



SOUTH  
BEND  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

*A great place for kids.*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In 2002, the US Government enacted the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, which required 100% of our students to pass a state mandated achievement test by 2014. Progress made toward this expectation is defined as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). As time passed, moving closer to the 2014 deadline, politicians realized that the expectation for 100% of all students passing the test was unrealistic. Therefore, the US Government allowed waivers so that states did not have to utilize the original NCLB language in defining AYP. Washington received these waivers since 2012.

However, Washington lost this waiver in 2014. US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, declined to give Washington a waiver because the Washington State Legislature refused to link student test scores to teacher evaluations. The impact of this decision is that all school districts in the State of Washington are now subject to the punitive and regressive requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind act (NCLB).

This section is to notify you that our district and schools did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by NCLB in 2015. For our schools to meet AYP this year, 100 percent of all students – regardless of special needs, English language mastery, or other life-impacting circumstances – must have met 100% proficiency as set by the Federal Government. Just as approximately 98% of all schools in the state, Chauncey Davis Elementary and South Bend Junior/Senior High School did not meet AYP because 100% of our students did not meet standard on the state test.. This puts Chauncey Davis in “Step 3 of Improvement”, South Bend Junior/Senior High School in “Step 2 of Improvement”, and the District in Step 1 of Improvement. You can review our schools’ AYP reports and compare them to other schools in the state at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us).

As educators, we are fully committed to each and every student reaching his or her full potential and are proud of the significant academic progress our students are making. While not 100% of our students have reached proficiency, our schools have made great progress. Because we did not make AYP and are “in Improvement,” there are mandates imposed on South Bend that include: changing curricula; provide increased professional development; revise the school improvement plan; encourage parents to get involved at school and allow feedback on the improvement plan. In addition, we will receive increased support from OSPI.

Parents continue to have the ability or choice to determine where they would like their students to attend school. The NCLB law also gives this opportunity if schools are not meeting AYP and in a step of improvement as defined by NCLB. However, there are no other schools in our district or area that meet this definition.

Students from low-income families who attend Chauncey Davis Elementary, and South Bend Jr. Sr. High, whose parents can not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). If the number of eligible students who apply for the SES program exceeds the financial resources available, the lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first.

If you are interested in SES, please review the list of providers willing to serve the district. The list identifies the subject area(s) and any special groups of students a provider is approved to serve. This information can also be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/SES.aspx>. Please contact your school principal between September 14-30, 2015 or between January 4-15, 2016 if you are interested in SES. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact the school office at 875-6041.

How can parents become involved?

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

We will keep you updated and informed about opportunities to discuss plans for our school. If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and school improvement status, please feel free to call and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,



Jon Tienhaara  
Superintendent  
South Bend Schools



Jason Nelson  
Principal  
Jr. Sr. High School



Kresta Byington  
Principal  
Chauncey Davis Elementary