)
- I understand that the district will enter into an agreement with the provider, and I will be notified of a time to meet with the provider to set goals for my student.
- I understand that the provider will regularly inform me and the student's teacher(s) of the student's progress.
- I understand that if the funds are insufficient to cover the supplemental educational services for all of the students who choose to participate; participation will be based on prioritized academic needs as defined by the district.

My son/daughter WILL NOT participate this academic year in the Supplemental Educational Services program as it is described in No Child Left Behind.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Daytime Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Evening Telephone Number)

If you wish to be considered for supplemental services please return this form to the elementary school by November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.