

January 12, 2012

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Western Reserve Local Schools is committed to providing all students with the skills necessary to be successful in life. Western Reserve Elementary has a dedicated staff that is committed to ensuring the continued achievement of all students.

Western Reserve Local Schools is sending you this letter because the Ohio Department of Education has identified Western Reserve Elementary as needing school improvement because the special education sub group did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two years in a row in the area of reading. The *No Child Left Behind Act* that President Bush signed into law in 2002 requires that schools that have not met AYP for two years in any of the ten sub groups be designated as in School Improvement.

Ten student sub groups must meet Adequate Yearly Progress in Reading and Math. The ODE also looks at attendance Rate and Graduation rate as well as the participation in testing percentage.

The ten subgroups (30 students or more) that are reviewed for AYP are: All Students, African American Students, American Indian/Native Alaskan Students, Asian/Pacific Islander Students, Hispanic Students, Multiracial Students, White Students, Students with Disabilities, Students with Limited English Proficiency, and Economically Disadvantaged Students. If any group does not meet AYP in reading or mathematics, or if the All Students group does not meet AYP in reading, mathematics, attendance rate, or graduation rate, then the entire school will not meet AYP.

Western Reserve Elementary has two sub groups of 30 or more students: Economically Disadvantaged students and Students with Disabilities. AYP for Reading and Math was met with the sub group of Economically Disadvantaged students. AYP was not met in the area of math for the special education sub group for the 2011 assessment. AYP was not met for the sub group of special education students in the area of reading for the 2010 and 2011 testing periods. Based on not meeting AYP with this sub group, Western Reserve Elementary , while rated Effective, will also be rated in Year 1 of School Improvement.

Schools that are in year 1 of School Improvement are required to offer a public school choice option to parents. Students would be able to transfer to other schools that met AYP. Norwalk City Schools and South Central Local schools have agreed to accept Western Reserve students

whose parents would like elect the public school choice option. Please notify the building principal or the superintendent if you would like to participate in the public school choice option.

WRE will be offering free tutoring both before and after school. We will also provide tutoring during the day to students whose parents would like it or to students who need extra help. The exact plan will be sent to parents when all of the details have been finalized.

Western Reserve Elementary made plans for several other changes before we were recently notified of school improvement status. We have started an Early Intervention Center for kindergarten students. A Parent Council has been developed as a communication vehicle between the school and parents. The school has offered tutoring in the past and will do so again this year.

The school has building goals for improvement but will review these goals so that they align with a three year School Improvement Plan. You may go to <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/reportcard> to see how Western Reserve Elementary compares to other schools across the state. The school report card with detailed information is available on the WRE web site.

Western Reserve Elementary has made many improvements over the years. We are proud of our progress. However, there is a discrepancy between what general education students achieve in reading and what special education students achieve. We will work diligently to eliminate that gap. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Mahoney
Principal