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

August 2, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The goal of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 is to ensure all children in this country receive a quality education. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess all schools to determine if each school 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 school's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the school 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 school's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Polo R-VII Elementary School did make adequate yearly progress. However, Polo R-VII Elementary School must make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years before exiting school improvement status. The district remains in a delayed status during the 2011-2012 school year. During the academic testing year 2009-2010, the Polo R-VII Elementary School did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons:

1. The annual proficiency achievement target was not met in Communication Arts by the elementary students in 2008 and 2009.
2. For the 2009-2010 school year the proficiency target for Communication Arts was 67.4% which Polo R-VII Elementary students scored below, making this the second year in a row the elementary students did not meet the proficiency target. The elementary students did meet the 2009-2010 Math proficiency target of 63.3%.

Because of this designation, the school is considered to be in Level 1, Delayed School Improvement. The elementary school will continue with the improvement plan developed last year with parental involvement being an important part of that plan.

Under the requirements of NCLB, public school choice is available for schools in Level 1, Delayed of School Improvement. However, Polo R-VII School District does not have any available schools for transfer because there is no other school with the same grade level available in our district so public choice is not an option.

We encourage you to become involved with your child's school to support school improvement. You can help us by increasing your understanding of the assessment process and understanding the importance of good attendance. We encourage you to become engaged in reading and math strategies at home. Parents are also welcome to volunteer and visit the classrooms.

Sincerely,

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

Mr. Newhart
Superintendent of Schools