



September 2008

Dear Kirby High School Community:

As you know, our school and district are dedicated to ensuring that our students succeed. While we have always held high expectations for our students, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has set new standards for students to meet.

This summer, our state released a report on the progress our schools are making toward achieving proficiency for 100 percent of our students under NCLB. The report identifies whether schools have made "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) - a simple yes or no grade based on a complex set of measurements. To make AYP, each district school must achieve targets: areas of test participation and performance measured across subgroups of students (grouped by such categories as race, language proficiency, and disability). In addition, schools must meet graduation rates and attendance targets. If just one subgroup misses just one target, an entire school does not make AYP. Our school did meet our target and, we are now considered a "High Priority School" School Improvement I Improving school by the state and district.

I am firmly committed to achieving our goal of success for every child, and I recognize that we must continually improve. We currently have the following programs in place to help improve scores: (Read 180, SES, Classroom Performance Systems, Plato, Inclusion, Gateway Tutoring, subject-specific tutoring and ACT Prep). Our school is filled with outstanding teachers, principals, and support staff, who regularly update their skills and participate in training to help them meet the needs of all students. I invite you to arrange a visit to any classroom in the school to see for yourself.

I urge you to examine the results and look closely at the progress our school is making. Most important, I encourage you to join me in addressing our challenges and applauding the great work students and staff are doing in classrooms throughout the district. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and involvement in our school.

Sincerely,

Reginald Williams
Principal

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