



August 23, 2012

Dear Parents of Students in Title I Schools:

In May 2012, North Carolina was granted flexibility waivers from many of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) provisions. This flexibility, granted by the U.S. Department of Education, makes significant changes to North Carolina's implementation of Elementary and Secondary Education Act's requirements, especially in the areas of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), parent notifications, public school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These waivers will allow North Carolina's public school system to move forward with strengthened College- and Career-Ready expectations for all students, new ways to hold Title I schools accountable for students' academic proficiency, and new initiatives to support effective instruction and leadership.

Many of the former strict federal requirements regarding AYP and sanctions for schools that do not make AYP are no longer required statewide and are now local school district decisions. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, the Wake County Public School System is no longer required to identify Title I schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring. In place of the "all or nothing" measure of AYP, the state has established Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for all student subgroups that more fairly judge schools based on student and school progress. These targets require subgroups of students that are further behind to improve at a faster rate to close gaps in performance. Ultimately the state will be able to provide parents with a more complete picture of where a school or district is in meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The waivers remove the requirements that districts use federal Title I funds to offer public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES). The new WCPSS student assignment plan gives parents elementary school choices, albeit they must now make those decisions prior to knowing the results of their school's test scores. Previously, SES after school tutoring was available in some of our schools to students who qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL). Those who did not qualify for FRL were not eligible for SES tutoring. Because of the approved waivers, this restriction will no longer be in place. If a school is offering tutoring outside the school day, all students in that school will be eligible for that assistance.

Each Title I funded elementary school has done the following to prepare for the 2012-13 school year:

- Analyzed data and written a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA)
- Written an Intervention Plan. Its purpose is to provide structure and guidance so that teachers can foster accelerated student learning for those who are below grade level expectations. Teachers will monitor student progress and make instructional adjustments as needed.
- Designed plans for High Quality Professional Development for faculty and staff, aligned with the needs determined in its CNA
- Focused on maintaining and enhancing its safe and orderly school environment
- Planned for purposeful family and community engagement throughout the year

If you have questions, please contact your school's principal or me. I can be reached at 919.431.7681 or mrhoads@wcpss.net. We look forward to partnering with you in the upcoming year to ensure the academic success of all our students.

Thanks for making the time to read all of this information.

Best regards,

Melanie Rhoads
Director