



On December 4, 2018, the Elementary School will be having their winter concert in the gym. If you are planning to take your student(s) after his/her/their performance, we would appreciate a note to the office you will need to sign them out in the student(s)' classroom(s). You will not need to stop in the office to get a visitor's pass for attending the concert or to sign-out a student on that date. The Elementary doors will be unlocked during the concert times to make it easier on the community to attend. The following are the times for each grade level.

- 4th Grade - 12:30 pm
- 3rd Grade - 1:00 p.m.
- 2nd Grade - 1:30 p.m.
- 1st Grade - 2:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten - 2:30 p.m.



P.I.E. is once again bringing Santa's Workshop to our elementary students. Santa's workshop will be held Friday, December 7, 2018 and is an opportunity for Elementary Students to shop for family members. Envelopes should have already come home with the kids and you can send those back with your child anytime this week! There is a \$5.00 maximum for each kid.

We want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help during the day. If you have any questions, please call the school office!

We really appreciate **DONATIONS of tape, bows, tags and wrapping paper!** There is a box outside the elementary office for drop off of donations. We want to truly thank **Robin Fine of Dollar General** for all of their generous gift donations! We couldn't do it without the community support.

Please also take note of the wonderful new window clings in the front lobby of our building. P.I.E. has generously donated money and worked with Blackboard Printing to add a level of professionalism and fun to our school. We are truly grateful. More will be coming in the future so be sure to thank a P.I.E. member OR better yet BECOME A P.I.E. member!! The next meeting will be Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary Library. There will be no meeting in December.

WINTER SPIRIT WEEK! The Elementary will be participating in a Winter Dress up week from Monday, December 10 through Friday, December 14, 2018. The intention is just to have fun! Don't stress about it. Use what you have laying around or borrow what you might need. Keep in mind that recess will still be outside as long as temps are above zero!

- Monday - Wear your favorite flannel!
- Tuesday - Pajama Day!
- Wednesday - Ugly Sweater or Wear your favorite holiday color (red, green, blue, white)!
- Thursday - Favorite Winter Sport Day! Wear anything winter sports or winter sport's team related. If you don't have a favorite, just wear your Mustang gear or colors!
- Friday - Wacky Winter Day! Wear your craziest Christmas socks or leggings! Wear holiday related accessories. Just have fun with it!

The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention some federal guidelines that impact public schools across the country. As you may already be aware, the K-12 education law known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has been replaced with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). There are many similarities between the two laws; both require that all students have access to rigorous standards, that at least 95% of students take part in high quality assessments of the standards, and that each district report to the public their assessment outcomes. Each state was required to create and submit a plan for accountability and support of ESSA. This past year Iowa's plan was approved by the Federal Department of Education.

In the next few weeks, the Iowa Department of Education will be releasing Iowa School Performance Profiles. These profiles reflect the core measures that contribute to a school's accountability determination under ESSA. The determinations will be based on the following measures:

Student participation on state assessments, academic achievement (proficiency and average scale score), student growth, graduation rate, progress in achieving English language proficiency, and a student survey of safety and engagement (Conditions for Learning).

Each school will receive an overall score based on performance on these measures. Schools will also receive a score for each subgroup of students, such as students who have an individualized education plan.

It has been predicted that approximately 300 Iowa districts will have one or more buildings designated as Targeted or Comprehensive. One of the major differences between NCLB and ESSA is that ESSA designations are not intended to be punitive in nature. Funding will not be taken away and educators will not be forced to change buildings; instead, there will be funding to provide support for studying practices, planning for change, and engaging in professional learning.

While nobody delights in being "identified" as needing support, our stance is that this can be a valuable part of on-going school improvement. We know that our district is fortunate to have educators who are very committed to doing what is best for students and are continually striving to do better. Looking at our performance data in a variety of ways will help us identify areas for improvement; so, regardless of any designated label our schools may or may not receive, our intention is to use our data to help make decisions that support effective practices and promote student success.

A fact sheet supplied by the Iowa Department of Education accompanies this letter. As we learn more about our designation, we will of course share that information with the community.



Fact Sheet: Iowa School Accountability and Support

Iowa and other states developed systems of school accountability and support in response to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, the K-12 education law replacing No Child Left Behind.

ESSA maintains a focus on school accountability and equity for all students but shifts decision-making to states and local school districts.

Iowa's system:

- Meets federal requirements outlined in ESSA but fits Iowa's context.
- Focuses attention and resources to schools that need it most.
- Was created with broad stakeholder input.
- Is designed to support schools, not punish them.

Under ESSA, States Must:

Develop plans for accountability and support

Set achievement goals for all students to reach

Identify schools for support and improvement every three years

Publish school report cards with data and information

School Identification

Identification of Iowa schools for support and improvement is based on these measures:

Student Participation on State Assessments: Requires a minimum of 95 percent of a school's enrollment participate in annual state assessments.

Academic Achievement (measures the following):

Proficiency: Percentage of students in a school who are proficient in math and reading based on assessment results.

Average Scale Score: Information about the average performance of students in reading and mathematics in a school.

Student Growth: Measures overall student growth by looking at student percentiles and determining whether the student is meeting or exceeding growth targets.

Graduation Rate (high schools): Determines percentage of students who graduate from high school in four or five years.

Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency: Measures a student's progress in obtaining English language proficiency across the domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Conditions for Learning: Measures a school's safety, engagement and environment based on a survey of students in grades 5 through 12.

Comprehensive & Targeted Schools

ESSA requires public schools to be identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Targeted Support and Improvement once every three years using the measures outlined on the previous page. See how it's calculated below. The state provides support to identified schools.

Elementary & Middle Schools

Measure	Weighting*
Participation	10%
Academic Achievement	28%
Growth	47%
Progress toward ELP	10%
Conditions for Learning	5%
Total	100%

*Weightings will change in subsequent years.

High Schools

Measure	Weighting*
Participation	10%
Academic Achievement	20%
Growth	40%
Graduation Rate	15%
Progress toward ELP	10%
Conditions for Learning	5%
Total	100%

*Weightings will change in subsequent years.

Comprehensive	Targeted
High school has graduation rate below 67.1% and/or	School has one or more student subgroups performing as low as the lowest 5% of schools
School is in lowest 5 percent of Title I schools based on accountability measures	Subgroups: Eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, English learners, students with disabilities, students by race/ethnicity

Iowa School Performance Profiles (New Report Card)

ESSA requires states to publish report cards reflecting the performance of the state, schools and school districts. Iowa's online report card is called Iowa School Performance Profiles.

Iowa School Performance Profiles reflect school performance on the core accountability measures.

Find out more at www.iaschoolperformance.gov.