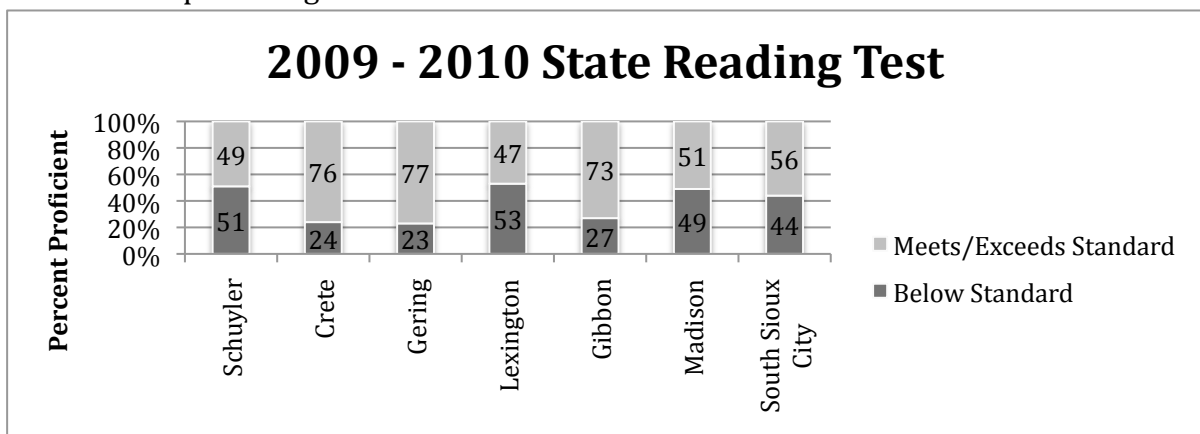


Dear Parents/Guardians

Federal Law, known as No Child Left Behind, requires that all students be proficient on grade level assessments by 2014. To support this law, the Nebraska Department of Education has made goals for the percentage of students who are to be proficient on those grade level assessments. Each year, the percentage increases toward 100%. Nebraska districts whose student group or groups meet or exceed the incremental percentage are judged as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Those districts, whose student group or groups score below the assigned percentage, are judged to not have met AYP. To be judged as not meeting AYP a district or student group must not meet AYP for two consecutive years. At the high school level AYP uses reading, math and graduation rate to determine meeting or not meeting the goal.

Schuyler High School was recognized as not meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on the 2009-10 State of the Schools Report. 2008-09 and 2009-10 student performance on reading and math assessments, plus the SCS graduation rate was used. The high school did not meet AYP in 2008-09 because too few students participated in the assessments. The Nebraska Department of Education set a ninety-five percent goal; Schuyler High School's rate was 91%. In 2009-10 the state reading goal was fifty-seven percent, Schuyler High School's rate was 47%

The following chart shows how Schuyler Central High School compares to other schools in the state that have similar student groups as Schuyler. The top of each column indicates the percentage of students that met or exceeded the standard on the state test.



Crete and Gering have been involved in the Reading Mastery program and kindergarten through twelfth grade reading articulation for a period of time. Schuyler Community Schools began a kindergarten through twelfth grade reading articulation when it became one district.

The school's staff is currently doing a variety of activities to improve the test scores. First, we identified that 24% of our students are one to five questions away from meeting the standard. We know that with minor adjustments we could have over 70% of our students meet the standards. To make this happen, the language arts teachers have thoroughly aligned their instruction to the standards. They have also created a practice assessment that they will give to the juniors that will allow them to identify areas where the juniors will need additional practice. The juniors will then meet with the language arts teachers during SSP to work on those concepts.

These and other ideas will be incorporated into an action plan that the school must submit to the state to show how we are going to make improvements. However, the school cannot do this alone. It is crucial that we have help from parents and guardians. All parents can help by establishing homework routines, encouraging your child to read and attending parent teacher conferences and other parent meetings.

We do also need parents to be involved with various committees to improve student achievement on state assessments. If you would be willing to help serve on a committee, please contact Joyce Baumert at the high school at 352-2421 or [jbaumer@esu7.org](mailto:jbaumer@esu7.org).

Public school choice within a district is also a requirement. Since we have only one high school that choice does not apply to Schuyler Community Schools. You should be aware that the state of Nebraska has an open enrollment policy. Students may transfer to other school districts if they so desire. Students wishing to transfer would need to make an application to the district they wish to attend before March 15, 2011, in order to take advantage of this policy.

Schuyler Central High School has been involved in a continuous school improvement process for many years. With your help and support, we will become a better district because of this.

Sincerely,

Robin Stevens  
Superintendent

Joyce Baumert  
Principal

David Gibbons  
Curriculum/School  
Improvement Coordinator