



MFL MarMac Community School District

918 W. Main
McGregor, IA 52157
Denise Mueller, 4-8 Principal Phone (563) 873- 2250

DATE: September 2015

TO: MFL MarMac Parents

SUBJECT: Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress –
School Choice Options and Supplemental Educational Service Options

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 those 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. 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 MFL MarMac Intermediate School has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not meet student achievement goals for two consecutive years. The good news is that the Intermediate school is now in delay. The Middle School is also in delay for NCLB. As a result of being on the list for the second year in the Intermediate School, supplemental educational services are available to eligible students. A list of approved supplemental educational service providers is on the Iowa Department of Education website. Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. As a result, our district is required by law to offer students the opportunity to transfer to another school in our district. However, that is not an option at this time in our district.

WHY MFL MarMac Intermediate School DIDN’T MAKE AYP:

Schools don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the measures listed above. MFL MarMac Intermediate School is listed because not enough students met their goals in the following areas:

- Grade level, subject area, proficiency percentage, and state target

You’ll note that some of the improvement areas relate specifically to instruction, such as reading or math, and some relate to test participation. That is because we are required to test 95% of our students. If we fall below that mark, the federal law automatically cites us.

HOW MFL MarMac Intermediate School WILL IMPROVE:

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:

- Professional Learning Communities for our teachers
- Data driven instruction for our students
- Teacher peer reviews
- Administrator walk-through data recording
- Alignment with the Iowa Core
- Building wide reading time

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 the MFL MarMac Community School district already have begun providing technical assistance to the Intermediate School 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.

HOW TO REQUEST SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

Supplemental education services are available for students who qualify. Research from the federal government has shown that students who participated in supplemental educational services made significant gains in student achievement, and students who participated in multiple years did even better. A list of approved service providers will be provided to eligible students. If you have questions about whether your student is eligible, or about which service might best meet the needs of your child, contact Denise Mueller, Principal, at 563-873-2250. The district is not required to provide transportation to off-site supplemental educational service locations. Transportation to these sites will be the responsibility of the parent.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at MFL MarMac. 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 MFL MarMac. 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 your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Denise Mueller
4-8 Principal