

July 10, 2009

Dear Shoals Jr./Sr. High School Parent or Guardian,

Shoals Jr./Sr. High School is a Year 3, Focused School under Indiana's Differentiated Accountability model for not having made Adequate Yearly Progress. Shoals Jr./Sr. High School has a 2009-2010 school improvement plan and ten percent of the school's Title I funds will be used for professional development for the staff. A team of teachers attended the Title I Summer Conference in Indianapolis in June. SES tutoring will be available for non-proficient free and reduced lunch students through the Southern Indiana Education Consortium (SIEC) in Jasper.

Although Shoals Jr./Sr. High School **did** make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for ISTEP scores for 2008, the **graduation percentage** caused the school to not make AYP for the fourth year. A summary of the former three years of not passing AYP due to ISTEP scores follows in this letter. Shoals Jr./Sr. High School must pass ISTEP scores for two years in a row in order (in special education subgroups) to no longer be a Focused School under Indiana's Differentiated Accountability model.

Shoals Jr./Sr. High School entered the School Choice year in 2005, for not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the **Special Education subgroups** of reading and math and for not meeting 95 percent in the area of **graduation in 2005 and 2007**.

AYP determinations are based on student performance and participation rates on Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP+), attendance rates for elementary and middle schools, and graduation rates for high schools. A school is identified for School Improvement after it has not made AYP for two consecutive years.

During the fall of 2006, Shoals Jr./Sr. High School did not make AYP because not enough students in the special education subgroup scored at grade level in the areas of both English and Math. Shoals Jr./Sr. High School **did pass** in the area of the **percentage of students who graduated in 2006**. The school must pass the graduation rate for two years in order to be removed from AYP.

Here is a comparison of the student scores at Shoals Jr./Sr. High School and the state scores for the years of 2006, 2007, and 2008.

English ISTEP Averages	
06 Shoals Average English Grade 7: 70%	State: 69%
06 Shoals Average English Grade 8: 73%	State: 68%
06 Shoals Average English Grade 9: 72%	State: 68%
06 Shoals Average English Grade 10: 78%	State: 68%
07 Shoals Average English Grade 7: 75%	State: 71%
07 Shoals Average English Grade 8: 65%	State: 70%
07 Shoals Average English Grade 9: 66%	State: 67%
07 Shoals Average English Grade 10: 76%	State: 69%
08 Shoals Average English Grade 7: 64%	State: 70%
08 Shoals Average English Grade 8: 59%	State: 69%
08 Shoals Average English Grade 10: 78%	State: 68%

Math ISTEP Averages	
06 Shoals Average Math Grade 7:	77% State: 78%
06 Shoals Average Math Grade 8:	79% State: 72%
06 Shoals Average Math Grade 9:	68% State: 72%
06 Shoals Average Math Grade 10:	64% State: 66%
07 Shoals Average Math Grade 7:	81% State: 80%
07 Shoals Average Math Grade 8:	73% State: 75%
07 Shoals Average Math Grade 9:	70% State: 69%
07 Shoals Average Math Grade 10:	75% State: 67%
08 Shoals Average Math Grade 7:	82% State: 74%
08 Shoals Average Math Grade 8:	78% State: 75%
08 Shoals Average Math Grade 10:	69% State: 66%

You can also go to the Indiana Department of Education's website and look up information on any school by putting in the school's name. The website is: <http://www.doe.in.gov/data/>

Using data about our students and their achievement, we have identified the following key strategies for instructional improvement in our school improvement plan:

- Immediate attention in the form of remediation will be given to special education students not achieving state standards. Remediation in the target areas of math and English/Language Arts will occur in the regular classroom and in the resource room.
- A careful analysis of the most recent ISTEP+ and NWEA scores for special education subgroup students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 indicates that immediate attention should be given to English/Language Arts reading comprehension and writing strategies.
- A careful analysis of the most recent ISTEP+ and NWEA scores for special education subgroup students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 indicates that immediate attention should be given to Math computation.
- Various strategies have been put in place to raise the graduation rate. A Career Explorations Component has been added to encourage students to stay in school and graduate.
- A 27 minute STAR period in the middle of the school day provides students with small groups of intensive remediation in English/Language Arts skills, writing skills, and Math skills.

Professional Development for teachers will emphasize techniques and strategies to improve test scores in math and English/Language Arts in the regular classroom and the resource room. Shoals Community School Corporation representatives attend the Fall and Spring State Title I Administrative Workshops and receive technical assistance via networking meetings, website information, and phone conversations from the Title I State office. A team of teachers attended the Title I 2009 Summer Conference in Indianapolis in June.

A Jr./Sr. High School team of teachers and administrator works on the School Improvement Team to write the School Improvement plan for the current school year and the Title I School Improvement plan for Adequate Yearly Progress. Goals and objectives in the plans follow state standards and are designed to promote student achievement in test scores.

Students in our school who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and are non-proficient in English or math are able to enroll in a free tutoring program, known as Supplemental Educational Services (SES). The tutoring program will be offered after the regular school day. The purpose of this assistance is to ensure that Shoals Jr./Sr. High School students increase their academic achievement in reading and math by receiving additional tutoring and instruction. If there is not enough funding for every child requesting services, eligible students with the greatest academic need will receive first priority. If you have questions about whether or not your child is eligible for services, please call David Springer at 812-247-2090.

Eligible students will receive more information about SES in a separate letter. The approved provider list will be sent at that time. There will also be information on how parents can request tutoring services.

Parent support is essential to our school making AYP. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important to the school's success. The Harmony computer data system has made it easier for parents to check student grades, classroom assignments and lesson plans.

Our school's parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall. If you would like to be involved in this process, please call Mr. Springer at 812-247-2090. In addition, Shoals Jr./Sr. High School will have its annual meeting to review parent rights under Title I and the home-school compact on Thursday, August 6th, at 7 p.m. in Shoals Elementary Library. A Regional Title I Parent Meeting will be held at Vincennes University on Tuesday, October 13th, which Shoals Jr./Sr. High School parents may attend. Parent Conferences will also be held in October.

Because Shoals Jr./Sr. High School has not made adequate progress on the ISTEP+ for four consecutive years, our district is required, under the Federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, to offer you the chance to transfer your child to another public school in the district, if at all possible, for the 2009-2010 school year. However, there are no schools in our district that we can present to you as transfer options. It is not practical to transfer students to area Jr./Sr. High Schools because of transportation issues. There will, however, be changes at our school as we focus on new ways to achieve success for every student.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about Shoals Jr./Sr. High School's academic progress or your options under the *No Child Left Behind Act*. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to make our school the very best place for all children to reach high academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Springer
Principal