

Minnesota Department of



## **Focus School Family Notification Letter**

Dear Families of Excell Academy,

Excell Academy is dedicated to providing all students with an excellent education so that each child can succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. In the coming school year we will look at multiple assessment measures that indicate how our school is succeeding. This will ensure that we reach our goal of all children succeeding in school and in life.

Excell is currently designated as a Focus School under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The designation is based on student performance data from 2010 and 2011 that placed our school among the ten percent of schools making the largest contribution to the state's achievement gap. We will receive a new designation after the 2013-2014 school year.

We are currently in a three-year process of school improvement. The planning for this process is aimed at improving the performance of student groups within the school that are currently underperforming and contributing to the state's achievement gap. While many of the improvement activities will be targeted toward students from those groups that are currently underperforming, many changes will take place across the school and will be aimed at improving the academic performance for all students. In order to accomplish this important work, we have an Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) which includes a variety of stakeholders. If you are interested in being a part of our improvement efforts, we encourage you to contact us.

Families and communities are at the center of our school improvement plan. Your engagement and support in your child's education is critical to his or her success. Contact your child's teacher(s) with how you can best support the work they are doing in the classroom.

As parents, you can be engaged and support your child's education through steps like providing a quiet place for your child to do homework or read, limiting screen time, and talking with your student about school. Also, remember that students between 5-12 years old need 10-12 hours of sleep each night; adolescents need 10 hours of sleep.

We are having a great year at Excell and look forward to a great future. Excell Academy will have its annual meeting to inform parents about our Title I program and revise the parent involvement plan. This meeting is scheduled for April 29th at 6:15 at the school. If you would like to volunteer at the school contact Fay Holland at 763-533-0500 ext. 123.

For more information call: 763-533-0500 (for English or Spanish, dial ext. 110)

Sincerely,

Excell Academy for Higher Learning