

***Please note the revised letter below. In our initial communication, Bow Elementary School's index scores were incorrectly identified as proficiency percentages. We value the accuracy of our information and communications with parents and apologize for any confusion.***

Dear Families of the Bow Elementary School,

In January 2002, President Bush signed into law the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) education legislation. The long range goal of NLCB is that *every student* will be proficient in reading and mathematics as measured by each state's academic standards. In the state of New Hampshire, state curriculum standards are measured through the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). As you are already aware, based on state testing data released on April 6, 2009, the NH Department of Education has designated Bow Elementary School as a School in Need of Improvement (SINI) in the area of reading.

Each year adequate yearly progress (AYP) is calculated for every school in NH based on the state testing (NECAP) results of the students who attend the school. Students' scores on the NECAP are reported in proficiency bands – proficient with distinction, proficient, partially proficient and substantially below proficient. The State of NH target for the index score in reading is 86.0 and Bow Elementary School scored 91.4 which translates into percentages as follows:

Reading	Percent of Students Substantially Below Proficient	Percent of Students Partially Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient with Distinction	AYP Status In Reading
Bow Elementary School	8	13	54	26	No

To “make AYP” a school or district must have scores for the school as a whole and for all identified subgroups that meet or exceed the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) – the proficiency target established in each content area. Subgroups in a school must include 11 or more students “to count” in the AYP calculations and at BES, we have two subgroups – students identified with an educational disability and students who of low socio-economic status. If a school or any of its subgroups does not make AYP in a given area for two years in a row, they are automatically identified as a school in need of improvement (SINI). Because the subgroup of BES students identified with an educational disability did not make AYP in reading for the second year in a row, BES is designated a school in need of improvement. In districts with more than one elementary school, this designation provides the option for parents to exercise ‘choice’ in the selection of elementary school their child attends.

Under NCLB, any school identified as a SINI must develop and implement a School Improvement Plan which must be approved by the State Department of

Education. A committee of professionals and parents worked together in early July to develop this plan. Our plan includes the extension of the BES three tier model of instruction and intervention to grades 3 and 4, ongoing and systematic professional development for both professionals and paraprofessionals in the implementation of research-based practices in literacy instruction, the alignment of the Bow School District English-Language Arts curriculum with the state grade level expectations (GLEs), a revision of the master schedule to include a ninety minute block of literacy instruction at each grade level , explicit instruction in test taking strategies as a life skill, and other significant steps to support the success of all students, including our most at-risk students. Bow Elementary School's SINI Plan is available in the school office and on the BES website and we welcome any and all input.

At BES we have a deep and abiding commitment to the continuous progress of each and every learner. All teachers are teachers of all students and while some students receive more intensive instruction, services and/or programs than others, we all are accountable for the learning and growth of every BES student. We are eager to continue our partnerships with families to help all students meet proficiency targets in each content area and we will continue to update you with our efforts throughout the year in the school newsletter and on our website. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Dr. Deb Gibbens, Principal

Jane Morrill-Winter, Assistant Principal