

June 1, 2011

Dear Conway School District Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Conway School District has been identified as a “District in Need of Improvement” in the areas of Reading (**year 2**) and Mathematics (**year 2**). Although most of our schools met the target index in the areas of math and reading as a whole school and in the majority of subgroups, some did not meet the index in all subgroups (ie. Students with educational disabilities) thus identifying the whole school as a school in need of improvement.

State and federal school district accountability laws¹ require the New Hampshire Department of Education to identify for improvement districts not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years in the same content area in each level existing within the district (elementary/middle and/or high school).

AYP is a measure that all states use to determine if schools and districts are meeting the high expectations for student performance set forth in state and federal accountability law. Areas in which AYP are calculated include the rate of student participation in the annual state assessment, the extent to which students in general and students in specific groups are meeting the state performance targets for reading and mathematics, and the district’s attendance and graduation rates.

Based on a review of the district’s performance data in these areas for the 2011 school year, our district was identified for improvement. The districts AYP reports are available on the New Hampshire Department of Education website at www.ed.state.nh.us

District		Elementary	Middle
AYP Determination	Met Participation Goal	Yes	Yes
	Met Mathematics Goal	No	No
	Met Reading Goal	No	No
	Met Attendance Goal	Yes	Yes
	Met Graduation rate	Yes	Yes
	Made AYP	No	No

¹ Section 6316© of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110) and New Hampshire RSA 193-H

The district's AYP report measures student performance for all students in the grades tested as a group, as well as sub groups of students (i.e. racial and ethnic groups, English language learners, students with educational disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students). If even one of those groups does not meet the goal, or performance target, than the district will not have met AYP. (NOTE: only groups larger than 11 are counted.)

Presently the Conway School District has many initiatives underway to assist students with disabilities, as well as all other students. Response to Intervention is being implemented to provide students with specific interventions at the earliest possible time to enable students to receive individualized assistance. Consultants have been hired in an ongoing manner to provide professional development opportunities for staff in the areas of Math and Literacy. The focused professional development allows teachers to better individualize instruction to meet the needs of all students. Special Education staffing has also been re-administered to ensure continuity of delivered services.

As a District identified for improvement, our District must develop an Improvement Plan in consultation with school staff and parents. As a parent you are also a critical partner in school and district improvement. All of us working together will ensure the development of a successful improvement plan and improve the quality of the education we provide for all of our students. If you are interested in helping in the improvement process, please call the SAU #9 office at 447-8368, send an email to Christine Thompson at c_thompson@sau9.org , or stop by the SAU #9 office.

As we design and implement our improvement strategies, we will collaborate with the New Hampshire Department of Education representatives. We anticipate that our detailed plan for improvement will be available at the SAU office by September 2011. Please contact us if you would like to have a copy mailed to you. We are proud of our ongoing partnerships within our community to improve student achievement. Together, we will work to provide opportunities for success for each student in our district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carl J. Nelson

SAU #9 Superintendent