

Ellicott Elementary School
399. S. Ellicott Hwy.
Ellicott, CO 80808

John Lawrence, Principal

A Reading First School

August 4, 2008

Dear Parents,

Based on the Colorado's reading and math academic assessments (CSAP), Ellicott Elementary, the school your child attends has been identified as needing improvement and is on its second year of school improvement. This means that students in the school are not making the kind of gains on CSAP that is required of all schools and districts in Colorado. Many things are in place at Ellicott Elementary School to help ensure that all students succeed academically, including:

- A full-time instructional coach who works directly with teachers to continually improve teaching
- Extensive data review to determine what our students do well and need to do better so that we can appropriately focus instruction.
- Grade level team meetings take place twice monthly to discuss and make decisions about instruction based on the data

The school district is also providing support to Ellicott Elementary School in our efforts to improve student achievement.

- For the past year we have worked with Sopris West, a publishing and consulting firm skilled in improving student achievement especially with students who face the challenges we face.
- Ellicott Elementary School is in its fourth of Colorado Reading First which will take us further along the path of improving student achievement. The Reading Project is a nationwide initiative. The curriculum is highly structured and has integrated intervention.
- The Ellicott School District is closely aligning with state standards and is helping schools, including Ellicott Elementary School, to become more data-driven (meaning using actual student achievement data to help teachers make decisions about what to teach and how).

Your child's school and district are committed to ensuring that all children reach proficient levels of achievement. Despite the gains made by Ellicott Elementary School, the school has not met adequate yearly progress and is required to offer you the opportunity to transfer your student to another public school in the same school district that is not on School Improvement. However, there is only one elementary school in our District, which prevents us from being able to offer a choice school.

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Since our school did not meet the expected level of performance, the Ellicott School District is required by law to inform our parents of the choice option, even though there is not an option for choice at this time.

Even though pubic school choice is not available at this time, the school provides other types of services for our students. Many students are eligible to participate in after-school tutoring. Some teachers are holding additional teaching sessions for struggling students. Some students are eligible to participate in additional literacy instruction through the Colorado Reading First program during the school day. If you are interested in learning more about what we can offer your child, please do not hesitate to contact John Lawrence at (719) 683-2700 Ext. 1.

Our District has many avenues to become involved in addressing our academic challenges. Parents can assist students by working with their students on schoolwork, attending parent conferences and making sure their children attend school daily. Also, you may take advantage of one of the many opportunities for more personal involvement. These include:

- Attending monthly accountability meetings
- Becoming a parent volunteer at Ellicott Elementary School
- Volunteering for one of the District Accountability/School Improvement committees
- Keeping well informed about what is going on in the school by reading our biweekly newsletter
- Becoming involved with our PTA.
- Talking with your child's teacher about other ways you can help in the classroom and at home

Those of us in Ellicott School District want to keep you informed about our school improvement process, so please read our bi monthly newsletter which will keep you abreast of our plans. Please contact John Lawrence if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Lawrence

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