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Dear Parents,

The reason for this letter is to explain the need and purpose of the attached letter describing No Child Left Behind and School Choice. Scarlet Oak School had eight out of ten sub-groups meet AYP. The federal government considers a school failing even if one sub-group fails. One sub-group at Scarlet Oak failed to reach the 77.5 percentile.

Under federal guidelines, schools that have at least one sub-group fail to meet or exceed standards must notify parents in that school and offer them "choice" to another school in their district. Considering District 145 is a small district and we have grade level centers we have no other schools in our district that offer Scarlet Oak's 3rd and 4th grade curriculum.

We are also required to ask neighboring school districts if they would enter into an intergovernmental agreement and accept out of district students. At this time, there are no intergovernmental agreements between districts throughout the state. Many of our neighboring school districts haven't made AYP and have asked District 145 to accept their students the past three or four years.

I understand the attached letter can be confusing considering we don't have choice within our district and we can't offer choice outside of our district at this time. Please understand the attached letter is required by the State of Illinois and federal government. At this time, the main purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of our status. If an outside district is interested in establishing an intergovernmental agreement with our district I will notify our Scarlet Oak parents immediately to describe your options.

Next year the NCLB expectation is to have 85% of our students meet or exceed standards. The standard will increase 7.5% every year until 100% is reached. Each year more school districts are failing to meet the increasing standard. Regardless of our status, our schools and district are doing everything possible to meet NCLB's expectations and the promise our students have to offer.

Allen J. Jebens Jr.
Superintendent

"Educational Excellence with Kindness"