

November 5, 2015

Dear Parents and Patrons,

The federal education legislation, No Child Left Behind, mandates that all students must be proficient on reading and math academic standards by 2014. Additional information about how our school district compared to other school districts in the state was made available on the State of the Schools Report. You can access this information at the following web site:

http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Default_State.aspx.

If a school does not meet the state goal two years in a row, in the same grade level and same subject, they are identified as “In Need of Improvement.” A school can be released of “Needs Improvement” status after all subgroups meet the AYP goals for two consecutive years. Emerson Elementary is in year 4 of Title I “Needs Improvement” status and must plan for restructuring. Emerson continues “Needs Improvement” status because 100% of our students were not proficient in the areas of reading and math. The State of Nebraska’s goal for the 2013-14 for Reading and Math were 100% proficiency and will continue to be 100% until the law or regulation change.

The following table illustrates the overall performance of CPS students over the past six years.

Reading						
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Grades 3-5	70% overall 1 subgroup did not meet goal	71% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	81% overall All subgroups met goal	84% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	82% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	87% overall All subgroups met goal
Grades 6-8	67% overall 3 subgroups did not meet goal	65% overall 1 subgroup did not meet goal	66% overall 5 subgroups did not meet goal	78% overall All subgroups met goal	77% overall 1 subgroup did not meet goal	79% overall 6 subgroups did not meet goal
Grade 11	68% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	69% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	62% overall 3 subgroups did not meet goal	64% overall 4 subgroups did not meet goal	69% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	62% overall 5 subgroups did not meet goal

Math						
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Grades 3-5	94% overall All subgroups met goal	79% overall All subgroups met goal	78% overall All subgroups met goal	78% overall 5 subgroups did not meet goal	80% overall 1 subgroup did not meet goal	83% overall All subgroups met goal
Grades 6-8	94% overall All subgroups met goal	69% overall 1 subgroup did not meet goal	69% overall 4 subgroups did not meet goal	70% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	73% overall All subgroups met goal	67% overall 6 subgroups did not meet goal
Grade 11	98% overall All subgroups met goal	48% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	59% overall 3 subgroups did not meet goal	50% overall 5 subgroups did not meet goal	60% overall 2 subgroups did not meet goal	58% overall 4 subgroups did not meet goal

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires each school identified for Title I School Improvement to offer Public School Choice to all students who attend the identified school. Your child has the option of attending West Park. Lost Creek, North Park and Centennial are also schools with “needs improvement status” therefore are not options, but are included in the table so you can compare the performance percentage.

Grades K-5	Reading 2008-09 % Proficient	Reading 2009-10 % Proficient	Reading 2010-11 % Proficient	Reading 2011-12 % Proficient	Reading 2012-13 % Proficient	Reading 2013-14 % Proficient	Reading 2014-15 % Proficient
Centennial	77%	69%	65%	83%	89%	83%	85%
Lost Creek	87%	73%	78%	83%	83%	89%	89%
North Park	78%	76%	77%	80%	87%	86%	86%
West Park	87%	64%	71%	77%	81%	73%	88%
Emerson	77%	71%	61%	82%	77%	77%	89%

Grades K-5	Math 2008-09 % Proficient	Math 2009-10 % Proficient	Math 2010-11 % Proficient	Math 2011-12 % Proficient	Math 2012-13 % Proficient	Math 2013-14 % Proficient	Math 2014-15 % Proficient
Centennial	92%	98%	77%	84%	80%	81%	83%
Lost Creek	88%	95%	85%	81%	76%	81%	85%
North Park	86%	98%	84%	85%	87%	85%	81%
West Park	88%	89%	77%	65%	73%	69%	79%
Emerson	81%	87%	70%	71%	72%	84%	88%

If you would like to request a transfer for your child to attend another Columbus Public Elementary School, the district is required to provide transportation or reimburse mileage costs from Emerson to the assigned school. Requests for transfers for the Second semester of 2015-16 school year is due by November 15, 2015 or upon enrollment.

Because of the “Needs Improvement” status, Emerson developed and implemented a plan to help the subgroups meet the goal. A committee of the elementary principal, teachers, student service director, and educational experts have developed a plan which was submitted to the State Department of Education. The plan includes strategies to promote parent involvement as well as incorporate instructional strategies based on scientifically-based research.

This “Needs Improvement” identification also requires Emerson Elementary to provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students. **Students are only eligible for this program based on a family’s qualification for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.** Emerson must give priority to the lowest-achieving eligible students. Please see attached list of state approved SES providers. Parents who choose to have their children participate in SES are asked to contact Mrs. Colford at Emerson Elementary school office at (402) 563-7030 by November 30, 2015 to discuss your options. Once notice has been received, enrollment arrangements will be made as quickly as possible. A second two-week enrollment period will be offered for SES at a later date

The District has implemented several changes intended to help raise student achievement. These include revising both the reading and math curriculum, implementing new reading and math programs in grades K-5, implementing an RtI process, integrating technology, providing additional training for teachers and collaborating with ESU 7. The district can also request additional expertise from the curriculum department at NDE for resources. Students scoring well below their grade level are receiving additional assistance in smaller groups. Because of the PLAS (Persistently Low Achieving Schools) Year 3 restructuring, Emerson implemented extended day tutoring services which we are continuing again this school year. Year 4 restructuring included the implementation of EIR (Early Interventions in Reading) and consulting with the Nebraska RtI Consortium Support Team to ensure we are providing instruction with fidelity. As part of our Emerson Title I School Improvement Compact Committee we have developed and implemented a multi-year plan to help the various subgroups to meet the performance goals. Parents are welcome to participate on our Compact Committee and offer input before school restructuring. It is the hope of the district that these changes and others will help us meet the AYP goal this school year and in years to come.

As parents, you are encouraged to take an active role in your child’s education. Helping with homework, listening to your child read, and looking at the contents of your child’s book bag each day are supportive actions that you can take to help make a difference. Maintaining good communication with the school and your child’s teacher is necessary in order for him or her to achieve success at school.

You may contact Elementary Principal, Sara Colford, if you are interested in more information on the improvement plan. Please call Mrs. Colford if you have any questions about the plan to improve the academic achievement of all subgroups at Emerson Elementary.

Sincerely,

Sara Colford, Emerson Principal

Jason Harris, Student Services Director