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South Central Calhoun – SCC
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Jeff Kruse, Superintendent

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TO: SCC PARENTS
FROM: JEFF KRUSE, SUPT.
RE: NOTICE OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

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 South Central Calhoun 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 goals on their reading and mathematics 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 SOUTH CENTRAL CALHOUN DIDN’T MAKE AYP:

Districts don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above. South Central Calhoun is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

- 3-5 grade reading, 83.96% (98% was the state AYP goal)
- 6-8 grade reading, 77.47% (98% was the state AYP goal)
- 11 grade reading, 77.08% (98% was the state AYP goal)
- 3-5 grade math, 83.96 (98% was the state AYP goal)
- 6-8 grade math, 86.26% (98% was the state AYP goal)
- One or more subgroups did not meet their target

HOW SOUTH CENTRAL CALHOUN WILL IMPROVE:

Although we have many indicators that show South Central Calhoun 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, specific programs such as summer school, after school programs, Reboot Reading, cognitively guided instruction, and multi-tiered system of interventions have been implemented. In addition, professional development opportunities have been provided relative to Common Core and conceptually-based instruction.

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 South Central Calhoun. 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 scc.k12.ia.us that each school at South Central Calhoun has a number of success stories. For instance:

- 95% of K-3 students adequately progressing in reading (per FAST assessment)
- 86% of 6-8 grade students proficient in math
- average high school ACT composite of 23.3 compared to the State average of 22.2
- multiple dual-enrolled class options
- 97% high graduation rate

We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff at South Central Calhoun. 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 welcome yours suggestions.