

August 15, 2014

Dear Cooper Parent/Guardian:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 started with a lofty goal: Every student was to pass every state test in reading and math by the year 2014, no matter what their school passing rate was in 2001. To make sure they were on track to meet that goal, schools reported annually whether or not they had made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the 100 percent pass rate on time.

We've come a long way since 2001. The number of students passing their state tests has increased significantly.

But as our nation moved closer to 2014, it became apparent that a 100 percent pass rate was unrealistic. Although scores were improving, more and more schools were not meeting AYP because the percentage of students needing to pass the tests increased each year. Many people considered reporting AYP meaningless, because so few schools could meet it.

Most states, including Washington, applied for waivers from AYP. Our state was granted a waiver during school years 2012-13 and 2013-14. During those years, Washington was given the flexibility outside the AYP system to identify schools that needed the most help and target funding to schools with the highest need.

State test scores and graduation rates continued to rise.

Despite our continued success, the U.S. Department of Education did not renew our waiver for the 2014-15 school year. They denied the waiver because the Washington state Legislature did not pass a bill to require teacher/principal evaluations to include student growth on state tests, when appropriate. The use of student test scores as part of the teacher evaluation system is a federal requirement to keep an AYP waiver.

That means we're back to reporting AYP. Because Congress can't agree about how to fix this failed policy, our kids are once again caught in a system of requirements that fall short of supporting real learning.

One of those NCLB requirements is to let you know that, using data from 2010-11 and 2013-14, our school did not meet AYP this year because at least one of the following has happened:

- One or more of our students did not pass the state tests in reading and/or math.
- Fewer than 95 percent of our students took the state tests.

This means we are considered to be in "Step 1 of Improvement."

You can see our school's AYP reports and compare them to the reports from every school in the district and state on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website: www.k12.wa.us. Click on the "School Report Card" button.

Because our school receives federal Title I, Part A money, there are consequences for not meeting AYP this year.

We must inform you that:

- You may choose to transfer to nearby school that is not in a "step of improvement."
- We are revising our school improvement plan.
- We are receiving extra support from OSPI.

Public School Choice

Your child is eligible to move to a school in our district that either made AYP or has not met AYP for just one year and is **not** in **School Improvement**. The reason that he/she is eligible is because he/she is attending a Title I school that has not made AYP for two consecutive years and is in **School Improvement**. This option is called *Public School Choice*.

Transportation is available for your child at no cost to you. **You may keep your student at Cooper if you choose.**

In 2014, Cooper did not meet AYP in Reading or Math and is in **School Improvement**.

Cooper will remain in improvement until the students meet improvement standards for two consecutive years.

Sending School
Cooper Elementary

Choice
Woodridge Elementary

Choice
Balboa Elementary

	Percent Meeting Standard			Percent Meeting Standard			Percent Meeting Standard		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
<i>Reading</i>	79.1	79.1	69.3	85.0%	85.0%	84.8%	78.1%	78.1%	77.6%
<i>Math</i>	72.9	72.9	70.8	84.4%	84.4%	81.5%	70.0%	70.0%	72.8%
	Choice			Choice					
	Linwood Elementary			Bemiss Elementary					
	Percent Meeting Standard			Percent Meeting Standard					
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012			
<i>Reading</i>	64.1%	64.1%	64.8%	55.4%	55.4%	59.6%			
<i>Math</i>	61.1%	61.1%	62.5%	53.9%	53.9%	55.0%			

**** Schools have same data for 2013 and 2014 because of Field Testing for Smarter Balanced Assessments**

Important Notes:

- You have the option to transfer your child to a school that is not in *School Improvement*.
- If you choose to transfer your child:
 - *The district cannot guarantee a specific school and requests for transfer may have to be prioritized.*
 - Factors used in determining schools identified for transfer options include:
 - geographic location, feasibility of bus routes and services available to students
 - Transportation will be provided at no cost for the current school year.
 - Your child will be eligible to be enrolled there through the 6th grade, but will always be welcome at Cooper if you would like to return.
 - *If the school you choose does not meet AYP next year (2014-15), or the state of Washington regains its waiver from NCLB for 2015-16, transportation will no longer be provided beginning in the 2015-16 school year.*

Cooper staff is committed to the success of our school and to provide a quality education for each of our students. We are taking these steps to improve:

- Continue to review data for continuous progress for each student
- Develop a Schoolwide plan to increase student academic achievement

We are not alone in our efforts; our district is supporting us by:

- Promoting collaboration focused on student learning
- Collaborative times for staff to focus on student needs
- Training to further develop instructional leadership

Parent Involvement

As a parent/guardian your input is valued and encouraged. There are many ways that you can be involved in helping us to address the issues around school improvement. Some of those include:

- Support your student in his/her studies at home
- Reading to your child every night or listen to them read
- Volunteering to help in the classrooms at school
- Becoming involved on school committees and providing input into our School Improvement Efforts
- Attending open house/curriculum nights/parent conferences

Sincerely,



Rona Williams, Principal

Enclosed: Information on AYP Choice Schools, Application for Public School Choice
Transportation options for Cooper;

Reminder

- You have the option to transfer your child to a school that is not in *School Improvement*.

- If you choose to transfer your child:
 - ***The district cannot guarantee a specific school.***
 - Requests for transfer may have to be prioritized.
 - Factors used in determining schools identified for transfer options include:
 - geographic location
 - feasibility of bus routes
 - services available to students
 - Transportation will be provided at no cost for the current school year.
 - Your child will be eligible to be enrolled there through the 6th grade, but will always be welcome at Cooper if you would like to return.
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The following information contains estimated **minimum** bus times from Cooper to a potential choice school. Your child would travel from their neighborhood school to a potential choice school. In some cases this could cause a late arrival and interruption of normal school breakfast during morning hours.

School	Bemiss	Linwood	Balboa	Woodridge
Cooper	7 minutes	17 minutes	22 minutes	29 minutes

