



October 7, 2011

Dear Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Thea Bowman has been identified for School Improvement/Public School Choice. The reason for this identification is that, under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the state's accountability system, our school did not meet "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) for two consecutive years.

While holding high expectations for our students is not new, the way our school and student achievement is measured and reported is different under the NCLB Law. We have received the letter grade A and Exemplary status from the State in the past few years, however, failing to make AYP under NCLB has caused Thea Bowman to drop from an A to C. AYP is a measure that all states use to determine if schools are meeting the expectations described in NCLB. The goal, under this system, is that 100% of our students meet or exceed Indiana Academic Standards by the 2013-14 School Year. In order to meet that goal, we must meet certain objectives each year. To meet AYP each year, a school must test at least 95% of the students in each subgroup (all students, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and ethnic/racial groups) and each subgroup must meet student proficiency based on scores from ISTEP+ or ECA in Algebra 1 and English 10. In addition, schools must meet the required graduation and attendance rates.

As a school in School Improvement/Public School Choice your child can attend another school in the area that is **NOT** in school improvement. After review of the area schools we are not offering a choice at this time. We did find however, that 21st Century Charter School is **NOT** in improvement. You are not required to move your child to a new school, **NOR DO WE FEEL IT IS AN EDUCATIONALLY SOUND PRACTICE TO MOVE STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

What are we doing in response to this identification? We are addressing our school improvement needs in several ways. We have developed our school improvement plan with technical support and resources through Indiana School Improvement Institute (InSai). We have: (a) incorporated 30 minutes skills building into the daily schedule, (b) Pull-out reading and math labs in elementary and middle school, (c) ECA English and Algebra labs in the high school, and (d) utilization of instructional assistants for small group instruction. Teachers will receive support and on-going professional development through our current administrative staff and will be given the opportunity to participate in State and Federal professional development. As you can see, we want to continue serving your child, and will use all the resources available to help our students achieve academic success.

Parents are not only critical to a student's success, but to the success of the school as well. In addition to the nurturing you give to your child, you can participate in helping to raise student achievement in school. You can become more involved in your child's school by:

- Reviewing your child's homework and test results;
- Supporting and reinforcing your child's good study habits;
- Participating in parent involvement activities that assist you in learning how to increase your child's achievement level;
- Keeping well informed about what is going on in school by reading monthly school newsletters;
- Talking with your child's teacher about other ways you can help in the classroom and at home;
- Becoming involved with the PTCA; and
- Coming to parent-teacher conferences to meet with your child's teacher.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. Our school is committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Thea Bowman has a strong, dedicated staff committed to teaching the challenging academic content, and interpersonal skills needed to prepare all students for academic success and leadership roles in their community.

Educationally yours,

Mrs. R. James, Principal
Thea Bowman Jr. /Sr. High School

Mrs. A. Fontleroy, Principal
Thea Bowman Elementary

Dr. Gwendolyn Adell, CAO