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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Oklahoma's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver is designed to ensure that each student that graduates from an Oklahoma high school is college, career, and citizen ready. This waiver provides Oklahoma with the flexibility it needs to press forward with implementation of reforms, while giving schools room to grow. The final approved *ESEA Flexibility Waiver*, as well as videos and other helpful information, are available at: <http://ok.gov/sde/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-esea>.

In 2011, the Oklahoma legislature adopted an A-F School Grading System that makes school performance clear in a manner that is transparent and easily communicated to the public. The A-F Report Card is comprised of three sections each worth one-third of the overall calculation: Performance, Student Growth, and Whole School Performance. The Student Growth section is divided into two sub-categories: growth of all students in the school and growth of the bottom quartile of students. Each category (Performance, Student Growth, Bottom Quartile Growth, and Whole School Performance) is awarded a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F and subsequently combined to award a final letter grade for a school. For additional information, the A-F Report Card Guide is available on the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Website at: <http://ok.gov/sde/f-grading-system>.

A Priority School is any school that either (1) receives a letter grade of "F" based on the State's A-F School Grading System, or (2) is a Title I school in the bottom 5% of Title I schools, a school in the bottom 5% of all schools, or (3) is a Title I-participating high school, Title I-eligible high school, and/or non-Title I high school in the State with a graduation rate below 60% for three consecutive, or (4) is a school that receives School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to implement a school intervention model.

Howe Elementary School has scored a final Letter Grade of "F" and has been designated as a Priority School because of the 2013 school year final grade. As a parent, you may want to compare the final A-F School Letter Grade of *Howe Elementary School* to other schools in *Howe Schools* and in nearby districts.

The ESEA Flexibility Waiver requires schools to notify parents/guardians of children in Title I Priority schools of the option to transfer their child, with transportation included, to higher-performing schools. This means a parent or guardian may choose to send their child to a higher-performing school that is able to accept students and transportation costs will be covered by the school district. If you would like to transfer your child to another school, please contact the school principal at 918-658-3508.

During the 2013-2014 school year Howe Elementary took steps to improve in four specific areas. These areas are: 1.) Ensuring instructional strategies are aligned with learning objectives 2.) Improving communication with parents on student progress 3.) Making decisions that are data driven and focused on academic performance 4.) Using a collaborative process to develop vision, mission, and goals.

In the implementation of the areas above the school took the following actions: 1.) Frequent meetings with teachers to align instruction with learning objectives 2.) Implementing new communication tools such as Celly, Facebook, and Twitter. 3.) Established a “Data Room” to track the academic progress of all students. 4.) Established a written standard performance with input from various stakeholders.

In addition to the above, the school took steps to improve school safety through professional development for the administration and other issues of importance to parents and stakeholders.

Howe Elementary realizes that the improvement of any school is a collective effort of administration, staff, parents, and community members. If you would be open to serving on an advisory committee or would like to share your thoughts on school improvement, please contact the building principal.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Dyer