

November 28, 2011

Dear Parent:

Blaine Elementary School is dedicated to providing the best education possible for your child. The goal of the federal education law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), is to ensure that all students receive a quality education in order to be successful in a high-performing academic environment. Each year under NCLB, Kentucky is required to assess progress of all schools to determine if each has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) - which means the school has met certain academic testing standards. If the school has not met AYP for two (2) consecutive years, it is considered in need of improvement.

Based on NCLB data, Blaine Elementary has not made AYP for three (3) years and is in need of improvement. (See the No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress Report on page 3.) Although BES did not make AYP, we did improve from meeting 3 out of 10 targets in 2009-2010 to meeting 7 out of 10 targets for the current school year.

Blaine Elementary is working to improve student achievement by:

- Providing daily interventions to students in the areas of math and reading by utilizing the BES Intervention team and classroom teachers.
- Maintaining an ongoing focus on data analysis and remediation of skills.
- Utilizing district resource teachers to enhance classroom instructional practices.
- Providing job-embedded professional development to staff.
- Implementing district wide common assessments.
- Implementing Pearson Math Series that is aligned with new Common Core Standards.

The district is assisting Blaine Elementary by providing technical assistance in analyzing both student work and data from the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT), identifying and implementing specific professional development including leadership coaching and mentoring/coaching teachers in the effective use of research-based instructional strategies, providing support for the school leadership team and for teachers in their Professional Learning Communities, providing assistance with school management, analyzing and revising the school budget and expenditures, and in revising the school improvement plan.

Likewise, families are invited to become active partners in addressing the academic issues by volunteering, participating in PTO, SBDM Council meetings, and enjoying frequent communications with your child's teacher.

Although Blaine Elementary is committed to improving, families have two options to consider. The first option is to transfer their child/children to a school that is not in improvement. This transfer option is available at no cost. The following schools have met AYP and are available as transfer options:

- Louisa West Elementary (K-1)
- Louisa East Elementary (2-5)
- Fallsburg Elementary (K-8)

When Blaine Elementary NCLB status improves and exits the improvement status, students will be allowed to remain in the "transfer" school of choice until the highest grade in that school has been completed; however, the district will no longer be responsible for transportation.

The second option is available to families whose child is eligible for tutoring services based on identified needs of improvement. Parents have the option of selecting tutoring services from a provider in our area. This option is available at no cost as long as the student qualifies for these services.

A meeting to discuss the school improvement issues, transfer options, tutoring services, and supplemental services is scheduled on **Thursday, December 1, at 5:00 p.m.**, in the Blaine Elementary School library.

If you would like to transfer your child/children, please complete the attached *Request to Transfer School Choice Application* and return to Shawn Jennings, Principal, at Blaine Elementary or Mike Armstrong, Superintendent, at the Lawrence County Board of Education by 4:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 6, 2011**. Failure to meet this deadline will result in loss of the option to transfer. Please duplicate the form as needed; one for each child. District/school personnel will respond to your request within five (5) days of receipt. You will be notified of the school assignment and have the opportunity to continue with the request or decline.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Shawn Jennings 606-652-3624; Mike Armstrong 606-638-9671; or Edris Humphrey 606-638-9671. Thank you for your involvement in your child's education. We look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Mike Armstrong, Superintendent  
Lawrence County Schools

Cc: Shawn Jennings, Principal  
Edris Humphrey, Title I Coordinator