



Parent Notification Letter

August 27, 2009

To: Families of the Milwaukee Academy of Science

Re: School Identified for Improvement Status

Dear MAS Family members:

Pursuant to its mission, The Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) is dedicated to providing its students with excellent learning opportunities as well as providing continuous support to our teachers. We have set high expectations and support both staff and students as they work toward them.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires each state to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for its schools. In Wisconsin, AYP is based on success in four categories: test participation; graduation rate at the secondary level or attendance rate for elementary and middle levels; reading; and mathematics. A school that does not meet the requirements in the same category for two consecutive years is a School Identified for Improvement (SIFI).

MAS has been designated under NCLB as a SIFI as a result of missing the AYP requirement for reading and mathematics progress during the past two school years. This designation provides a focus on areas of continued school improvement by principals, teachers, and parents. Schools Identified for Improvement become eligible for additional support from the district and state as they work together to improve teaching and learning. We have allocated that additional support in the assignment of academic specialists as well as the hiring of dedicated mathematic tutors.

More information regarding how MAS compares to other schools in the district and throughout the state can be found at <http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data/selschool.asp>. If you do not have home internet web access, feel free to visit a local library or coffee shop with internet access. Ruby G's on the southeast corner of Wells and 21st streets offers computers and internet access. For further information or assistance, contact Jennifer Berwanger, achievement director for grades kindergarten thru 5th grade; Katherine Morrison for grades 6 thru 12.

We are all committed to the success of our school and to serving all of our students and are taking intentional and innovative steps to address the reading and mathematic scores at MAS, fully recognizing the need for student success in those areas as a foundation to those in others.

We welcome your input into improving the quality of education for our children. There are a number of ways that you can be involved in helping us to address the issues around school improvement. One of the most important ways you can help is to make sure that your child/children attend school each day. While it is possible to make up work assigned on a given day, it is more difficult for the child to experience the tools given on any given day. As such, the child is behind and in some cases, can become discouraged which will affect their effort. Marcus Montgomery, our Family Coordinator, is a good resource for attendance strategies as well as opportunities for your involvement in parent action teams and other volunteering opportunities. He can be reached at 933-0302, extension 1134.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has several resources for parents on NCLB that can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/esea/topics.html#parents%20and%20nclb>. If you would like more information about the school's progress in meeting the NCLB annual objectives, please feel free to contact my office at 414-933-0302, extension 1123 or by email at jmerryfield@milwaukeeacademyofscience.org.

We are excited and optimistic about the future and we hope that you will join us in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Judy Merryfield, President
Milwaukee Academy of Science