



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

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BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830

August 24, 2009

To the Parent of:

Board Members

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General Counsel

Administration

GAIL F. MCKINZIE, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dear Parent,

Your child attends **Janie Howard Wilson Elementary**, which receives federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Your child's school has not met these standards in reading and/or mathematics for five years. This school has been identified as a School in Planning for Restructuring which means that the district must develop a plan to restructure the school.

As a parent, you are invited to participate in the planning process and submit comments on the proposed restructuring plan. Restructuring the school may include:

- Reopening as a charter school
- Replacing all or most school staff
- Allowing a private company to operate the school
- Other restructuring that changes the way the school operates

Compared to other schools in the district, your child's school is performing better in reading, writing and math. The table below shows the percent of proficient students in our school compared to other schools in the district and state.

% of Students Scoring Level 3 (Proficient) or Higher on FCAT			
SUBJECT	SCHOOL	DISTRICT	STATE
Reading	71%	55 %	62 %
Mathematics	70%	60 %	67 %
Writing	Over 95%	93 %	94 %

What are we doing about it?

Polk County School District is providing the following assistance and support to help the students at your child's school improve their academic achievement:

- Providing additional staff development and trainings for teachers
- Monitoring implementation of Learning Focused Strategies in our classrooms
- Implementing a high quality curriculum and effective tutoring for all students

J.H. Wilson Elementary School is providing the following assistance and support to help the students at your child's school improve their academic achievement:

- Developing a plan to monitor students' progress
- Providing an after school tutoring program in reading and math
- Scheduling extra help for students during the school day in reading, math, and writing
- Providing agendas for all students to record homework and send notes home

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What can you do?

You are very important to your child's education. We invite you to become more involved in your child's school by:

- Attending educational workshops each month
- Reading to your child nightly
- Assisting in the development of the plan for restructuring the school
- Checking your child's agenda each night for homework or notes from the teacher
- Sending your child to school on time each day
- Becoming a member of our PTO and/or SAC

We invite you to become more involved in improvement efforts for our district by assisting in the plan for restructuring. For more information on how to become involved in this planning, please contact your child's school.

For more information about your child's school or other schools in the district, please contact Beverly Lynne at (863) 678-4211 or visit the Florida Department of Education's website at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

Information regarding your child's teacher and paraprofessional qualifications will be provided to you in a timely manner upon request.

You have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the state licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications of licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and, if so, their qualifications.

You will be notified in writing if your child has been assigned or has been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met the *No Child Left Behind* "highly qualified" criteria. The information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher and/or classroom paraprofessionals may be obtained from your child's principal.

Please be assured that the Polk County School District is dedicated to providing your child a quality education.

Sincerely,

Gail F. McKinzie, Ph.D.
Superintendent