



## Lincoln Public Schools

Belmont Elementary School • 3425 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street • Lincoln NE 68521 • (402) 436-1124 • (Fax) 458-3224

January 12, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Belmont Elementary School students,

I am writing to inform you that **Belmont Elementary School** has been identified by the Nebraska Department of Education as being in Title I School Improvement under the rules of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This classification means that the school has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2 consecutive years. The school must develop or revise a 2-year school improvement plan in consultation with parents, school/district staff, and outside experts for approval by the district.

In January of 2002 President Bush signed an education law called No Child Left Behind. The long-range goal of No Child Left Behind Act is that every child should be proficient in core areas of study according to state and local standards. In Nebraska, state and local standards are measured by student performance on multiple, locally developed assessments designed to measure student progress in reading, math and writing. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is required by the U. S. Department of Education for all districts and schools that receive federal funds. AYP refers to a minimum percentage of students who must meet or exceed academic proficiency standards established by the state. These standards must be met by all students and for each subgroup in reading/language arts and math. The goal is that all students will meet or exceed these state standards by the school year 2013-2014.

Belmont Elementary School has not met the state target goal in math for two consecutive years, which is why Belmont has been identified as in need of improvement. Math performance for this identification is determined by the percent of students in grades 3-5 in the school years 2006-2007 through 2007-2008 who met the proficiency standard on the math assessment. During these years, the group of all students met that standard, however at least one sub-group of students did not meet Nebraska's target percentage of 83%. This information was made public by the Nebraska Department of Education on December 22, 2008.

There are 14 Title 1 designated schools in Lincoln Public Schools. Of these schools, 9 met the AYP standards and 5 did not meet the standards. Of the Non-Title 1 elementary schools 18 met the AYP standards and 4 did not meet the standards.

Belmont's short-term goal is for our third through fifth grade students to meet the state target this year and our long-term goal is to have all of our students proficient in math. We are proud to report that Belmont has met the state target goal in reading and writing. School staff are developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that includes actively involving and communicating with parents through this process, identifying and addressing the specific needs of students, and expanding the knowledge base and skills of our teachers. The district is providing assistance to our school through staff training and planning, opportunities to improve our instructional strategies and informing the public and parents about how we are addressing the issues of AYP.

The law provides the option for parents who live in the attendance area to choose another school within Lincoln Public Schools for your child (ren) to attend. Please let me know by **January 30, 2009** if you would like to have the option to enroll your child (ren) in another school for the second semester of the 2008-09 school year. The district will support transportation to the new school for eligible students. Transportation may be provided to some of the schools in the district from Belmont to the school of choice. Please see the enclosed list of schools available for choice with transportation and schools available without transportation. Only those schools that have met AYP are eligible for the parental choice option.

There will be a parent meeting on **January 22** at 6:00 p.m. to learn more about this option and to answer any questions that you may have. Information will also be provided at each grade level Curriculum Night in January.

The teachers of Belmont have focused on reading and math for the past four years and have made program improvements including supplemental reading and math support. We invite you to help in planning the next steps of our program for next year and the future. If you are interested in helping in this effort please call me at **436-1124**. Even if you cannot join us in our planning, you can help your child by reading with your son or daughter and encouraging them to always do their best in school. If you have any questions, please contact me at **436-1124**.

Sincerely,

Deb Dabbert  
Principal

Belmont Elementary School  
School Choice Options  
2008-2009

◆ Schools that are open for choice to Belmont students **without transportation:**

- Beattie Elementary
- Brownell Elementary
- Cavett Elementary
- Clinton Elementary\*
- Eastridge Elementary
- Elliott Elementary\*
- Hartley Elementary\*
- Hill Elementary
- Humann Elementary
- Huntington Elementary
- Kahoa Elementary
- Maxey Elementary
- McPhee Elementary
- Morley Elementary
- Norwood Park Elementary
- Pershing Elementary
- Prescott Elementary
- Pyrtle Elementary
- Randolph Elementary
- Riley Elementary
- Rousseau Elementary
- Sheridan Elementary
- Zeman Elementary\*

\*Schools with ELL Services.

• Schools that are open for choice to Belmont students **with transportation:**

- Arnold Elementary\*
- Campbell Elementary School
- Fredstrom Elementary School
- Lakeview Elementary School

\*ELL Services provided

No Child Left Behind  
Adequate Yearly Progress  
Fact Sheet for Nebraska

◆ Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Goals set by the state of Nebraska:

- Reading
  - 2005-2006: 72% Proficient
  - 2006-2007: 72% Proficient
  - 2007-2008: 81% Proficient
- Math
  - 2005-2006: 74% Proficient
  - 2006-2007: 74% Proficient
  - 2007-2008: 83% Proficient

◆ ***Belmont Performance***

- Reading
  - 2006-2007:
    - ◆ Met: All students, White students, Black students, Hispanic students and Asian students, Students eligible for free/reduced lunch, and Students with disabilities
    - ◆ Not met: None
  - 2007-2008:
    - ◆ Met: All students, White students, Black students, Hispanic students and Asian students, and Students eligible for free/reduced lunch
    - ◆ Not met: Students with disabilities
- Math
  - 2006-2007:
    - ◆ Met: All students, White students, Black students, Hispanic students, Students eligible for free/reduced lunch, and Asian students
    - ◆ Not met: Students with disabilities
  - 2007-2008:
    - ◆ Met: All students, White students, Black students, Hispanic students, Students eligible for free/reduced lunch, and Asian students
    - ◆ Not met: Students with disabilities