

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), parents or guardians have the right to certain information. Upon written request to the building principal, the district is required to provide to you, in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- What baccalaureate degree major the teacher has and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification.

In addition to the information that parents may request, districts must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the achievement level of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part; and
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Notification to Parents of District and School Improvement Status **NCLB –No Child Left Behind**

No Child Left Behind refers to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, a federal law passed under the George W. Bush administration. NCLB represents legislation that attempts to accomplish standards-based education reform.

The law reauthorized federal programs meant to hold primary and secondary schools measurably accountable to higher standards. It also provided more opportunities to parents for school choice and placed a greater emphasis on reading in schools. NCLB is written so that it requires 100% of students (including special education students and those from disadvantaged background) within a school to reach the same set of state standards in math and reading by the year 2014.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must make parents aware of the No Child Left Behind requirements and the status of the district. It is important not just to notify parents of the district's NCLB status, but make sure that they understand what the designation means and how their district's performance compares to the achievement standards set by the state.

Federal regulations require that each year, throughout the school improvement process, school districts notify parents directly of the district's and building's improvement status and what that means for parents and students.

A district should consider which method of direct communication will most effectively reach parents of eligible students and, in doing so, also take into account such factors as family mobility, student grade level, and access to the Internet. Ideally, a district may choose to notify parents through multiple direct means, so as to further increase the likelihood of reaching parents.

Generally, elementary schools have better success with their parents receiving school information that is sent home in student backpacks. Often parents of middle school and high school students do not receive information that is sent home with them. A district must be able to demonstrate that it has met the parent notification requirement; therefore, if sending through such means as backpack or email, a signed response from parents acknowledging that they have received the notice could be required.

Parents wanting more information regarding NCLB – No Child Left Behind should contact the Willard R-2 School District at 417-742-2584 or contact a building Principal in your attendance area.