



Mount Union Area School District

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Mount Union, PA 17066



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Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress, Public School Choice Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

August 3, 2009

Dear Mount Union Kistler Elementary Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that Mount Union Kistler Elementary did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the second year in a row, based on **2008-2009** Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results.

Mount Union Kistler Elementary PSSA results indicate the following groups of students did not meet the state's academic achievement targets:

- 2007-2008 Economically disadvantaged students at Mount Union Kistler Elementary did not meet the state's academic achievement targets in Reading
- 2008-2009 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) students at Mount Union Kistler Elementary did not meet the state's academic achievement targets in Reading

As a result of an in depth needs assessment, Mount Union Kistler Elementary has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Target all economically disadvantaged students in grades 4-6 who performed at the "below basic" or "basic" proficiency level with a 90-minute intensive reading intervention program called Read 180
- Integrate the use of a mobile lab of computers to supplement our core curriculum materials with instructional reading software (Read 180, System 44, Lexia and Study Island) that will help us differentiate our instruction to meet the needs of all students
- Integrate the use of SMART boards in every grade 3-6 classroom to help teachers create lessons that will engage students of all ages and learning styles
- Inclusion of special needs students into the regular education classrooms with support to assure all students are receiving instruction aligned to the rigorous Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.
- Implementation of Leveled Literacy Intervention kits to provide intensive early intervention to K-2 students who score "intensive" or "strategic" on DIBELS assessment results.

As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Mount Union Kistler Elementary assistance to implement these strategies.

BOARD

Ralph Park, President
Deanna Lee Wagner, Secretary
(814) 542-8631

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. James Estep, Superintendent
Autumn Fiscus, Director of Business Affairs
(814) 542-8631



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Please know that the staff at Mount Union Kistler Elementary has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 6th grade. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school in the district, you may request a transfer for your child to one of the following schools: Mapleton-Union Elementary or Shirley Township Elementary. If you are the parent of a child with a disability or a child with limited English proficiency, please call Mrs. Devecchis-Kerr at 542-8631 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

Transportation to one of these schools will be provided by the school district for as long as Mount Union Kistler Elementary remains in Title I School Improvement. (Mount Union Kistler Elementary must make AYP for two consecutive years to no longer be a School Improvement school.)

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to one of these other schools, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form (www.muasd.org/forms/TransferForm.pdf) for each child and return the form to Mount Union Area School District Administrative Office at 28 West Market Street, Mount Union by August 17, 2009. The district will respond to your request by August 21, 2009 with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Mount Union Kistler Elementary. If you do not complete this form and return it by August 17, 2009, we will assume that your child will remain at Mount Union Kistler Elementary. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend the choice school until he or she completes the 6th grade. (The district will no longer pay transportation costs once the school exits school improvement.)

Parental support is essential to the success of Mount Union Kistler Elementary. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The district-wide parent involvement policy will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input into this policy, please call Mr. Frank Miller at 814-542-9381. In addition, Mount Union Kistler Elementary will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I. This meeting is currently scheduled for September 8, 2009, 3:00 PM at Mount Union Kistler Elementary in the school's library.

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The many successes at Mount Union Kistler Elementary cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. Below are just a few examples of other data sources that demonstrate that Mount Union Kistler Elementary is making significant gains in academic achievement:

On a yearly average over 90% of our K-6 students meet Pennsylvania State Standard 1.1
(Independently read 25 books)

Our average growth in Lexiles for students in grades 2-6 is 116 Lexile points based on Scholastic Reading Inventory. Growth of 100 Lexile points is considered a full years growth in reading comprehension.

70% of our grade 4 students scored proficient or above on the 2008 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Science Test.

75% of our grade 4 students scored proficient or above on the 2008 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Reading Test.

81% of our grade 4 students scored proficient or above on the 2008 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Math Test.

We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Mr. Frank Miller
Director of Elementary and Federal Programs

Mrs. Deb Goodman
Assistant Principal

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