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-----**POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT**-----

August 18, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. The AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of the 2009-2010 academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Polo R-VII School District did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons:

1. The annual proficiency achievement target was not met in math by the middle school students in 2008 and not met in math or communication arts by elementary students in 2009. However, the annual proficiency achievement target in Math was met in 2010 placing Polo R-VII School District under District Improvement Level 1, Delayed by federal standards. Attendance and graduation rates were met all three years.
2. For the 2008-2009 school year the proficiency achievement target for Communication Arts was 59.2% and the Math target was 54.1% of all students taking the test. Polo R-VII elementary students scored below the proficiency targets set for 2008-2009. For the 2009-2010 school year the proficiency achievement target for Math was 63.3% which Polo R-VII students met under the Safe Harbor Provision.

Because of this designation of being in District Improvement Level 1, Delayed, the district will continue in Level 1 District Improvement for the 2010-2011 school year and will continue implementation of the 2009-2010 improvement plan. One important component of this plan is parent involvement. Parents were instrumental in the development of the plan and will be involved in the implementation of the plan.

You can also help by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduating from school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies at home.

Information about *No Child Left Behind* and what parents can do to improve student achievement can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

Sincerely,

Mr. Newhart
Superintendent of Schools