



Glen Ellyn School District 41

Dr. Ann K. Riebock, Superintendent

August 10, 2011

Important information for parents about Churchill School and School Choice

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing with information about academic performance at Churchill School, and to tell you that the state has identified Churchill for "federal improvement status," as defined by the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB). This means that Churchill families may request that their children attend a different school within District 41.

As you read the information below, please know that Churchill provides a strong learning environment with talented teachers and committed leadership. The success of each child is important to the school, and most children are doing well. The school has the full respect and complete support of the administration and the Board of Education. Churchill has worked hard to meet the learning needs of students, and stands ready to do all it can to help all students succeed.

Why Churchill is in improvement status: Churchill receives federal Title I funds which provide help for students to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) targets as measured by the Illinois Student Achievement Tests (ISAT) given in grades three, four and five. Three sub-groups of students did not make AYP in reading as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act: Hispanic, Limited English Proficient and Economically Disadvantaged students. Because the school has not made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years in the same subject it is in improvement status and is required to offer public school choice.

How Churchill compares to our other elementary schools: Our district and school 2011 report cards and the most recent AYP status reports how Churchill compares to other schools in our district and state. This information will be available at the school, at district offices, and on www.d41.org as soon as we receive it from the state. The 2010 information is currently posted.

What Churchill is doing to address academic achievement: The school is working to improve its academic program in many ways. It has conducted a complete revision of its ELL curricula which includes Bilingual and English as a Second Language programs, and is receiving advice and guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition, class size has been adjusted in cases where a significant number of students perform below expectations; students have daily Targeted Learning Time devoted in part to helping students who are struggling with reading; reading assistants are utilized for targeted reading instruction in the primary grades and as general interventionists in the upper grades; and summer school is offered to students who achieve at the 30% or below on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test.

How parents can become involved: Parents can provide important help as the school addresses its academic problems. Research shows that students who are in school every day learn better. Please make sure your child attends school regularly and is on time. Reading at home and doing homework allow children to practice and reinforce skills they have learned during the day. Even if parents do not feel confident helping their children with homework, setting aside time each day with a quiet space in which to work tells your child that school is important to your family.



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What school choice means: The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district if necessary. Please remember that you are not required to transfer your child, but the district must offer you the choice to do so.

What schools are available to transfer to: A list of the other three elementary schools within District 41 is enclosed with this letter along with the student transfer form.

Information about the enclosed transfer form: The form asks whether or not you wish to transfer your child. If you do wish to, it asks you to rank your preferences of choice school. Please return the form to Nancy Mogk, District 41 Central Services Office, 793 North Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Please return the form whether or not you wish to transfer your child.

Requests must be received at the district office by **Monday, August 22, 2011** so that we can make appropriate arrangements before school starts.

How preferences will be reviewed: Preferences regarding which school children requesting transfer will be assigned will be prioritized according to the law. We will make every effort to accommodate preferences, although due to space considerations, we cannot guarantee that you will receive your first choice. The law states that students who are low income *and* who did not make AYP receive first priority, low income students receive second, and students who did not make AYP receive third priority. After that, the preference of any other student who wishes to transfer will be considered.

About NCLB: NCLB requires that every child meet standards in reading and math (as measured by ISAT) by 2014, and that the school makes AYP each year. Every year the number of students required to meet AYP rises until it reaches 100% in 2014. As we approach the 100% requirements, it is likely that more schools will find themselves in "improvement status." This is meant as context for you to keep in mind as you digest this information.

Please call Nancy Mogk at 630-534-7243 if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options at Churchill School on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

Ann Riebock, Superintendent

Enclosures: List of schools and Student Transfer Form

Si usted necesita esta información en español llame Geri Adkins en el 630-534-7340

اردو: اگر آپ کو اردو میں اس فارم کے ترجیح کی ضرورت ہے تو جیری آئیڈ کنس کو براے مہربانی اس نمبر پر رابطہ کریں ۰۳۲۷ ۴۳۵ ۰۳۶

Việt Nam: Nếu bạn cần mẫu này dịch ra tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ Geri Adkins at 630-534-7340.

Glen Ellyn School District 41, 793 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Phone 630.790.6400 Fax 630.790.1867 www.d41.org