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Linda Hall, Superintendent

"Every Student, Every Day, Every Classroom"

November, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Granite Falls School District,

As you may know, Washington State lost its Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements. The loss of the waiver requires all school to revert back to the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards. This means that every single child—100%— in our district, had to be "proficient" by 2014 to meet the federal requirements.

We are sending you this letter to notify you that our district did not meet AYP as required by the NCLB act. The NCLB requirements are regressive and punitive, as nearly every school in the entire state did not meet them. The Granite Falls School District is fully committed to each and every student reaching his or her full potential and are proud of the 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.

How Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status is Determined:

Under the federal NCLB act, if a school fails to make the required incremental improvements for two consecutive years, the federal government determines that school has failed to make AYP. Granite Falls School District, and nearly every school in Washington State, did not meet these requirements.

To make AYP standards, 100% of students, regardless of special needs, English language mastery or other life-impacting circumstances, had to score 100% proficient or above on the state assessment. AYP also measures the percentage of students participating in the assessment and the graduation/ unexcused absence rate which must be below 1%.

You can find more specific AYP data on [OSPI's website](#). If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Kathy Silveira in the district office at 360.691.7717 and a hard copy of the report will be provided.

Required Notification to Families

School and District Notification

Washington school districts are required by law to annually notify families of students in schools receiving federal Title I funding that we did not make AYP for two consecutive years (Note: Title I funds help schools with higher numbers of low-income students meet their educational needs). Parents/guardians of children whom attend Mountain Way and Monte Cristo Elementary, received a similar notice in August explaining the AYP guidelines. This subsequent letter fulfills our district notification federal requirement. Should you have questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Karin Manns, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, at 360.691.7717.

The mission of the Granite Falls School District is to inspire and facilitate a passion for life-long learning and the pursuit of excellence in every student, every day.

Public School Choice Notification

We are also required to notify families of students in schools receiving federal Title I funding that have not made AYP for two consecutive years, of the option to attend another school in our district that has met AYP. However, for the 2015-16 school year, there are no schools that have and are available as a "choice school" in the Granite Falls School District, or in the school districts surrounding Granite Falls. Therefore, this option is not available to our families this school year.

District Improvement Plan

As a Title I, Part A district in improvement, we are required to institute the following:

- Implement our District Improvement Plan, which includes improving professional learning, continuing to identify curriculum and resources that support student success, increasing parent involvement, and implementing our organizational restructuring plan to ensure focus on student achievement and growth. The plan will be available on our district website soon and we encourage you to review our [Strategic Plan](#) and [School Improvement Plans](#) which are available on the website now.
- Reserve at least 10% of our annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators.
- Continue to provide assistance to the Title I schools, Mountain Way and Monte Cristo Elementary.

How can parents/guardians help their school and district improve?

Here are some suggestions:

- 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 Web sites:
 - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: <http://www.k12.wa.us>
 - Washington State School Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2013-14>
 - Adequate Yearly Progress: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/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 and ask about volunteer opportunities.
- If you are a parent/guardian of a student who attends Mountain Way or Monte Cristo Elementary, ask about additional instruction (tutoring) called supplemental educational services (SES). Families who qualify for the free and reduced meal services are eligible to [apply](#) for the free tutoring service.

Our district is committed to providing high quality instruction that meets the needs of all students. We appreciate your support of our students, staff and schools. I encourage you to contact Karin Manns, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, at 360.691.7717, for more information about the federal requirements or how you can become involved in school and district improvement efforts.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Hall
Superintendent

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