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Bruce Borchers, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 2, 2010

Dear Rockwood Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state.

The ultimate goal of NCLB is to have 100 percent of our students score in the top two achievement levels (advanced and proficient) on our state tests by 2014. This means schools must meet an annually-increasing performance target in communication arts and mathematics to achieve AYP. AYP decisions for this year are based on spring 2010 MAP scores in these two areas, as well as the district's attendance and graduation rates.

In order to make AYP, the performance targets must be met in the aggregate (all students) and for up to 10 subgroups of students, which include: All Kids, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, American Indian, White, Other/Non-Response, Students with an Individualized Education Program, Students Receiving Free/Reduced Price Lunches, and Students with Limited English Proficiency. If the test scores of a single subgroup do not meet the required performance target established by the federal government, a school or district will not make AYP. If a school or district does not make AYP for three consecutive years, it is considered "in need of improvement: corrective action."

Based on the preliminary 2010 MAP scores, the Rockwood School District did not make AYP because four subgroups did not meet the performance target in communication arts and three subgroups did not meet the performance target in mathematics. As a result, under NCLB, Rockwood is identified as a district in district improvement level 3 and will continue to implement the improvement plan developed in 2008.

I realize this can be confusing because Rockwood continues to be fully accredited and is annually recognized with Missouri's Distinction in Performance award for high performance. Additionally, Rockwood's overall MAP scores continue to exceed the NCLB performance targets and the state average. Here are the overall percentages of Rockwood students performing at the top two levels (advanced and proficient) in 2010:

	AYP Target	State Average	Rockwood
Communication Arts	67.4	53.6	74.3
Mathematics	63.3	52.7	71.0

Rockwood remains committed to success for all students. Under NCLB provisions, we are required to send this letter to parents and to develop a plan for improvement. The district already has such a plan in place. We will continue to monitor our progress for continuous improvement. This year, we will be collecting information and feedback from stakeholders as we work to improve student performance. We know parent involvement is an important component of student achievement.

You can also help by increasing your understanding of the MAP tests, understanding the importance of good attendance, visiting your school and becoming a volunteer, and helping children with reading and math at home. Information about NCLB and what parents can do to improve student achievement can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.html>. Information about the district and state MAP tests and AYP results are available at www.dese.mo.gov.

We are proud of our school district and our students' achievements. We are dedicated to continuous improvement, and we will do whatever it takes to ensure all students realize their potential. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Bruce Borchers, Ph.D.
Rockwood Superintendent of Schools