

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. JOSEPH

925 Felix Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501
(816) 671-4000

July 28, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The goal of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 is to ensure that all children in this country receive a quality education. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess all schools to determine if each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards set by the state. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered “in need of improvement.”

Based on the results of this year’s academic testing in communication arts and math, your child’s school, Hall Elementary, did not make sufficient gains in communication arts or mathematics to achieve AYP. However, NCLB requires schools to offer school choice until they have met AYP for two consecutive years. As a result, Hall students have the option of school choice as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The following chart gives you a comparison of the performance levels of all SJSD elementary schools:

School	Communications Arts	Mathematics
	% Proficient & Advanced With Growth	% Proficient & Advanced With Growth
COLEMAN ELEMENTARY	71.1%	78.2%
EDISON ELEMENTARY	52.5%	63.6%
ELLISON ELEMENTARY	79.3%	77.2%
FIELD ELEMENTARY	77.9%	82.4%
HALL ELEMENTARY	54.7%	67.6%
HOSEA ELEMENTARY	46.2%	58.4%
HUMBOLDT ELEMENTARY	49.1%	66.5%
HYDE ELEMENTARY	58.5%	62.3%
LAKE ELEMENTARY	52.3%	61.7%
LINDBERGH ELEMENTARY	47.5%	63.9%
MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY	50.5%	58.1%
NOYES ELEMENTARY	65.2%	65.9%
PARKWAY ELEMENTARY	60.8%	67.5%
PERSHING ELEMENTARY	66.5%	74.1%
PICKETT ELEMENTARY	60.9%	64.3%
SKAITH ELEMENTARY	55.5%	60.6%
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL DIST.	56.8%	57.6%
STATE	62.0%	61.7%

Your child is eligible for public school choice options under the NCLB Act. There are three options available for your child:

1. Remain at your current school.
2. Transfer to **Pickett Elementary**, the designated eligible school within your geographic zone. The district will provide transportation to this designated school.
3. Transfer to another eligible school via own transportation, as long as capacity within the selected school exists. The eligible schools are Coleman, Ellison, Field, and Noyes.

In the event that school capacity cannot accommodate the number of requests received, you will be notified of an alternative school choice placement.

If you would like to exercise your NCLB choice option, please complete the Transfer Request Form included with this letter, and return it to Hall Elementary no later than **August 11, 2011**. After submitting your form, you will be notified of your official placement by a phone call from the St. Joseph School District administrative office followed by a letter of confirmation.

Under the NCLB transfer, the District will provide transportation for your child, to your zone school, as long as there is funding available, and if you live outside the one mile boundary from the school you are requesting. If the demands for transfers exceed available funding, the priority to provide transportation will be for low-achieving, low-income students. Temporary bus stop information is available at your school. Permanent bus stops will be established after all school choice assignments are confirmed. Permanent route information will be sent home with your student by the end of the first week of school.

All students who request a transfer will be granted one. Please remember that if you do not complete and return the transfer application by August 11, 2011, your child will remain at his/her resident school. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call your school principal, or you may contact Mrs. Deb Cook, Coordinator of Federal Programs at 671-4000. Additional information is available at www.sjsd.k12.mo.us.

Because of the school improvement designation, the school must develop a plan for improvement. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan. We encourage you to become involved with your child's school to support school improvement.

- Join PTA
- Be involved by communicating with your child's teacher
- Help your child with their homework and check backpacks daily

Sincerely,



Heather Gladhart
Hall Elementary Principal



Cheri Patterson
Associate Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment