

TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 214



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TO: District 214 Parents, Students, and Community Members
FROM: Dr. Elizabeth A. Ennis, Superintendent
Township High School District 214

Dr. Elizabeth A. Ennis
Superintendent

The following letter from the Illinois State Superintendent will inform you, once again, that some of our students who took the Prairie State Achievement Exam in 2004 did not score high enough to meet the state standards required for a school to achieve Annual Yearly Progress.

The United States Congress passed legislation to hold schools accountable for high levels of academic achievement for all students. By now, you are probably familiar with the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under the Act, schools in Illinois must prove that their efforts result in all students being able to achieve a satisfactory level on the Prairie State Achievement Exam. Most of District 214 students meet or exceed the standards set forth. However, some do not. Students with special needs and students who come to school unable to speak fluent English struggle with the advanced reading levels of the ACT test questions.

Schools are now working hard to address these and other issues of high stakes testing. And, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), is working with our federal education agency as to how the requirements of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) can be modified to hold schools accountable for progress, but not be punitive to schools who are serving the majority of their students extremely well. Local newspapers have published editorials about this circumstance. With their permission, I have included them with this letter. I hope you will read them as they offer insight to the perplexing issues of meeting the compliance regulations of No Child Left Behind.

In District 214 you can be assured that we will continue to use our resources and best thinking to help all of our students meet the high standards set forth in this legislation. The history of American public education is rich with examples of teachers having contributed to the success of our country. We intend to do no less at the dawning of the 21st century.

Thank you for reading these materials.

Buffalo Grove High School
Elk Grove High School
John Hersey High School
Prospect High School
Rolling Meadows High School
Wheeling High School



Forest View Alternative School
Vanguard School
Newcomer Center
Nipper Academic Enrichment Center
Project Reclaim
Young Adult Program