



# LAWRENCE/NELSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Home of the RAIDERS

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October 15, 2015

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that according to 2014-2015 state assessment results, Lawrence-Nelson Elementary School is in Year 3 of Title I School Improvement for the 2015-16 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Lawrence-Nelson Elementary School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three consecutive years.

While Lawrence-Nelson scores on the NeSA Reading Assessment improved last year, for the fourth consecutive year the subgroup of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch (SES) has been listed as not making adequate yearly progress in reading. Lawrence-Nelson continues to meet state AYP goals in math. Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

Lawrence-Nelson School receives federal funds from the Title I program. These funds help students who are not achieving at grade level in math or reading in high-poverty schools. One requirement of a school identified is to establish an Accountability Compact Team to assist in planning and evaluating strategies for improvement in the elementary school. Members of the team include staff from our district, ESU staff, NDE staff, and a parent from our district.

We are concerned about the academic progress of our students. The School Improvement team, with district and state assistance, has identified reading as the area of concern and has conducted scientifically based research on new reading programs. The team has selected a new program to implement beginning with the 2014-15 school year. Student test scores, state assessment scores, school board input, and teacher input were all considered in making this decision.

Because Lawrence-Nelson has been identified as a school "in needs of improvement" it must offer Public School Choice. Students from Lawrence-Nelson may use a transfer option to Sandy Creek Elementary and the district will provide transportation. Lawrence-Nelson must also offer an expert to advise the school on its progress toward making AYP based on the school plan. The district has selected Meralee Hoffelt.

This identification also requires Lawrence-Nelson Elementary to provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students. Enclosed is a list of SES providers that have been approved by the State Department of Education that could provide tutoring services for your child. Parents who choose to have their children participate in SES are asked to contact the Lawrence-Nelson Elementary school office at (402) 726-2151 by December 30 to enroll. A second enrollment window will be offered late in the school year. Once notice has been received, we will make enrollment arrangements as quickly as possible and will notify parents upon approval.

We welcome your involvement at Lawrence-Nelson Elementary School. There are many ways to participate including offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, and attending parent conferences with your child's teacher(s). Other ways to support your child's success are to assure that your child is prepared, attends school each day, and has completed their homework.

Lawrence-Nelson Elementary School held its annual meeting to develop our parent involvement policy and to review parent rights under Title I and other information July 20, 2015. The Title I district-wide parent involvement policy was reviewed on July 20, 2015. You are welcome to be a part of that review process.

If you have questions this information, please feel free to contact us. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Dana Epley



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