

SADDLE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 started with high expectations: Every student was to pass every state test in reading and math by the year 2014. To make sure they were on track to meet that goal, schools reported annually whether or not they had made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the 100 percent pass rate on time.

We've come a long way since 2001. The number of students passing their state tests has increased significantly.

But as our nation moved closer to 2014, it became apparent that a 100 percent pass rate was unrealistic. Although scores were improving, more and more schools were not meeting AYP because the percentage of students needing to pass the tests increased each year.

Most states, including Washington, applied for waivers from AYP. Our state was granted a waiver during school years 2012-13 and 2013-14. During those years, Washington was given the flexibility outside the AYP system to identify schools that needed the most help and target funding to schools with the highest need.

State test scores and graduation rates continued to rise.

Despite our continued success, the U.S. Department of Education did not renew our waiver for the 2014-15 school year, that means we're back to reporting AYP. One of those NCLB requirements is to use using data from 2010-11 and 2013-14 **2010-11 and 2012-13 because we participated in the Smarter Balanced field test.** Our school did not meet AYP this year because at least one of the following has happened:

- One or more of our students did not pass the state tests in reading and/or math.
- Fewer than 95 percent of our students took the state tests.

This means we are considered to be in "Step 1 of Improvement

You can see our school's AYP reports and compare them to the reports from every school in the district and state on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website: www.k12.wa.us. Click on the "School Report Card" button.

Because our school receives federal Title I, Part A money, there are consequences for not meeting AYP this year.

We must inform you that:

- You may choose to transfer to nearby school that is not in a “step of improvement.”
- We are revising our school improvement plan.
- We are receiving extra support from OSPI.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to get involved at our school.

School Choice

Because we receive federal money under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we are required to offer public school choice to students until we have made our AYP achievement targets for two consecutive years. This means you have the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district or in a neighboring district that has met its AYP target. However, we do not have other schools in our district or neighboring districts that have met AYP that serve the same grade levels to transfer into.

School Improvement Plan

We are revising our school improvement plan. Parents are invited and encouraged to take part in that process. We will continue to develop strategies, policies and practices that use scientifically based research. Our staff will continue to receive high-quality professional development. Please understand, however, that all this was going on even while we were not required to meet AYP requirements.

State Support

We receive support from OSPI to help us analyze data reports and improve curriculum, strengthen core academic instruction, and work with parents to improve student learning. Again, this was going on before we lost our AYP waiver.

Parental Involvement

Parents are strongly encouraged to get involved at our school. Research shows that when parents are a part of the school community, students are more successful. Please call **John Mullen or office at 509-932-5693** to learn about:

- **PTO**
- **School-parent compact**
- **Ongoing parent/community meetings**
- **LIM Parent Training**
- **Parent volunteer opportunities**

Please keep in mind the only reason you are receiving this letter this year is because Washington State lost its waiver from NCLB requirements. Our school continues to make progress. Our teachers and students work hard every day in the classroom and we count on your support at home.

Sincerely,

John Mullen-Principal



Saddle Mountain Elementary