

## No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Report Card

Dear Parent:

At Fletcher Public Schools, we are committed to setting high goals so that every student can succeed. Recently, you may have heard confusing reports about how our school is doing in meeting state and federal requirements. These standards are complicated, so we want to make sure that all parents better understand how they work. This letter will tell you:

- Oklahoma uses the Academic Performance Index (API) for school and district accountability: pieces of the API are used to measure Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is a federal requirement mandated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- How our school is doing in meeting those requirements;
- The challenges of AYP; and
- What steps we are taking to help all our students achieve.

### 1. STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

As you may know, all schools must now meet rigorous state and federal accountability requirements:

**State:** Our state's requirements are called Academic Performance Index (AYP). The seven indicators are divided into three components as follows:

- Oklahoma School Testing Program: Reading/language arts and math results from all state-mandated tests
- School Completion: Includes attendance, dropout, and graduation rates
- Academic Excellence: ACT scores and percent of students participating, Advanced Placement (AP) credit, and college remediation rates in reading and math.

**Federal:** The federal requirement called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), under NCLB, focus on four indicators of educational success, including:

- Math achievement
- Reading/language arts achievement
- Student participation in testing
- Student attendance rates or graduation rates, as applicable.

For each indicator, a specific statewide performance target was established. According to NCLB regulations, AYP is an "all-or-nothing" determination; in other words, school and districts must meet all targets for all measureable students groups in order to meet AYP. Regarding testing, eleven specific student groups are required to meet the statewide performance targets:

- All students
- Regular Students
- Major Racial/Ethnic Groups:
  - African American
  - American Indian
  - Hispanic
  - Asian/Pacific Islander
  - Caucasian
  - Other
- Economically Disadvantaged Students
- English language learners (ELL)
- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP)

## 2. HOW OUR SCHOOL DID THIS YEAR

*Our schools exceeded the state API benchmark in all students groups.*

## 3. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF AYP?

**Every group counts separately under AYP.** To make AYP, schools must make sure that every group of students—including students who have learning disabilities or who do not speak fluent English—meets the same AYP goals. That is a very tough challenge. If even one group does not meet the goals, our schools cannot make AYP.

**AYP gives all or nothing results.** Under NCLB, a school either makes AYP or it does not. There is no in between. It is as if the only two grades are “pass” or “fail.” A school can be very close to meeting the goals at all. Schools or districts may have a very high overall API score, but still need to make improvements in specific students groups (e.g., race, IEP, ELL, or economically disadvantaged students.)

## 4. HOW WE ARE HELPING OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE

We are working even harder than ever to help all our students achieve. Following are some of the initiatives we understand this year:

- Professional development
- New reading/math curriculum enrichment
- After-school tutoring
- Summer Classes

Please call me if you have more questions about how we can help your child achieve.

Yours truly,

*Kathryn Turner*  
*Superintendent*