



November 3, 2011

Dear Parents and Patrons:

Norman Public Schools is committed to excellence and to academic achievement for all students. Recently, reports were released showing the academic success of Norman students in relationship to state and federal performance guidelines. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information to understand these academic reports.

Oklahoma uses an Academic Performance Index (API) to measure the academic achievement of its districts and schools. This index provides an overall performance score for each district. It also measures success in the areas of reading and math as well as attendance, graduation, and dropout rates. The API is used to meet federal requirements for reporting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Possible scores on the API range from 0-1500. Each year, performance targets are identified for the API. Not only is each district and school expected to reach the performance targets, but the subgroups (e.g., English Language Learners [ELL], Students on Individualized Education Plans [IEP], etc.) of their school also must reach the designated targets. A group that does not reach the performance target but makes an adequate increase in performance is considered to be in "safe harbor."

In 2011, the total API for Norman Public Schools was 1316 (based on a possible score of 1500). The score reflects an overall increase of 58 points from 2010. The state average for 2009-2010 was 1092.

The state performance target for math in 2011 was 1074. The math score for our regular education students was 1352, the score for our ELLs was 1122, and our students on IEPs achieved 1118. All subgroups reached the benchmark in math.

The 2011 state performance target for reading was 1060. The reading score for our regular education students was 1326. The score for our ELL students was 884 and the score for students on IEPs was 982. Even though the ELL student score is below the benchmark, the subgroup achieved "safe harbor." However, the IEP reading score did not reach the benchmark. Consequently, based on the reading score of one subgroup, Norman will be classified as a district in school improvement for the 2011-2012 school year.

Norman is working on many initiatives to address the literacy skills of all students. We will continue to strive for academic excellence. Our goal is for all students to be provided with the necessary learning opportunities to enjoy academic success. We appreciate your support in this endeavor. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Carla Kimberling, Assistant Superintendent (366-5872).

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Siano  
Superintendent