

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The federal law called the *No Child Left Behind Act* requires that schools make progress every year in improving student achievement. This progress is referred to as “adequate yearly progress” or “AYP.” The state of Alaska has established student achievement targets to determine whether schools have made adequate progress. The school that your child is scheduled to attend in 2004-2005 has not made adequate yearly progress by those state measures for two years in a row. Therefore, the school has been designated in “School Improvement Status.” Because the school receives Title I funding from the federal government, you have some special rights that are explained in this letter.

First of all, what is “Adequate Yearly Progress”?

Adequate Yearly Progress (or AYP) is the percent improvement each school must achieve in its test scores from year to year. Also, each subgroup of students (grouped by race, language proficiency, disability, etc.) must also meet the targeted level of proficiency on the test.

What can cause a school not to meet AYP?

If the school as a whole, or if even one subgroup of students, doesn't meet the target percent of proficiency on state tests, then the entire school does not meet AYP. Also, if fewer than 95% of students take the tests, or if the daily attendance rate for the year is below 85%, the school does not meet AYP.

What are my options now that my child's school is in school improvement status?

You have the option of having your student continue at his or her neighborhood school. The school is working hard in partnership with families to improve academic performance.

You have the right to request a transfer to one of two selected schools in the Anchorage School District that has not been identified for “School Improvement.” Priority for transfer will be given to the lowest-achieving low-income students.

How would my student get to a new school?

The school district will provide transportation to the selected school. Also, you should be aware that the district's requirement to provide transportation for a student to another school stops when the student's neighborhood school meets its student achievement targets for two consecutive years or when the family moves from the neighborhood school attendance area. Also, it will be the parents' responsibility to get students to the bus stop on time.

What other factors should I consider in making the best choice for my child?

Please consider your enrollment options carefully. All of our schools have been working hard to improve student achievement, and your child's neighborhood school is no exception. In fact, as a Title I school, your child's school receives additional funding allowing for additional staff and programs. While the district maintains strong programs in all its schools, we are making special efforts to improve schools that have not met the state's target for the year. The school to which you choose to transfer your child may not have the additional support programs in place.

If I would like to apply for a transfer for my child, how do I go about it?

School Improvement Choice applications and specific information about the schools that your child may be eligible to attend are available at your child's current school, the district's administration building information desk, or on the district's website at www.asdk12.org. In order for your child to be eligible for transfer for the 2004-2005 school year, completed applications must be received in the office of your neighborhood school by August 20th. Priority will be given to the lowest-achieving, low-income students.

If you choose to complete a School Improvement Choice application, district staff will notify you regarding the outcome of that application.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. If you have questions about this letter, please call your neighborhood school's principal.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent