SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

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Superintendent

August 24, 2009

To the Parent of:

Dear Parent,

Your child attends **Garner 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 four years. This school has been identified as a School in Corrective Action. Our district will increase district oversight and implement Learning Focused Strategies in our school.

Compared to other schools in the district, your child's school is striving to achieve in reading, math and writing. 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	**51%**	55 %	62 %
Mathematics	**49%**	60 %	67 %
Writing	**88%**	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

Garner 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
- Providing additional academic intervention time to assist struggling students.

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:

- Participating in School Advisory Council (SAC), Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), and other school programs and functions.
- Attend a minimum of three parent conferences
- Check your child's agenda daily and use it as a communication tool
- Attend our parent curriculum nights

For more information about your child's school or other schools in the district, please contact **Dart Meyers** at **(863) 965-5455** or visit the Florida Department of Education's website at http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org.

Polk County Schools - an equal opportunity institution for education and employment

The Mission of Polk County Public Schools is to ensure rigorous, relevant learning experiences that result in high achievement for our students.

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