

**Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress
Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child**

August 9, 2010

Dear Panther Valley Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices and resources available to you based on the progress of your child's school under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). **The AYP status for 2009 -2010 for the Panther Valley Elementary School is Making Progress in School Improvement I.**

What are the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

The PSSA is an annual exam given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress. The state uses the PSSA to determine whether Panther Valley and each of our schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is determined by how successful districts and schools are in meeting state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic progress.

To make AYP, a school must meet the state goals for the student body as a whole as well for each subgroup of students. A subgroup consists of 40 or more students in a school in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Special Education, and English Language Learner (ELL) status. The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of “targets” that it must meet to make AYP. For the prior 2009 -2010 school year, students at the Panther Valley School District made remarkable progress in Reading and Mathematics proficiency.

Panther Valley Elementary School met 17 out of 17 targets for the 2009 -2010 school term. Below are highlights of reading and mathematics achievements:

Reading

- In Grades 3-5 the percentage of students scoring at proficient or advanced is 59.2%. AYP was met with a Confidence Interval. The State Goal is 63%.

Mathematics

- In Grades 3-5 the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced is 71.0%. AYP was made. The State Goal is 56%.

The Panther Valley Elementary School increased the number of students who attained proficient or advanced in math and reading from the previous year as follows:

Year	Subject	Performance Goal
2009	MATH	53.7%
2010	MATH	71%

Year	Subject	Performance Goal
2009	READING	50.1%
2010	READING	59.2%

You can see how the school is making progress. We plan to meet or exceed this goal for 2010 – 2011 school term.

Action Plan for Improving Student Achievement

As a result of an in depth needs assessment, Panther Valley Elementary School has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Tracking each student's progress on 4 Sight testing
- Expanding the After-School program
- Utilizing an in-school PSSA prep coach for students in grades 3 through 5.

Explanation of School Choice Option

According to NCLB, Panther Valley Elementary School must offer students the choice to transfer to another school in the district not in School Improvement however Panther Valley School District does not have another school building available to offer the choice to transfer. The Panther Valley School District will offer a free after school tutoring program for students in 3rd to 5th.

How parents and Families Can Help Improve Student Achievement

Parent support is essential to the success of Panther Valley Elementary School. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important..

The many successes at Panther Valley Elementary School cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

William Lombardo
Elementary School Principal