

Edgewood-Colesburg

Community School District

Dawn Voss, Principal
Jr. Sr. High School
dvoss@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
403 W. Union Street – P.O. Box 316
Edgewood, Iowa 52042
563.928.6412 – FAX 563.928.6414

Rob Busch, Superintendent
rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
403 W. Union Street – P.O. Box 315
Edgewood, Iowa 52042
563.928.6411 - FAX 563.928.6414

Paul Wenger, Principal
Elementary School
pwenger@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
409 East Street – P.O. Box 125
Colesburg, Iowa 52035
563.856.2415 – FAX 563.856.2113

Dear Parents,

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires schools to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a school does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, and if the school receives federal Title I funds, then it is placed on a federal “Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Schools or districts are cited if they a.) don’t meet 95% participation rate for assessments, b.) don’t meet student achievement goals, or c.) don’t meet attendance rate for elementary and middle schools or graduation rate for high school.

I am writing to inform you that Ed-Co Elementary has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA, under these federal guidelines because a portion of our students did not reach proficiency goals on their Reading tests for two consecutive years. As a result, our district is required by law to offer your student the opportunity for school choice to another school within the district that has not been designated as a school in need of assistance. In Ed-Co’s case, this is not an option as there are no other public elementary schools within the district.

Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. We remain a fully accredited school in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

Why Ed-Co Elementary Didn’t Make APY:

Schools don’t make AYP when they don’t achieve one of the following measures: a.) 95% participation rate for assessments, b.) student achievement goals, or c.) 95% attendance rate for elementary and middle school or 90% graduation rate for high school. Ed-Co Elementary is listed because not enough students met their goals in Reading in one or more subgroup.

How Ed-Co Elementary Will Improve:

Although we have many indicators that show Ed-Co is offering top-quality education, we know that continuous improvement is important to ensure all of our students are reaching their highest potential. Using data about our students and their achievement, our staff already has begun to identify areas for improvement. Some student groups may require additional instructional interventions, pending a review of our current services and programs. In addition, the Iowa Support Team and the Ed-Co Elementary Building Leadership Team have already begun to work on a plan.

BOARD MEMBERS

Randall Mescher
President

Kenneth Faust

Jason Jones

Jeff Lincoln

Steve Schwiertert

Martha Romig
Business Manager

How Parents Can Help:

Parent support is essential to help your student reach his or her highest academic success, but parents may need ideas about the best way to be involved. A few suggestions include:

*Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.

*Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every level. When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.

*Help your child with his or her homework. If you are unable to help, contact the school to request a tutor.

*Volunteer at the school. Every teacher needs volunteers to help in the classroom, or even with projects that can be done in your home. Other areas in the school, such as the office or cafeteria, also need volunteers.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Ed-Co. The assessment results cited by NCLB are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate our students' achievement. We are very proud of our students and of the education they receive from the staff and Ed-Co Elementary. We also are committed to continuous improvement, and so will continue to seek new data and make any changes necessary to benefit student learning. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support and assistance, and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Paul Wenger

BOARD MEMBERS

Randall Mescher
President

Kenneth Faust

Jason Jones

Jeff Lincoln

Steve Schwiertert

Martha Romig
Business Manager