

**Williston Junior High School
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Recent federal education legislation under the name "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) is designed to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach high state academic standards. The objective of NCLB act is that every child, regardless of any circumstance or condition of life should receive a quality education, which is also an objective the National Middle School Association and Williston Junior High School endorses. To help parents stay informed about their school, NCLB requires schools to describe success in terms of student achievement on state academic tests and to inform parents regarding the results of these tests.

Each school's test results are examined to determine whether of not schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward achieving the state's high academic achievement standards. Students who have reached "proficiency" or "advanced proficiency" on North Dakota's CAT test have met the standards; student scoring "partially proficient" or "novice" have not yet met the standard.

Regarding the state CAT test, to make Adequate Yearly Progress, a school must have a certain percentage of students who score at the "proficient" and "advanced" level on the state test. Scores are then broken down into categories of students to try and make sure that all kids are reaching the standards. By 2013-14, all students will be required to score at the "proficient" and "advanced" level.

On the other link for Adequate Yearly Progress, please find our school's Adequate Yearly Progress Report. According to results of the 2002 state assessment, Williston Junior High School did not meet the required percentage for proficiency; however, our school did make Adequate Yearly Progress overall. However, all subgroups must also make a certain percentage. If you look at our AYP report, you will see that our school did not meet the required yearly progress percentage in the following area: special needs students.

Schools that do not make Adequate Yearly Progress for 2 consecutive years are identified for program improvement. School improvement is a top priority at WJHS. We have already begun several new programs in our school to increase the academic skills of all students at the middle level. Practices such as teaming, advisory, continual professional development, and engaging instructional strategies are best practices utilized at the middle level to increase academic achievement of all students. Specifically for special needs students, we are investigating the modifications that can be made under the law during the testing situation to assist students with the standardized test. In addition, the law allows an alternative assessment for a small percentage of special needs students. Our staff is currently receiving training on this assessment process.

Our staff is dedicated to strengthening teaching to improve student learning. Because we want to improve our school and make Adequate Yearly Progress in the future, we are asking for your support and involvement in our school improvement efforts. Please participate in our parent involvement events at which we ask for your suggestions and help in reaching high academic goals. Your participation in our school had a major impact on our state assessment results and will ensure your child's academic success.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions about Adequate Yearly Progress and/or "No Child Left Behind." I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Education,

Marcia Armogost, Principal