



# Knoxville Community School District



## Central Office

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**TO:** Knoxville Community School District Parents  
**SUBJECT:** Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress  
**DATE:** October 29, 2014

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires districts to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a district does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the district receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Districts in Need of Assistance (DINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Schools or districts are cited if they a) don’t meet 95% participation rate for assessments, b) don’t meet student achievement goals, or c) don’t meet attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or graduation rate for high school.

I am writing to inform you that the Knoxville Community School District has been designated as a “District in Need of Assistance,” or DINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goal on their math tests for two consecutive years.

Please know that the DINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited district in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

### WHY KNOXVILLE DIDN’T MAKE AYP:

Districts don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above: a) 95% participation rate for assessments, b) student achievement goals, or c) 95% attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or 90% graduation rate for high school. Knoxville is listed because not enough students met the goals in the area of math.

At least one grade level or subgroup at the elementary, middle school and high school levels did not meet the state’s student achievement goals set for schools and districts in the area of math.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Knoxville: 67.5% State Goal: 100%  
4<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 87.8% State Goal:: 100%  
5<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 82.0% State Goal:: 100%  
6<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 79.4% State Goal:: 100%  
7<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 89.8% State Goal:: 100%  
8<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 83.7% State Goal:: 100%  
11<sup>th</sup> grade: Knoxville: 81.1% State Goal:: 100%

### HOW KNOXVILLE WILL IMPROVE:

Although we have many indicators that show Knoxville is offering a top-quality education, we know that continuous improvement is important to ensure all of our students are reaching their highest potential. Using data about the students and their achievement, our staff already has begun to identify areas for improvement. For example:

- The district adopted new math materials, which align to the Iowa Core Math Standards.
- During the 2014-2015 school year, teachers will have opportunities to increase their knowledge of instructional and assessment practices through district Professional Development.
- All content teachers in the district will re-evaluate Iowa Core Math Standards and their inclusion in mathematics instruction.
- Supplemental learning opportunities are offered at each level through summer school, after school tutoring and skill building and math lab study halls during the school day.

#### **HOW PARENTS CAN HELP:**

Parent support is essential to help your student reach his or her highest academic success, but parents may need ideas about the best way to be involved. A few suggestions include:

- Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every grade level. When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.
- Help your child with his or her homework. If you are unable to help, contact the school to request a tutor.
- Volunteer at the school. Every teacher needs volunteers to help in the classroom, or even with projects that can be done in your home. Other areas in the school, such as the office or cafeteria, also need volunteers.

**As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at the Knoxville Community School District.** The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. You'll note from our district report card at <http://www.iowaschoolprofiles.com/> that each school at Knoxville has a number of success stories. For instance:

- Our district average ACT scores in English, Math, Reading, Science and the Composite score were right at or above the state average.
- 122 high school students are enrolled in college credit courses.
- 84.38% of high school students graduate in four years and 93.59% of high school students graduate in five years.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students' scores increased on the Iowa Assessment taken last February in the area of reading.
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade average Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) scores in the area of math were above the statewide consortium average.
- 80% of last spring's graduating seniors intended to pursue post secondary enrollment after high school.
- 27% of certified staff have advanced degrees.

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at Knoxville. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and we will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to enhance student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,



Cassandra J. Murra  
Superintendent