

**PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT**

This is the final section of the school report card in which your school and district provide information below on areas of success and areas for planned improvement based on your school's improvement plan.

(For report cards disseminated electronically, this information may be provided in a separate document due to differences in the software used. If you are unable to locate this document, please contact your local school or district office.)

## Ellington School Improvement Plan 2008-2009

Ellington School is a K-3 attendance center serving approximately 289 students. The attendance rate during the 2007-2008 school year was 95.8%, remaining consistent with the previous year, and the mobility rate increased to 13.4%. Approximately 40.1% of the students qualified for free or reduced lunch and 0% of the students had limited English proficiency. The truancy rate was 0.0% which makes us extremely proud.

Data used in the evaluation of student performance included results from the ISAT test (3<sup>rd</sup> grade only), the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) given to students in grade 2 and 3, building writing prompts (grades K-3), spelling assessments and beginning of the year and end of the year DRA scores for reading. Ellington students continued to perform well on all assessments. On the ISAT test, 80.0% of the students in reading and 86.2% of the students in math met or exceeded state expectations. This represented a slight increase in reading and a slight decrease in math.

No Child Left Behind required that subgroups of 40 or more students taking the ISAT be analyzed for adequate yearly progress. The groups that Ellington School analyzed were males, females, ethnic (white), and low income. All groups scored well above the requirement in reading comprehension and math, allowing Ellington School to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Literacy will be the focus of the school improvement activities for the current school year. This will include reading, writing and speaking. Teachers will increase the use of oral language activities, especially in kindergarten and first grade. They will explicitly teach the writing process and embed writing into the curriculum by asking students to explore, problem-solve, and respond to their reading. Teachers will continue to move to a workshop approach to teach both reading and writing in the classroom with mini-lessons providing explicit teaching of the curriculum. Opportunities for extended responses in both reading and math will be provided on a regular basis. The classroom teachers will administer writing assessments in the form of a quarterly prompt throughout the year in order to monitor student growth in writing. In addition, teachers will be encouraged to create student writing portfolios. Reading and writing in-services specific to the areas of need will be provided for the staff throughout the year as well as ongoing support from Literacy Coach, Kim Mast through weekly Team Meetings, monthly Team Meetings and individual teacher support. Classrooms using "best practice" will be developed with the support of the Literacy Coach and will serve as models for the Ellington staff and other staff in the district. An Ellington Literacy Intervention Team will be formed, consisting of our most highly trained reading staff, in order to provide students and teachers with extra support in literacy. These teachers will work with small groups of children, engaging in short term, focused intervention. Progress will be monitored for all Ellington students on an Intervention Wall.

A second focus is to improve school climate through the teaching of the 7 Habits. We will continue to use a Morning Meeting to engage students in our Ellington community as they begin their day. Ellington staff and students will teach the Habits in the classroom and during assemblies in an effort to build character and personal life skills. As a group we hope to live the Habits in our daily lives both in and out of school.

Parents are informed of the school improvement activities through the school report card that will be sent home with each student. A report is made to PTA by the principal and articles are included in communications home to parents. The principal provides any assistance needed in understanding and interpreting results. Copies of the entire school improvement plan are available in the office of Ellington School.