



Inver Grove Heights

# Community Schools

Independent School District 199

District Office  
2990 80th Street East  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-306-7800  
FAX 651-306-7295

Simley High School  
2920 80th Street East  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-306-7000  
FAX 651-306-7016

IGH Middle School  
8167 Cahill Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-306-7200  
FAX 651-306-7152

Hilltop Elementary  
3201 68th Street East  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-306-7400  
FAX 651-306-7444

Pine Bend Elementary  
9875 Inver Grove Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-306-7701  
FAX 651-306-7739

Salem Hills Elementary  
5899 Babcock Trail  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-306-7300  
FAX 651-306-7321

Community Education  
1515 5th Avenue S.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
651-306-3602  
FAX 651-306-3640

Kids' Choice  
1515 5th Avenue S.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
651-306-3631  
FAX 651-306-3640

District Website  
[www.invergrove.k12.mn.us](http://www.invergrove.k12.mn.us)

October 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires that all schools in the nation make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward achieving the goal of all students being proficient in reading and math. As you may be aware, District #199 has been designated as a district in corrective action due to not making AYP for 6 years.

Not making AYP for a district is determined by aggregating the results of academic achievement measures in reading/language arts and mathematics, student participation rates in these assessments, graduation rates, and for elementary and middle schools, the attendance rates. Many times tested subgroups are not large enough to meet the minimum group size at an individual school level. All schools have exhibited progress while pursuing the challenge to meet increased targets. However, when all of the data is compiled into one report at the district level the number will, in many cases, reach or surpass the minimum group size at the district level, and thus, possibly identify the district as not making adequate yearly progress even though no individual building in the district has been identified.

The following table provides the MCA-II, attendance, and graduation results for all groups of students:

Student Group	Math Yes or No	Reading Yes or No	Attendance Yes or No	Graduation Rate Yes or No
All students	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
American Indian/Alaskan Native	NA	NA	Yes	NA
Asian/Pacific Islander	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA
Black, not of Hispanic origin	No	Yes	Yes	NA
Free and Reduced Price Lunch	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hispanic	No	Yes	Yes	NA
Limited English Proficient (ELL)	No	Yes	Yes	NA
Special Education	No	Yes	Yes	NA
White, not of Hispanic origin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

While the new math test MCA-III and the new state math standards the test is based upon make it difficult to compare MCA-III data to MCA-II data the district will be analyzing all available assessment information to pinpoint strengths and challenges that will be addressed through professional development and a review of the curriculum. We encourage you to be involved in improving the quality of education within our school district by talking with your child's teacher about how you can support your child's education or contacting the school district for more information. The district AYP improvement plan for 2011-2012 will be available on the district website on December 1, 2011. If you have any questions about the *No Child Left Behind Act* or Adequate Yearly Progress feel free to contact the district office at (651) 306-7800. To review how our neighboring districts and other schools around the state are performing please refer to the Minnesota Department of Education's Website at <http://education.state.mn.us/ReportCard2005/index.do>.

It is our challenge, goal, and commitment to make sure we achieve success for every student. In order to continue reaching the high academic goals for student proficiency set by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), our district needs your participation. Supporting the district, becoming involved at your child's school and participating in your child's education is the key to his/her academic progress. Please continue to work with us to make sure we continue to reach these goals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deirdre A. Wells  
Superintendent



September 27, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing today to share information regarding the federal No Child Left Behind Law (NCLB) and the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designation your school has received as part of this law.

Parents and teachers have long expressed concern that NCLB unfairly labels schools based on a single test given once per year, and the percentage of students in the school who pass the test. We all know it takes far more than a single test to evaluate how well our students and schools are doing. What matters more is how students are growing and learning, not just over the course of the school year, but over the course of their academic career. All children should do better and better as time goes on – that's what makes a good school and a good education.

Unfortunately, NCLB does not measure schools this way. In addition to using one test score as the primary determination of a school's success or failure, it also compares the performance of one group of students to the performance of a totally different group of students the following year. This is not a fair, valid or accurate way of measuring how schools are really doing.

In the coming months, the Minnesota Department of Education will work with the U.S. Department of Education to provide relief from this law that will allow us to develop better accountability measures for Minnesota's schools. Relief from the most troublesome provisions of NCLB would be of tremendous benefit to our state. It would maintain a level of accountability to ensure all students are learning to a high standard and at a rate that prepares them for success in college or the workplace – and it would allow us to apply a more appropriate and realistic measure of gauging school effectiveness.

An AYP determination should not be seen as a red flag, but rather as an invitation to learn more about your child's school. The best way to measure your child's and your school's progress is to look not only at your child's test scores and other class work, but also by visiting with your teachers and principal, and by visiting and volunteering at your school. We also invite you to visit the Minnesota Department of Education website at <http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html> where you will find a great deal of information about all of Minnesota's schools.

We are hopeful Minnesota will soon be granted the regulatory flexibility to provide our state's children, parents and stakeholders with a school accountability system they deserve. In the meantime, please feel free to contact the Minnesota Department of Education if you have questions about AYP or NCLB. We will continue working with parents, teachers, administrators and the public to make sure our state and federal education policies work as well as possible for all of Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Brenda Cassellius*  
Brenda Cassellius, Ed. D.  
Commissioner

[education.state.mn.us](http://education.state.mn.us)