

**December 12, 2011 WIS AYP Meeting
Parent Feedback**

1. Parents: A concern was expressed about MAP testing and when we test students.
Answer: The District will be MAP testing all students at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year beginning this 2011-2012 school year.
2. Parents: A parent expressed the concern that the Reading Logs were not being honestly filled out by students.
Answer: Our teachers not only look at the Reading Logs but look for consistency, and also question students in class as part of the “big picture” of assessing Reading Logs.
3. Parents: Does MAP have a ceiling where students cannot assess any higher per grade level?
Answer: Yes, it does have a ceiling but it is extremely high.
4. Parents: Is it possible that the core curriculum still needs to be re-evaluated?
Answer: Yes—we continue to discuss and “tweak” our core curriculum in Reading and Math. Grade level teams of teachers discuss their core curriculum at both grade level team meetings and at Data Days each year.
5. Parents: What year status are we in?
Answer: WIS is in its 2nd year of not meeting AYP. Specifically, “AEWS” means Academic Early Warning Status. These schools did not make Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years and are eligible for state sanctions.
6. Parents: In reviewing the data, if we removed the subgroups that did not perform well, would the school have made AYP?
Answer: No, because the subgroup “ALL” meaning all students in the school, did not make the target.
7. Parents: Are you continuing to review extended day programs and summer school options for all children?
Answer: Yes, we currently are offering extended day programs in Reading and Math after school but this is only for students who are struggling and did not make the target needed to meet and exceed state standards. We also must stay within our financial framework because if we offered something like summer school, we would need to eliminate some programs from during the school year.
8. Parents: What is the number of students that make up a subgroup?
Answer: 45 students make up a subgroup. Some years we may have a subgroup in a certain area and some years we may not. The difference of literally one student plus or minus can make or take away a subgroup.
9. Parents: Parents can help out their classroom teachers and children by taking time at home to help with responses to the Reading Logs.

10. Parents: Please continue to communicate, communicate, communicate. I feel that sometimes I find things out from other parents rather than the school.

Answer: We are utilizing teacher newsletters, principal newsletters, our website, district email, Alert Now phone messaging, and district correspondence. We are continuing to look into ways we can increase communication home that is not costly.

11. Parents: Parents did share that many parents are willing to provide service to our schools, time to our schools, and resources. They just need to know what and where. Why are there not more than 20 parents who attend an important meeting like this?

Answer: Please know that we value all parents' attendance at our functions. We also know that we have many parents with second and third jobs whose times vary as to when they can attend functions. All of our parents care about their children and our schools but some are not able to support our schools at evening meetings. We continue to offer programs and encourage parent attendance at many activities throughout the school year.

12. Parents: Why isn't WIS offering programs like WPS' Dads and Doughnuts and Moms and Muffins?

Answer: These are fabulous programs. However, we need to focus on parent programs at WIS that will increase student achievement and are not just social. Therefore, our parent nights learning reading strategies and parent education programs you will see more of in the future as this has a direct impact on student achievement.

13. Parents: How do we compare with other surrounding districts?

Answer: Many of the surrounding schools in this area are in their 3rd, 4th, and 5th years of "status" with not making AYP. There is a great website where you can actually compare our student achievement on the ISAT with other districts' student achievement on the ISAT. That website is: iirc.niu.edu

14. Parents: In years past, there was a writing assignment that went with the Reading Logs. What happened to this assignment?

Answer: Teachers shared that they were not able to support the students in their writing when the writing assignments were done at home. Therefore, the assignments are now being worked on at school to provide the students the support they need to learn from the writing assignments.

15. Parents: There was a change in Math Curriculum this year—why not a change in the Reading curriculum?

Answer: There was a change in the Reading curriculum 4 years ago. The past three years there has been a change in Science curriculum for one year and Math curriculum for two consecutive years. A change in curriculum is very costly—the district has to spread out the costs and still ensure a rigorous, current curriculum so there is a 7-year curriculum cycle review process that our District utilizes.