

Bethel-Tate Local School District

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James Smith
Superintendent

Amy M. Wells, CPA, CBM
Treasurer/CFO

2009 – 2010 Notice of School Improvement Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status

Public School Choice Notification

William Bick Primary and Hill Intermediate

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Bethel-Tate Local School District is recognized in our county as a model of educational excellence. This is evidenced by our ratings on the Local Report Card issued by the State of Ohio and the large number of students who attend our school district through open enrollment. Our high school has been state rated excellent for the last five years. Our middle school has been state rated excellent for the last three years. Hill Intermediate has been state rated excellent or effective for the last three years and although primary level schools do not receive a rating from the State of Ohio, William Bick Primary year in and year out lays a strong educational foundation for our students.

To comply with the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, we are giving you notice that Hill Intermediate has been identified as being in School Improvement Year 1. Since William Bick Primary does not have Ohio Achievement Testing occurring in the building, it also receives this designation as a result of being a feeder school into Hill Intermediate. To see how our schools and district compare to similar schools and school districts, visit (<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>). This website informs readers of achievement test scores, attendance rates, teacher education, and a historical view of past achievement results.

Hill Intermediate and William Bick Primary have been designated as School Improvement Year 1 status based on the performance of the Hill Intermediate Students with Disabilities (special education students) subgroup in the area of reading. Students in this subgroup have not scored proficient on the Ohio Achievement Tests in Reading at the same rate as students who do not have disabilities. At Hill Intermediate this subgroup contains fewer than 60 students. Students receiving special education services are on Individual Education Plans (IEP) and receive an education tailored to their special needs. Parents of special education students are encouraged to attend IEP meetings, parent teacher conferences, and other activities that can enhance their children's educational progress. If you would like more information about how you can get involved, you can contact Matt Wagner at William Bick Primary or Kay Nau at Hill Intermediate.

Bethel-Tate Local School District staff members analyze student achievement data each year to plan and address each building's needs for professional development, materials, and supplies. The district uses early release and full days of in-service to meet the professional development needs.

Hill Intermediate and William Bick Primary emphasize the importance of quality instruction and reading achievement to help our students be successful. Common planning time for teachers each day allows for collaboration, lesson planning, and discussion of students' academic and behavioral needs. Student progress in the area of reading is monitored using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment and the STAR reading test. To address reading instruction for special education students, our special educators and administration are working to identify the specific needs in our special education program in order to select and incorporate instructional materials that meet these needs.

The enactment of NCLB gives parents and guardians the right to request your child be transferred to another school if the current school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, which is the present status of your child's school. If you would like for your child to be transferred to another school that is not in school improvement, please use the Requests for School Transfer – Public School Choice form for each child in your

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ensure success for all students in schools that are welcoming, professional, and excellent.

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home who attends either Hill Intermediate or William Bick Primary. The school district will respond to your request.

Since there are no schools to transfer to within the school district, the district will provide a list of out-of-district schools that are available for public school choice. Choices will be limited by other schools also not meeting AYP for students with disabilities and other subgroups. Transportation will be provided for a limited time due to Bethel-Tate Local School's right to set aside a minimum amount for transportation costs. This minimum does not guarantee transportation for the entire year.

In closing, it is important to note that Hill Intermediate and William Bick Primary are doing an excellent job of educating the vast majority of our students as evidenced by our Ohio Achievement Test scores. This letter is being sent as a result of our Students with Disabilities subgroup not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Smith, Superintendent
Bethel-Tate Local Schools

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