

December 1, 2014

Southern Elementary Parents and Patrons of Southern Schools.

The federal education legislation, No Child Left Behind(NCLB), mandates that all student must be proficient and participate in reading and math academic standards by 2014. Schools are expected to make Adequate Yearly Progress(AYP) toward those goals. The identification could be for not meeting the participation or the proficiency standards in the new NeSA Reading or Math Test. The goal for 12-13 was to have 100% of all students in grades 3 – 6 proficient on the reading standards. The state math goal was 100% of all students in grades 3 – 6 proficient on the math standards. The state also requires a 100% participation rate on all state assessments. During the 13-14 school year Southern Elementary students did not meet the state reading goal and math goal for the free and reduced group. This is a notice that the school is currently implementing the restructuring plan that is required by the “In Need of Improvement” Year 5 of the NCLB designation for the Southern Elementary School. Currently, Southern Public Schools is diligently working to correct this issue and help students be better prepared for the state testing and still continue to work at becoming lifelong learners.

Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state is available on the State of the Schools Report on the Nebraska Department of Education website at this URL: <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/>.

As stated before reasons for students not achieving the standards assigned by the State of Nebraska would include not meeting participation requirements or students not meeting the required proficiency scores established by the State. During the past year the school has worked on continued alignment with the curriculum, professional development, and other activities to prepare for students and staff. If you have concerns we are open to your input into these issues and would like your input into helping the students of Southern Public Schools to continue the excellence that we have expected. As parents, you are encouraged to take an active role in your child’s education. Helping with homework, listening to you child read, and looking at the contents of your child’s book bag each day are supportive actions that you can take. Maintaining good communications with your child’s teachers is another way of helping your child achieve success at school.

The NCLB Act requires each school identified Title I school improvement to offer public school choice to all students who attend the identified school. Our district does not have another school within the district that offers the same grade levels, therefore our students do not qualify for public school choice because of the identification. We are diligently working to make appropriate changes needed to ensure that students at Southern Elementary are getting a good well rounded education including the things necessary to improve on the required state assessments.

Items that we have included to better serve our students include the addition of the Lexia reading program, Accelerated Math program, we have extended the school day and year, we also have teachers looking at data to help with decisions on curriculum, we continue to review curriculum and update, and this year we are in the process of School Improvement year with the State of Nebraska to again look at data to develop new goals to look at improving our school. If you are interested in signing up for the SES it is for families of elementary students eligible (free and reduced lunch); we will be having the signup coming during the this semester, those dates will be December 8th through the 19th. The next signup date will be January 6, 2015 through January 16, 2015. SES stands for Supplemental Education Services, which are outside services to provide additional tutoring to students in this group who apply for these services. There is a link that will

be provided on the website for the registration for these services. The link also will provide descriptions of the provider services for your use. Eligible students will be given priority for services.

This is also a notice that the school must start a plan for restructuring. During this coming years school improvement process the school will be working on a plan to work through this. You will have an opportunity to participate in this process and also to comment on the plan. We will continue to work in consulting with ESU 5 and the State of Nebraska Department of Education.

We continue to enjoy another great year and we will communicate with you as testing time nears. We will need your support to make sure that our students are prepared for this most important time.

Thank you,

Mr. Jerry Rempe
Elementary Principal