



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. JOSEPH
925 Felix Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501**

**Melody A. Smith, EdD
Superintendent of Schools**

**phone: 816-671-4000
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August 6, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Each year I report to you regarding the District’s status under the under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001. As you know each school is required to assess all students in grades 3 through 8 and courses in high school. Now, as you may know, the MAP (Missouri’s state assessment) is considered one of the toughest, most rigorous tests in the country. You may not know that the MAP tests are required by the state and as part of the federal “No Child Left Behind” law.

Just as each District must assess all students in grades 3-8 and courses in high school, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district’s attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered “in need of improvement.”

“No Child Left Behind” requires that our students attain certain scoring levels on the MAP test. By 2014, for example, all students must score at the highest levels (proficient and advanced) of the test or school districts will face punitive actions by the government. (To put that in perspective, think back to your days in school and consider the reasonableness of requiring each and every student in your class to be proficient in every course.)

Based on the results of this year’s academic testing in communication arts and math and the district’s attendance rate and graduation rate, the St. Joseph School District did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reason:

As a district, the SJSD did not meet the NCLB proficiency target of 67.4% in communication arts, and the SJSD did not meet the NCLB proficiency target of 63.3% in mathematics.

Content	NCLB Proficiency Target	State Average	SJSD Average
Communication Arts	67.4%	61.7% w/growth	56.2% w/growth
Mathematics	63.3%	60.8% w/growth	57.4% w/growth

Note: The NCLB proficiency target increased from 59.2% (2009) to 67.4% (2010) in CA and from 54.1% (2009) to 63.3% (2010) in MA.

The St. Joseph School District – Educating each child for success



Because this is the fourth year of this designation, the district is considered to be in Level 3 of District Improvement, Corrective Action Continuing. We will evaluate and update the plan for improvement that has been developed. One important component of this plan is parent involvement in the implementation of the plan. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will review the district's progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of the plan and may impose additional sanctions. Information about *No Child Left Behind* and what parents can do to improve student achievement can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

You can be our partner in this improvement effort by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduating from school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies at home.

As we have done each day of each year, we will strive to continuously improve academic programming and provide a safe environment for teaching and learning throughout the school district. We appreciate the opportunity to serve with you in the education of your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody A. Smith".

Melody A. Smith, EdD
Superintendent of Schools