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

August 2, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts/local education agencies (LEAs) to determine if each district/LEA has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district's/LEA's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district/LEA 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 2010-2011 academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's/LEA'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 2009. The target was not met in Communication Arts by the elementary in 2009 and 2010. In 2010, the middle school students met the target in Math and in 2011, the elementary students met the target in Communication Arts; however, the middle school did not meet the target in math.
2. For the 2010-2011 school year the proficiency target for Communication Arts was 75.5% which Polo R-VII students met under the Safe Harbor Provision. The target for math was 72.5% and Polo R-VII students scored below this proficiency target.

Because this is the second year of this designation, the district/LEA is considered to be in level 2 of District/LEA Improvement. We will continue to implement the plan for improvement which was developed in 2009 and revised in 2010. One important component of this plan is parent involvement 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, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Newhart". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mr. Newhart  
Superintendent of Schools