

Country Club Hills School District 160
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Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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August 14, 2009

Dear Parent,

The federal education law called No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires that schools make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on state tests in reading and math. Although Southwood realized gains with 67% of students meeting standards in reading and a slight decline in math of students meeting standards with 58.8% for the 2008-2009 school year, the school did not achieve AYP in math for the 2008-2009 school year. Southwood is now in Restructuring Planning status until AYP is made two years in a row.

Your child's school is in **Restructuring Planning** which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for 5 years and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services at least one of the following actions will be implemented:

- Replace school staff relevant to the school's inability to make adequate yearly progress;
- Reopen as a public charter school;
- Significantly decrease management authority at the school level;
- Enter into a contract with an entity to operate the school as a public school; or
- Implement any other restructuring of the school's governance that makes fundamental reform in:
 - i. Governance and management; and/or
 - ii. Financing and material resources; and/or;
 - iii. Staffing.

NCLB provides you with an option to transfer your child to another public school within or outside of the district with transportation provided by the district. Because our district is composed of only three grade centers (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) and our surrounding districts have not agreed to an intergovernmental agreement, school choice is not a viable option for your child at this time.

I am obligated to notify you of the law because your child's school is in Year 5 of school improvement which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for 5 years, and is required to offer public school choice and supplemental educational services. Students eligible for supplemental educational service will be notified in a separate mailing.

The most recent AYP status report for Southwood Middle School is included and will be available on our website at www.cch160.org. Southwood has been identified for school improvement because two of the subgroups failed to meet AYP standards in 2008-2009.

(OVER)

Southwood is working to improve the academic program and will continue planning ways to enhance, sustain, and build upon improvements through the following initiatives:

- Balanced literacy programs in all reading classrooms,
- Corrective reading and math coursework in addition to the regular programs for students identified as in need of improvement,
- After-school reading and math opportunities for students, and
- Staff development opportunities for all staff in reading and math.

The district and the State Board of Education are also working with Southwood to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to teachers and administrators within the school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. Southwood administrators would like to invite parents to serve on the committee that will need to develop a school improvement plan. We would also like to involve parents in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement.

Please call me if you have any questions about these services. Parents of students eligible for Supplemental Educational Services may also join us to talk about your options on October 14, 2009.

Thank you,

Earline Scott, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Enclosures: AYP Status Report
2009 School Report Card (when available from the Illinois State Board of Education)