

No Child Left Behind – SINA Designation

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires the Iowa Department of Education to collect data in grades 3 – 8 and 11 on an annual basis in order to determine if school districts and buildings have reached state Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets using the status and growth models. The timeline established indicates that schools must raise all students to the proficient level in reading and mathematics within 12 years, (2014) to 100% proficient. Also included in the AYP calculations are participation rates for all students and subgroups as well as, average daily attendance, and high school graduation rate.

Specific sanctions are applied to Title I schools identified as schools in need of assistance (SINA). SINA 1 designated schools must offer school choice options to students and parents of that school. SINA 2 designated schools, (schools identified as in need of improvement for two or more years) must also offer low income students the opportunity to receive supplementary educational services (SES). Additionally, Title I SINA schools must submit an action plan and parent notification letter to the Title I Office at the Iowa Department of Education by the date designated by the state.

Hiawatha Elementary has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goals in the area of Reading during the 2009-2010 school year. As a result of this designation our district is required by law to offer your student school choice to transfer to another school within the district that has not been designated as a school in need of assistance. The schools that have been designated as choice schools for students attending Hiawatha are Wright Elementary and Kenwood Elementary.

This year, because of our academic gains on the October 2010 ITBS tests, Hiawatha is on “Delayed Status”. Another year of “Delayed Status” will get us off the SINA list!!!