



Snoqualmie Valley

Public Schools

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August, 2015

Dear Snoqualmie Valley Families:

In 2014 and again this year, the U.S. Department of Education declined to renew the State of Washington's conditional Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver for schools receiving Title I, Part A funds. As a result, all schools and school districts in the State of Washington are subject to the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requirements.

The purpose of this letter, along with a [message from other Superintendents](#) in the Puget Sound Educational Service District, is to notify you that schools and districts throughout the state did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements as defined by NCLB. For schools to meet AYP this year, 100 percent of all students – regardless of special needs, English language mastery, or other life-impacting circumstances – must meet proficiency standards, based on results of the new state assessment that was administered last spring.

Because Snoqualmie Valley did not meet NCLB participation requirements for last spring's assessments, our District is in "Step 1 of Improvement". This means the District is required to set aside 30 percent of Title I funds it receives from the federal government this year for NCLB requirements. Specifically, 20% of District Title I funds will be directed towards supporting school choice and supplementary educational services at identified schools, and 10 % of District Title I funds will be directed to professional development for SVSD teachers and administrators. Also, parents whose children attend schools that receive federal Title I, Part A funding and did not meet federal standards must receive notification that their school did not meet AYP guidelines. These parents were also informed of options for attending other schools in a letter dated August 19th.

Nearly every Washington school has failed to meet the NCLB requirements. Some of the most successful and highly-recognized schools in our state are being labeled "failing" by an antiquated federal law that most educators and elected officials, including the the U.S. Department of Education, acknowledge isn't working.

As educators, we are fully committed to each and every student reaching his or her full potential and are proud of the significant academic progress our students are making. While not all students have reached proficiency, our use of targeted resources to assist struggling students and schools has made a significant difference.

For the upcoming school year, our Strategic Plan places heavy emphasis on initiatives and strategies recommended by the On-Time Graduation Task Force last spring – initiatives that are part of an extensive three-year plan aimed at identifying at-risk students and bolstering support for struggling learners. In addition, all of our schools revise their School Improvement Plans each year, articulating specific goals and strategies that serve as a road map focused on supporting students' needs and increasing achievement. Our District also provides its educators with meaningful professional development to support highly effective teaching to advance student learning.

How can parents help their school and district improve?

- Learn more about the ESEA/NCLB requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following websites:
 - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: <http://www.k12.wa.us>
 - Washington State School Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&year=2014-15>
 - Adequate Yearly Progress: <http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/AYP/default.aspx>
 - The U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

- Talk with district staff about the District Improvement Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school. You also may participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.
- If you are a parent of a student who attends a Title I, Part A school in improvement (Step 1-5), ask about school choice options to transfer your child, with paid transportation, to a public school in your district that is not identified as a Program Improvement school.
- If you are a parent of a student who attends a Title I, Part A school that is in Step 2-5 of school improvement, ask about supplemental educational services that may be available for your child. Supplemental educational services are tutoring services provided outside of the regular school day for eligible students.

Families with questions regarding Snoqualmie Valley School District's NCLB requirements can also contact the Student Services office at 425-831-8015.

The Snoqualmie Valley School District is proactively addressing the needs of our most-challenged students. We continue to seek out new ways to improve our programming and provide support for all students. Our outstanding progress is due to the efforts of our teachers to deliver high-quality instruction and employ best practices to engage students in their learning. On behalf of the School Board and our staff, we appreciate your support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Joel Aune
Superintendent
Snoqualmie Valley School District