



Satsop School District
Post Office Box 96
853 Elma-Monte Road
Satsop, WA 98583
(360) 482-5330
Fax (360) 482-5724

December 3, 2015

Dear Satsop School District Families:

In March 2014, 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. The impact of this decision is that all school districts in the State of Washington are now subject to the punitive and regressive requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind act (NCLB).

We are sending you this letter to notify you that our district did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by NCLB. For our district 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. In our case, the reason we did not meet AYP is because our percentage of non-excused absences was too high. We changed over to a computer based attendance program mid-year and due to a glitch in the program, reported result were not accurate and we were identified as failing in this area.

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 target resources to assist struggling students and schools has made a significant difference.

By reverting back to NCLB, we are now required to set aside a certain percent of Title I funds we receive from the federal government. The money is reserved for the district to either transfer students to a school that meet the federal requirements. In addition, parents whose children attend schools that don't meet federal standards and receive federal Title I funding receive this notice that their child's school is failing to meet those guidelines. Normally parents would have the choice to transfer to a school that has not been identified as failing to meet Adequate Yearly Progress. Because we are a one school district and neighboring districts also didn't meet the standard, this option is not available to resident families.

The label of "failing" schools is regressive and punitive, as nearly every Washington school will not meet the NCLB Requirements. Some of our state's and district's most successful and highly recognized schools are now being labeled "failing" by an antiquated law that most educators and elected officials – as well as the U.S. Department of Education – acknowledge isn't working.

Our bottom line: Satsop School District is currently addressing the needs of our most-challenged students. Our outstanding progress is due to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders through high-quality instruction, effective leadership, and collaborative partnerships. On behalf of the School Board and our staff, we appreciate your support of our students and schools.

Sincerely,
Marsha Hendrick
Supt/Principal

