

Yutan Public Schools

Where a Quality Education Leads to a Quality Life

Mr. Stan Hendricks, Superintendent
Mr. Tim McNamara, Jr/Sr High Principal
Mr. Trevor Hoegh, Elementary Principal
1200-2nd Street, Yutan, Nebraska 68073

October 13, 2015

Dear Parent/Patron,

The federal education legislation, No Child Left Behind, mandates that all students must be proficient on reading and math academic standards by 2014. Schools are expected to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward that goal. The NCLB goal for last year was to have 100% of all students in grades 3-8, & 11, be proficient on the reading and math standards. Additional information about how our school compared to other schools in the state will be available on the State of the Schools Report which will be available for public viewing on October 16, 2015.

AYP sets a standard for accountability which measures states, schools, and districts by the results of state level tests in two main content areas – math and reading. AYP uses this assessment data to measure the academic performance of all students, including subgroups, such as Special Education, Low Income, English Language Learners, etc. The goal of NCLB is that ALL students reach 100% proficiency in reading and math. “Because of this unrealistic goal,” according to Nebraska Commissioner of Education Matthew Blomstedt, “many Nebraska schools will be mislabeled as Not Met or In Need of Improvement” in relationship to AYP. “Common sense,” Blomstedt adds, “should tell us all that one child, in one grade in one subject area scoring just below a “proficiency cut score” should not brand an entire school community as failing. Yet, that is what has happened under NCLB.”

Yutan Elementary is in year 1 of Title I School Improvement Status. The following table illustrates our students’ overall performance over the past two years.

	Reading		Math	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Grades 3-6	83%	93%	89%	92%
Grades 7-8	89%	89%	78%	75%
Grade 11	71%	77%	86%	77%

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires each school identified for Title I School Improvement to offer Public School Choice to all students who attend the identified school. Our students do not have another choice of schools within our district and as a result our students do not qualify for Public School Choice.

So, how does this affect Yutan Public Schools? Our educators are committed to each and every student reaching his/her full potential. And we are proud of the academic progress our students are making. While 100% of Yutan students have not been identified by state standards as proficient, it's fair to say our students, staff, and schools are not failing. In fact, our school continues to demonstrate outstanding levels of achievement and performs well above the state averages in all academic areas.

Yutan Public Schools is committed to continuous improvement. Our students are growing due to the collaborative efforts of our students, teachers, parents, and community. We understand that testing is an important part of teaching and learning, but we also understand that basing a student's achievement on a single assessment does not tell the entire story of that student's learning progression.

We encourage you, as parents, to look at your own child's individual growth and learning. Data from your child's 2015 spring tests will be distributed at Parent-Teacher Conferences in October. Look also at daily work and other assessment results Yutan provides you regarding growth of your student. Continue to work with your student's teacher to ensure that your student is being challenged and supported.

Sincerely,

Stan Hendricks,
Superintendent

Tim McNamara,
Jr/Sr High Principal

Trevor Hoegh,
Elementary Principal