



Monticello Community Schools  
Shannon Elementary / Carpenter Elementary  
321 W. South St. / 615 N. Gill St., Monticello, IA 52310  
(319) 465-5425 / (319) 465-3551

**TO: Carpenter Elementary Parents**  
**FROM: Denny Folken, Elementary Principal**  
**SUBJECT: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress and School Choice Options**  
**DATE: October 27, 2014**

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires schools to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a school does not meet assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the school receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions.

I am writing to inform you that Carpenter Elementary has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goals on their math tests. As a result, our district is required by law to tell you that your student is entitled to school choice and may attend another elementary school within the district that has not been designated as a school in need of assistance, if possible, for the 2014-15 school year. However, within the Monticello Community School District, there is not another public school choice.

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

**WHY CARPENTER ELEMENTARY DIDN'T MAKE AYP:**

Schools don't make AYP when they don't achieve one of the following measures: 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. Carpenter Elementary met a) 95% participation rate and c) 95% attendance rate. However, we did not meet b) the state AYP math goal of **93.75%** proficiency.

**HOW CARPENTER ELEMENTARY WILL IMPROVE:**

Although we have many indicators that show Carpenter Elementary 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. A leadership team has created an eight-part plan to support math achievement. The plan includes items such as:

- Focus on mathematics and academic vocabulary
- Research-based interventions
- Ensuring alignment with common core standards, assessment, and instruction
- Grade level common assessments for math
- Collaboration and planning among teachers, AEA staff, and administration

Some student groups may require additional instructional interventions, pending a review of our current programs and services. In addition, the Iowa Department of Education and Monticello Community Schools district already have begun providing technical assistance to Carpenter Elementary as required by the NCLB law.

## **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 support.
- Help your child identify ways that math is used in everyday life.

**As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Carpenter Elementary.** The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at Carpenter Elementary. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and so will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to benefit student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance, and we welcome your suggestions.