



Philomath Public Schools

Benton County School District No. 17J, 1620 Applegate St, Philomath, OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

September 23, 2011

To: Philomath School District Parents

From: Dan Forbess, Superintendent

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act's purpose is to ensure that all children in the United States receive a quality education and are academically successful in a high-performing educational environment. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess schools to determine whether each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP), as determined by several disaggregated student population test scores, which means that they have met the academic testing standards set by the state. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered a School In Need Of Improvement.

Based on the results of last year's academic testing in reading and math, your child's school did not make adequate yearly progress. At least 70% of all students were required to meet or exceed the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills assessment last year. Unfortunately, some of our disaggregated student groups did not reach the AYP target required by the NCLB law. By visiting the Oregon Department of Education's website (www.ode.state.or.us) and clicking on AYP, you can learn more about the federal NCLB requirement. Also, you can make a District Selection, and choose Philomath, to learn more about the disaggregated student population scores that contributed to district schools not making AYP. In addition, you can learn how the school compares in academic achievement to other schools in the district and state.

Because our school did not make AYP, our school is eligible for additional assistance from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and our staff is eligible for public school improvement support, professional development, coaching, mentoring, etc.). Lastly, we will be applying for additional grant resources through ODE that will contribute to providing educational supports to our students.

Most importantly, we encourage you to become involved with your child's school to support school improvement. To learn more about how to get involved, please visit the Philomath School District web site, www.philomath.k12.or.us, and click on PES. We would love to have you involved in our Parent Club and contribute to other educational partnership opportunities. Also, we encourage you to support our public education effort with family and community activities, such as:

- Setting meaningful educational and life goals with your child,
- Establish daily family routines for homework (time/space/supplies) and reading (together and independently),
- Monitor out-of-school activities by limiting television watching and providing time for you and your child to participate in after school programs, clubs, teams, and other school-related activities,
- Set age-appropriate and specific expectations about school achievement and help your child see the relevance in his/her education.

Please contact Dan Forbess, Superintendent, at 541-929-3169, if you have any questions. Thank you.