



Dulce Middle School  
125 Hawks Drive  
Dulce, NM 87528

August 8, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The main goal of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is to ensure that all children in the United States receive a quality education so that they can be academically successful in a high-performing educational environment. Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, each state is required to assess all of the schools within their state to determine whether each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP), which means that they have met the academic testing standards set by the state. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered "in need of improvement".

Based on the results of this year's academic testing in reading and math, your child's school, Dulce Middle School, did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reason:

- Reading Scores for the combined 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade this past school year is 27% (32/118)
- Math Scores for the combined 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade this past year is 15% (18/118)
- And for Safe Harbor:
  - The ELL population grew dramatically, from 14 students to 47 in one year, their reading increased by 28% (needed only 10%) and their math grew by 7% (needed 9%).
  - Special Education in reading needed to grow by 10% but grew <2%, and in math the students needed to grow by 10% but grew <2%.

We at the Dulce Middle School have completed our first year of the turn-around process using the federal transformation model. The norm for turn-around takes about three years. We should see increases in scores each year until by the third year we will see a full improvement in place. The indication of improvement will be the school reducing the gap between the school's current scores and the mandated benchmark for reading and math. The results for this past year have the school with the same score as from the previous year in reading and almost doubling the score in math from the previous year. The Safe Harbor will need to also increase and this is also a great indicator to the school's improvement.

Dulce Middle School is working hard to address the problem of low achievement by:

- Ensuring students receive the intervention assistance in reading and math, with some students being mandated to an afterschool program and a program during their normal school hours.
- Provide ELL students with intensive strategies and classes that will assist them with their language acquisition skills.
- Conduct or administer three short cycle assessments to monitor student growth based on the norms for national standards.

- Provide afterschool programs through 21<sup>st</sup> Century and DREAMS that will enhance student performance and provide the interventions needed.
- Meeting the Middle School's EPSS (Educational Plan for Student Success) goals.
- Using a "standards based" or "outcome based" grading system that will provide a snapshot to the parents, students, and teachers of how well the student is grasping the skills needed for the SBA and to determine what are the student's shortcomings and to develop an intervention plan.
- To deliver all instruction with Fidelity.

We at DULCE Middle School encourage you to become involved with your child's education to support school improvement. Some of the actions you can do to help improve your child's performance are outlined below:

- Ensure your child/children are in school every day;
- Enroll in district afterschool and summer school enrichment programs (DREAMS);
- Become involved in your child's assessment challenges and assist with testing strategies;
- Actively become engaged with your child's homework assignments and provide additional reading and math support during the evenings;
- Volunteer time during the day to visit your child's classroom;
- Parent workshops and Parent/Teacher conferences;
- Ensure your child is getting plenty of rest, eating healthy/nutritious meals, and receiving enough exercise and physical activity;
- Place structured bedtime curfews every night for the family;
- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher.

Thank you very much for the support and interest you provide Dulce Middle School. With your assistance and collaboration, we can help our students make the progress needed to meet the AYP standards.

Educationally,



R.W. GRANT

Dulce Middle School Principal

