



Beaver Creek Elementary • 8701 Lyndhurst Dr. • P.O. Box 10 • Johnston, IA 50131 • [515] 278-6228 • Twitter: @JCS\_D\_BCE  
Principal: Eric Toot • Assistant Principal: Jan Marron

**DATE:** August 18, 2015  
**TO:** Beaver Creek Parents  
**SUBJECT:** Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress and School Choice Options

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. Title 1 provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. 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 writing to inform you that Beaver Creek Elementary has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because this school did not reach proficiency targets for two consecutive years. Beaver Creek also is designated as a Title 1 building this year. As a result, our district is required by law to offer your student the opportunity for school choice to another school within the district has not been designated as a school in need of assistance for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited school in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations. In fact, Beaver Creek is the second-highest performing elementary school in Johnston with 92.22% of our students proficient in Reading. Only Wallace has a higher proficiency rate with 92.86% of their students proficient (less than 1% difference).

#### **WHY BEAVER CREEK DIDN'T MAKE AYP:**

Schools don’t make AYP when they fail to achieve one of the measures listed above: a) 95% participation rate for assessments, b) student achievement goals, or c) 95% attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or 90% graduation rate for high school. Beaver Creek is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following area:

\*Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Reading Achievement for all students: 92.22% proficient

You’ll note that some of the improvement areas relate specifically to instruction, such as reading or math, and some relate to test participation. That is because we are required to test 95% of our students. If we fall below that mark, we automatically are cited by the federal law, regardless of how well the students performed on the test.

Under the NCLB law, only schools receiving federal Title I funding must offer school choice options, if available.

#### **HOW BEAVER CREEK WILL IMPROVE:**

Although we have many indicators that show Beaver Creek is offering a top-quality education, 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:

- Additional reading support is being provided to Beaver Creek in the 2015-2016 school year
- Any student needing reading support and intervention will be provided intervention support
- Teachers will participate in reading-focused professional development

Some student groups may require additional instructional interventions, pending a review of our current programs and services. In addition, the Iowa Department of Education and Johnston Community School District already have begun providing technical assistance to Beaver Creek as required by the NCLB law.

#### **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 A SCHOOL CHOICE:**

You may apply for a school choice by using the attached form. If you wish for your child to remain at Beaver Creek, no action on your part is required. Your choice option is Wallace Elementary. Transportation will be provided by the district. While Wallace Elementary has not been designated as a School In Need of Assistance, it has been identified as a Watch List school as it did not meet proficiency targets during 2014- 2015. If Wallace is identified as a School In Need of Assistance from Iowa Assessments during the 2015-2016 school year, transportation from Beaver Creek to Wallace will be discontinued and as a parent you will become responsible for transportation in future years. If this should happen, parents who elected to attend Wallace as school choice will be notified.

**As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Beaver Creek as Beaver Creek is one of the highest performing elementary schools in one of the state's highest performing school districts.** The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate that our students' achievement. Our school has key success indicators, such as:

- Beaver Creek met proficiency targets in math
- Beaver Creek achieved a 97.3% attendance rate

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from our staff. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and so 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.

Sincerely,

Eric Toot  
Beaver Creek Elementary Principal

**NCLB School Choice Request:**

We request that our child(ren) be transferred to Wallace Elementary School.

List student name

grade

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Parent Signature

Date

Return to Eric Toot, Principal Beaver Creek Elementary School