

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that parents be notified in writing of the School Improvement status of their child's school. That law requires that the letter be sent at the beginning of each school year.

If you have any questions about this, please contact your child's school.

August, 2009

Dear Albemarle Road Middle Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to let you know that, Albemarle Road Middle is a Title I School Improvement school for 2009-10 under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). As a parent at Albemarle Road Middle you have options for your child in the 2009-10 school year that require careful consideration. Please read this notice, taking special note of deadline dates and contact names and phone numbers you can access for additional information.

According to 2008-09 student assessment results, Albemarle Road Middle did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the previous four years in reading and math. Albemarle Road Middle has offered public school choice to all parents of students enrolled at the school. Also, the school system must offer free tutoring services to students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. (Eligible families may transfer to another school or receive free tutoring services, but not both.)

Albemarle Road Middle receives federal funds from the Title I program. These funds help students who are not achieving at grade level in high-poverty schools. As a school receiving these funds, we are required to make AYP in improving student achievement or face increasingly serious consequences. 68.7% of schools in our district made AYP for 2008-09.

Your child's options for the 2009-10 school year are to:

- 1. Remain at Albemarle Road Middle; or**
- 2. Enroll in another designated school of choice using the Choice process available in January 2010 for the 2010-11 school year; or**
- 3. If eligible, remain at Albemarle Road Middle and receive free tutoring services.**

More information on each of these options is below.

- 1. Remain at Albemarle Road Middle**

The staff at Albemarle Road Middle has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through eighth grade. If you want your child to remain at Albemarle Road Middle you don't need to take any additional action.

The many successes at Albemarle Road Middle cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your past and continued support. I am pleased that 62% of our students scored at the proficiency level in reading and math during the 2008-09 school year. Additionally, our students made expected growth and met 100% of our 29 Adequate Yearly Progress targets in reading and math last year.

However, we are concerned about the academic progress of all of our students. We've identified the following instructional strategies in which to focus, with district and state assistance: implementing Max Reading Strategies in academic classes to improve students' literacy skills; implementing SIOP for our ESL students, implementing the inclusion model for our EC students, and providing additional reading and math support for students during our 40-minute 9th block class.

The school district is developing a plan for Albemarle Road Middle's corrective action to restructure the school's internal organization through Strategic Staffing. A new administrative team and teachers have joined the Albemarle Road team to ensure our students are improving academically.

We welcome your involvement at Albemarle Road Middle. There are many ways to participate including becoming a member of the PTA, offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, attending parent conferences with your child's teacher(s), making sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day, and monitoring your child's homework.

Albemarle Road Middle will have its annual meeting to develop our parent involvement policy and to review parent rights under Title I and other information September 17, 2009 at 6:00 pm. The Title I district-wide parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall and you may want to be a part of that review process. If you have questions about these opportunities, please call Albemarle Road Middle.

2. Enroll in another designated school

If you want to enroll your child in another school, you will have the opportunity to make the choice through the lottery application process in January. A list of applicable schools will be provided to you through this process.

The district will respond to your request by written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Albemarle Road Middle. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be allowed to attend the choice school through the eighth grade. If the request for transfers exceeds available funding, priority must be given to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families.

If you are the parent of an exceptional child please call the Exceptional Children Department at 980-343-6960 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. If you are the parent of an English language learner please call the English as a Second Language Department at 980-343-0432 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

3. Remain at Albemarle Road Middle and receive free tutoring services

The free tutoring program for students who receive free or reduced-price lunch and choose not to transfer from Albemarle Road Middle will be offered at Albemarle Road Middle after the school day or at a specific provider's site outside of school hours, by several providers during the 2009-10 school year. If there is not enough funding for every child requesting services, eligible students with the greatest academic need will receive first priority.

You will be provided with a brief description of tutoring providers and their services at the beginning of each semester.

If your family is eligible and you have completed the "Student Enrollment Form." After receiving your request for services, the district will confirm your request. Next, an agreement with the service provider, including specific achievement goals for your child, will be established. (The public identity of any child who is eligible for, or receiving, these free tutoring services remains confidential until the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) gives written permission.)

If you have questions about any of these options, please call the Title I Office at 980-343-6950. In addition, more information about public school choice and free tutoring services, also known as supplemental educational services, can be found on the Web at www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb. We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for each student.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Superintendent, Title I Director

Information regarding *(School)* NC School Report Card can be found at <http://www.ncreportcards.org/src/>. Information regarding Choice, SES, and Corrective Action can be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/>.