

## Superintendent Newsletter

September 2009

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Hello! Each month I will be sending a newsletter with information, activities, projects and other school district news which I hope will be of interest to you. This year, one of my goals is to improve communication with staff, parents and community members. This monthly newsletter will give me the opportunity to provide you with school district-wide news. I will also be placing an article in the Williston Herald on a monthly basis.

**Enrollment** – As of August 26<sup>th</sup>, the enrollment numbers for the 2009-2010 school year for our school district has increased by 83 students as compared to the beginning of the last year. We currently have 166 Kindergarten students, 155 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, 172 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, 147 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students; 168 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, 137 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, 167 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, 371 middle school students and 800 students in the high school.

**Census 2010** – The United States Census will take place this upcoming April. I was asked by Mayor Koeser to represent the education sector of our community to participate in the 2010 Complete Count Committee. I plan to get the information out to the schools about the Census. By doing this, the teachers can teach the students about the importance of participating in the Census and to also encourage their parents to participate. In 2000, only 66% of the people in Williams County completed the census. We were one of the lowest response counties in the state. Every year the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based in part on the census data. The 2010 Census questionnaire is quick, easy and confidential. With only 10 questions, the 2010 census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and only takes 10 minutes to complete. When April 1<sup>st</sup> arrives, I hope you will fill out your census and add this to your lesson plans in some way so your students will learn about the importance of the census and share this with their families. You can go to the following link to get more information about census in the schools.

<http://www.census.gov/schools>

**Williston Public School Health Care Utilization** – Each year North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System sends a report about employee usage of their health care. For Williston Public School District, this is a highlight of our usage. The entire report can be viewed in my office. For January – December 2008, there were 198 active Williston Public School District employees in the program. This is about 1% of the NDPERS contracts. The average age of these employees was 45. The average age for all NDPERS active employees was 46. There were 233 dependents of district employees on the NDPERS health plan. Williston Public School District #1 health plan had 721 hospital claims. These claims had \$1,514,628.94 in total charges. The NDPERS health plan paid \$844,652.76 toward these charges.

Williston Public School District #1 health plan members had 5,954 physician/clinic services, our members had 4,168 pharmacy claims, diagnostic x-ray and lab services made up 31% of the professional services for 2008.

**2009 ACT Test Scores** – Williston test scores for this past school year in comparison to the state scores are as follows:

<b>Total Tested</b>		<b>English</b>		<b>Mathematics</b>		<b>Reading</b>		<b>Science</b>		<b>Composite</b>	
<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>
98	5791	20.9	20.7	21.2	21.5	22.1	21.8	21.7	21.6	21.7	21.5