

School Administrative Unit #61
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Dear SAU 61 Community:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Farmington School District has been identified as a district in need of improvement in the area of math (year two). State and federal school 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 is 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, attendance rate, and graduation rate. The state's AYP report identifies whether schools have achieved this status with a simple yes or no grade based on a very complex set of measurements.

Based on a review of the district's performance data in these areas for the 2007-8, our district was identified for improvement. The district's current AYP status is improving; however, all three schools are currently identified in math, and the changes in the math curriculum this past year district-wide are designed to target this area. Please bear in mind that the changes in the math curriculum had been in place only about one month when testing took place in the fall. The high school has made AYP in reading for the 2007-8 school year, as has Valley View. The district's AYP reports are available on the New Hampshire Department of Education website at www.ed.state.nh.us

		Elementary /Middle	High School
District AYP Determination	Met Participation Goal	Y/Y	Y
	Met Mathematics Goal	N/N	N
	Met Reading Goal	Y/N	Y
	Met Attendance Rate	Y/Y	Y
	Met Graduation Rate	Y/Y	Y
	Made AYP IN READING	N/N	Y
	Made AYP IN MATH	N/N	N

¹ Section 6316 (c) 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 subgroups of students (i.e., racial and ethnic groups, English language learners, students with educational disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students). If even one of these groups does not meet their goal, or performance target, then the district will not have made AYP. (NOTE: Only groups of 11 or more students are counted.)

As a District identified for improvement, our District has developed an Improvement Plan in consultation with school staff and parents.

I am firmly committed to achieving our goals of success for every child, and I recognize that we must continually improve. As a parent, you are a critical partner in school and district improvement. Currently, the District is involved in a number of initiatives to improve student achievement: Reading First, Reading Across the Content Areas, Supplemental Education Services, Title I, NWEA MAP testing, reading specialists in all three schools, a new integrated research and standards-based math program, scheduled interventions periods, after school programs, and ongoing curriculum revision and alignment. Information is available by contacting the Superintendent/SAU office. Additionally, our schools are filled with dedicated, highly-qualified individuals who regularly update their teaching skills. They are utilizing researched best practices and strategies to improve our students' math and reading skills, especially in the areas of memory and comprehension.

I encourage you to join me in addressing our challenges and applauding the great work that students and staff are doing throughout the district. I welcome your comments, suggestions and involvement in our schools.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle A. Langa

Michelle A. Langa
Superintendent of Schools, SAU #61