

BOARD OF EDUCATION MARQUARDT SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

Loren D. May, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Choice Program-Parent Choice Availability Notification Letter

August 10, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As required by the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has determined that Marquardt Middle School is among those Illinois public schools that are “in need of improvement”. This is based upon student scores on the *Illinois Standards Achievement Test* (ISAT) and stems from the fact that a student subgroup (Special Education/IEP) at Marquardt Middle School has not made adequate yearly progress toward meeting statewide educational standards for the past two years. Our district’s 2009 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. You can obtain a copy of these reports on our website (www.d15.us), at your child’s school, or at the district office. **Under the Act, this designation is required even though Marquardt Middle School, as a whole, has met those statewide educational standards for the past two years.**

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, parents of children enrolled in under-performing schools are given the option to transfer their children to higher-performing schools within the district, with transportation provide by the district. This is not applicable for Marquardt Middle School students, because District 15 does not have another grade-appropriate school. Surrounding public schools districts have thus far declined to enter into transfer agreements with District 15.

For the 2009-2010 school year, Marquardt Middle School and the district are working to improve academic achievement by increasing student instructional time and professional development in the areas of reading, writing, science and mathematics. Diagnostic tools will be implemented to assist teachers in identifying and supporting student learning. Also, the school is working with the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) to improve teaching and learning.

Parents of Marquardt Middle School students may become involved in addressing academic achievement issues by becoming members of the School Partnership Council (SPC). If you have additional questions, you may contact the school office at 858-3850.

Sincerely,

Marie Cimaglia, Principal
Marquardt Middle School