

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. JOSEPH

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

August 1, 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, 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, Pershing Elementary, did not make sufficient gains in communication arts or mathematics to achieve AYP. Federal guidelines prohibit the District from transporting students to a school that did not make AYP. As a result, students who previously chose Pershing as their school of choice will no longer be transported from their home school district.

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

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

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

1. Remain at your school of choice without district transportation.
2. Return to your home school.
3. Transfer to a zone school – Field or Noyes with transportation provided.
4. Transfer to another eligible school via own transportation, as long as capacity within the selected school exists. The eligible schools are Coleman, Ellison, and Pickett.

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 Pershing 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.

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 Pershing Elementary with you providing the transportation. 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](http://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,



Cheri Patterson  
Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment