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August 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The administration and staff of your elementary School have worked diligently to prepare students to meet the high academic standards established by the state of Washington and Kennewick School District. Most of the indicators of student academic progress show that students at your child's school are making good progress toward achieving the state goals. In fact, your school's students typically make outstanding growth from fall to spring on district MAP (Measure of Academic Proficiency) testing in the areas of reading and math.

The Kennewick School District uses several different tests to assess student progress. The most significant of these tests is the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) which is administrated at grades 3, 4, and 5. This test is used to measure whether students are making adequate yearly progress as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, more commonly known as the No Child Left Behind law. The system of determining adequate yearly progress includes 37 different categories. If a school does not make adequate progress in even one of the 37 categories, the school does not make "adequate yearly progress". Your student's school made adequate yearly progress in the majority categories, but did not make adequate yearly progress in at least on area. If a school does not make adequate yearly progress in the same category two years in a row, the district is required to notify parents that the school has been officially designated by the state as being in need of improvement.

At the end of both the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year, the students at your elementary did not make adequate yearly progress. Under the No Child Left Behind Act a school must make adequately yearly progress two years in a row to have demonstrated that the school has sufficiently improved. Therefore, for this school year (2009-2010) your child's school will be designated as in need of improvement. The overall goal of the district is for all of Kennewick schools to improve and become better each year. All schools, including your school have a school improvement plan that they are currently implementing.

This is formal notice that Amistad, Eastgate, Edison and Westgate is designated as schools in need of improvement. As parents and guardians you have the right to request a transfer for your child to another elementary school not in improvement. If you would like to make such a request or discuss this issue, please contact your elementary no later than August 20, 2010, at 222-5400. Please note that we cannot guarantee a specific school until after a review of all parent requests. Transportation will be provided by the Kennewick School District at no cost. If you wish for your child to continue at your current School, no further action is needed.

The administration and staff at your Elementary School will continue to provide quality education to all students. The school has an improvement plan in place and is continually refining that plan to better meet the educational needs of all students, especially in the areas of strengthening relationships between staff and students and an emphasis on focused curriculum and teacher instruction. We are proud of the work of the staff and students at all of our elementary schools. Again, most of the indicators of academic progress at all of our schools show continual improvement.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact your elementary school.

Sincerely,

Dave Bond
Superintendent