

July 30, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Ider School is continuing its tradition of positive education experiences for all students. This is evidenced in Ider's overall growth in reading and math, increasing number of students receiving college scholarships, and numerous school awards earned by academic and non-academic teams. Ider School students' achievement scores are in the middle to high range when compared to neighboring schools with similar grade configuration. We are required by the U.S. Department of Education to notify our parents of our school's improvement status *at least* fourteen days before the first day of school for this 2011-- 2012 school year.

Adequate yearly progress, based upon last year's test scores, was evaluated for 1383 public schools, including 932 Title I schools. Statewide, 227 schools have been identified for School Improvement. Of those, 140 are Title I schools, compared to 68 last year. These schools must offer School Choice, if a higher performing school of choice is available, or offer their children access to supplemental educational services.

As you know, Ider School was identified for improvement in 2010 because it did not achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the additional academic indicator, graduation rate. Teachers, students, parents, and school administrators worked very hard during the past year to improve student achievement in this area. That hard work paid off! Ider School made AYP by meeting or improving in all of its academic goals for the 2010-2011 school year.

For the 2011-2012 school year, the state has assigned an accountability status of —Made AYP – School Improvement Year-1-Delay to Ider School. During this school year, Ider School will continue improvement strategies and parent options that were implemented during 2010-2011 school year. For example, all students enrolled in Ider School will continue to be eligible to transfer to another school that is not identified for improvement. Students who were allowed to attend another school last year may continue attending that school. Parents of students who did not transfer last year, may request to transfer this year in accordance with the DeKalb County public school choice plan. Also, parents of eligible students may request supplemental education services for their child in accordance with the DeKalb County School System's plan for school improvement.

According to the state's accountability plan, which is aligned with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, Ider School must make AYP in reading and mathematics among all students and subgroups of students for two consecutive years in order to be completely removed from school improvement status. This requirement allows time for the school to continue its emphasis on improvement strategies and will increase the likelihood that more students will reach or exceed the state's goals for achievement in the areas of reading and mathematics or additional academic indicator. If Ider School meets all of its academic goals and makes AYP based on this year's spring assessments, it will no longer be identified for improvement – this is the school's goal.

We encourage you to continue involvement in helping your child to be successful. Examples of how you may be more involved include asking about homework assignments, reading to your child every day, attending back-to-school nights to meet teachers, and volunteering when possible.

This letter also serves as a notification to parents that all students at the school, because of continued *School Improvement* status, are eligible to transfer to a school that is not identified for school improvement. In this district, eligible schools to which students may transfer and their academic achievement are listed in the chart below. For additional information, please examine the attached school report cards.

If your child attends:	He/she may choose to transfer to:	Record of Achievement of Choice Schools
Ider School (Grades K-12)	Valley Head High School (Grades K-12)	Made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Reading/Math for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011.
	Henagar Jr. High School (Grades K-8)	Made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Reading/Math for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011.

If you choose the transfer option, your child will be transported to the choice school free of charge as long as Ider School is designated as a *School Improvement* school. If funds are not sufficient to meet the increased transportation costs for all students whose parents request a transfer, federal law requires that the school system give priority to the lowest achieving students from low-income families. These students also have a priority to get the first choice of receiving schools. The district determines income based on eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals and student achievement based on the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test*.

Please complete the enclosed form and return to Ider School by September 2, 2011. The Federal Programs Office of our district will notify you when the choice option will take effect and when your child may start attending the choice school.

The U.S. Department of Education is also allowing our school to offer students an option of remaining at our school and taking advantage of free tutoring sessions called Supplemental Educational Services or SES. If you decide that your child will remain at Ider School and take part in the free tutoring, it will help our school increase our academic scores in reading, language arts, and mathematics. Tutoring sessions will be provided before/after school, and will be in addition to refocusing and strengthening the instruction that students receive during the school day. **SES is NOT homework help.** This year, all students in our school are eligible to receive the tutoring. If for some reason the demand for services is too great and exceeds the available money set aside in the school district, first priority for the free tutoring will be given to low-income, low-achieving students. All parents will be invited to an **SES (Free Tutoring) Provider Fair** at Ider School's Library on Tuesday, September 13th at 5:30 pm where the companies that provide the free tutoring will meet, along with school district representatives, with all interested parents. If you are not able to attend on that day, you may select from the enclosed list, or if you need help choosing a SES company, a district representative will be happy to assist you. As a concerned parent, you will want to work with the SES tutors and the school in a learning partnership: by encouraging your student to attend the tutoring sessions and by keeping up the tutoring progress. If you choose free tutoring instead of a School Choice transfer, we ask that you fill out the SES Selection Form that came with this letter and return it to Ider School by September 30, 2011.

Thank you for your support and assistance in helping Ider School make AYP based on the spring 2011 student assessments. We look forward to your continued support during the 2011-2012 school year. You can find more information about your school improvement options by going to the district's website at www.dekalbk12.org. Please contact the local board of education at (256) 638-6921 or the school at (256) 632-2302 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jason Mayfield
Federal Programs Director

- Enclosures:
1. Valley Head HS & Henagar Jr.HS Annual Accountability Results (One-Page Summaries)
 2. School Choice Request Form
 3. Supplemental Educational Services Sign-up Form (*if appropriate*)