

January 6, 2009

To Centennial Elementary Parents:

Each year school districts are required to report achievement scores on assessments that are given throughout the year. These assessments are designed to measure how well our students are performing on Nebraska reading, math, and science standards. The results are published on the Nebraska State of the Schools Report. The State of the Schools Report provides student achievement results for the state, school districts and individual school buildings. You can access this information at the following web site: <http://reportcard.nde.state.ne.us>

Federal Accountability under NCLB requires a decision to be made for all schools and districts after every year to determine progress. Additionally a two-year decision is required about progress. That two-year decision is called "AYP Status Decision". A district or building may meet one year's progress but not the other. Or a district might make progress in one subject or grade level, but not the other. The two-year "AYP Status Decision" at both the building and district levels will be described with one of the following:

MET: A building or district has met all target goals for two consecutive years.

NOT MET: A building or district has either met all of the indicators in one of the two years, but not both, or the district or building missed indicators in different subject areas or grade levels during the two years.

NOT MET, IMPROVEMENT SHOWN: A building or district might have not met AYP in the previous school year but has made improvement and met AYP in the current school year.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT: A building has not met the target goals in the same subject, same grade level in both of the two years. A district has not met the target goals in the same subject in all grade levels in both of the two years.

NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION: Not enough information to apply AYP.

For the 07-08 school year, Centennial Elementary received a rating of **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT** because scores did not meet (NOT MET) the requirements of No Child Left Behind for two consecutive years. The NOT MET ratings are in the sub-group area of English Language Learners (ELL) for reading and math. Significant progress was made within this sub-group in reading for the 07-08 year, but the percentage of students who were proficient still did not meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (81%). Attached to this letter, you will find a description of all of the Columbus Public Schools elementary schools and their proficiency scores and AYP decisions for comparison purposes. You can see that scores vary by grade level and by building. This type of fluctuation is normal and changes somewhat from year to year because different groups of students are being measured. The goal for all of our schools is to see all students achieve and experience academic growth over the course of the school year. We measure student progress in many different ways throughout the school year to check student progress.

During the school year, we offer a variety of programs at all schools to meet the needs of individual students. Students who are not achieving at grade level have intensive services in

small groups as well as individually. Classroom teachers do an excellent job of monitoring student growth and can show you information on how your child is progressing. If you have attended parent-teacher conferences you have already seen this information and heard about your child. Students identified as English Language Learners (ELL) receive services to help them acquire English language skills as well as supporting proficiency in related subjects such as math and science. Because this is the area identified as being in the NEEDS IMPROVEMENT category, it is important for you to support your child's learning at home if he or she is still acquiring the English language.

If your child was identified as not achieving at the level they should, you probably have also received information on how you can help your child at home. All students benefit greatly from parents being involved in many ways. Asking questions, having students read aloud, and setting aside a time and place for homework are only a few of the things that you can do. Your child's teacher can give you additional strategies to work on at home. Student achievement is a partnership between school and home and a strong partnership has been proven to be effective in helping student achievement.

In Columbus Public Schools we are fortunate to have highly qualified teachers at all of our schools as well as after school programs, opportunities for parent involvement, and special services to meet the needs of students who are struggling academically. Each school also follows the same district curriculum. However, if you as a parent determine your child is not achieving at a level you are satisfied with, you have the option to request a transfer to another school as determined by Federal Title I requirements. The impact of transferring to a new school should always be weighed against the benefits of staying at your current school. This type of transfer is never recommended during the school year, but may be a consideration for the 2008-2009 school year.

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. The deadline for immediate transfer requests for the 2nd semester of the 2008-2009 is Monday, January 12th. Requests for transfers for the 2009-2010 school year will be accepted at a later point this year. Please watch for information in May. Please use the attached form to submit a request for second semester.

Please be assured that Centennial Elementary is examining the areas designated as needing improvement while also working on annual goals that support high achievement for all students. We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to help students grow academically and to be proficient in reading, math, and science.

Ms. Jackie Herink, Principal – 563-8180

Dr. Jane Stavem – Director of Curriculum & Instruction – 563-7000

Dr. Paul Hillyer – Superintendent of Columbus Public Schools – 563-7000

Columbus Public Schools

Request for School Transfer



No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires schools receiving a rating of NEEDS IMPROVEMENT to notify parents of their right to transfer their child to another school with transportation provided by the district or mileage reimbursement. Please keep in mind that all Columbus Public Schools elementary schools teach the same district curriculum and offer support services to students.

If you wish to request a transfer for your child to another school please fill out the information below and return to the school office by Monday, January 12th. Requests will be processed and you will be notified of the change in school the following week. Changes in placement will begin on Monday, January 19th. Placements will be made by the district. If you have more than one child, please duplicate this form or pick up an extra form at the school office. A separate form must be completed for each child.

Child's Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

Home Address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

I would like to request the following school as my first choice for placement:

- Lost Creek Elementary**
- North Park Elementary**
- West Park Elementary**
- Emerson Elementary**

I would like to request the following school as my second choice for placement:

- Lost Creek Elementary**
- North Park Elementary**
- West Park Elementary**
- Emerson Elementary**

Parent Signature: _____