

ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
IS RATED “EFFECTIVE!”

Now that the 2007 Local Report Card became official with the release of the data by the Ohio Department of Education on August 14th, I can officially report to our residents and taxpayers that the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District has been rated “EFFECTIVE!” We are now one step closer to joining that top tier of school districts in Ohio that are rated Excellent.

The Local Report Card is what it is. It’s a snapshot of your school building or school district that basically tells you what was accomplished in the previous school year. The LRC is about much, much more than just the number of indicators met. It’s the rest of the data that really gives us insight into which areas are strengths and which areas need attention. With all of this in mind, let’s take a look at the 2007 LRC for the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District.

As I stated earlier, our district is rated “Effective” for the first time since schools have been rated following the passage of the federal No Child Left Behind law. As a district, we met 20 out of 30 possible indicators. Our Performance Indicator (PI) score was 93.2, up from 91.6 in 2006, and 85.7 in 2005. Even though only two of our schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with their student subgroup populations, the district met AYP for the first time. This was accomplished through what is referred to as “Safe Harbor.” Safe Harbor is accomplished by reducing by 10% the number of students in subgroup populations who did not meet AYP on the previous report card. If this sounds a little bit complicated, that’s because it is. Nevertheless, that is the process that enabled our district to meet AYP.

In looking at the report cards for each of our elementary and high school buildings, all were rated “Effective,” except for West Union Elementary. WUE would have also been rated “Effective” had that building met AYP or Safe Harbor with its student subgroup populations. However,

since this was the third consecutive year that AYP had not been met at WUE, that building couldn't be rated any higher than "Continuous Improvement." In addition to this "penalty," WUE will drop into a category known as School Improvement (SI).

Being designated for SI means a number of things. First, the staff will be afforded additional opportunities for staff development. An outside or external coach for the areas of literacy/reading and math will be employed to assist our elementary staff in the district, but primarily at WUE. If you are the parent of a child attending WUE, you will be receiving a letter from the principal, Dr. Linda Naylor, informing you of all of this along with Public School Choice. WUE parents will receive this letter prior to the start of the new school year. In essence, Public School Choice affords parents of students attending WUE the option of enrolling their child(ren) at North Adams Elementary or Peebles Elementary, as long as WUE is designated for SI. This would, hopefully, be no longer than two years (2007-2008 / 2008-2009), which would be the minimal amount of time under present law (NCLB). Once you receive your letter from Dr. Naylor, please contact her at 544-2951 with any questions that you might have. You may also contact Mr. Rodney Wallace, State & Federal Programs Supervisor, at 544-5586.

In summary, our LRC is actually a mix of positive and not so positive news. However, make no mistake about it, earning an "Effective" rating is certainly a positive milestone for our school district. Our staffs, students, and parents are to be commended for their efforts in this important joint venture. As with anything else, becoming a better school district or the best rated school district requires the combined efforts of all involved. The good news for all of us is that we have come a long way in this school district. The challenge is to understand and realize that we are not where we want to be yet. That will not occur until we are rated as an "Excellent" district by the Ohio Department of Education.

For more information about our 2007 Local Report Card, please go to our district website at www.ovsd.us or the ODE website at www.ode.state.oh.us and click on “State Report Card Information.” You will also find building report cards for each of our elementary and high schools. Feel free to call the building principal for questions concerning the report card for a specific building. If you have any other questions about this article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent