

**YARNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #52**  
**MODEL CREEK SCHOOL**  
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December 5, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members;

This notice is to inform you of the letter grade that Model Creek School received from the Arizona State Board of Education's new accountability system, A-F. The system based their grading scale on four categories: proficiency on AzMerit; growth on AzMerit; proficiency on AZELLA testing; and acceleration, readiness, and absenteeism.

Our school received a grade of "D". This classification, although vehemently argued and appealed by your school district, remains our grade.

The state has mandated a timeline where certain action must take place.

The coalition began meeting in May of 2017 with the development of a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and an Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Developing a plan for our school will be based off the CAN's following six principles: effective leadership; effective teachers and instructions; effective organization of time; effective curriculum; culture, climate, and conditions; and family engagement. Submission of a revised Integrated Action Plan must be submitted by February 5, 2018. Please attend the IAP meeting on December 11, 2018 at 3:30 PM to work with the team on the IAP.

As stated in the School Improvement Guidance document provided by the State Board of Education, the coalition should have, "stakeholders representing all parts of the system; principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, school office staff, parents, families, community members, and students." (pg. 6 of 78)

Our coalition seeks representatives from parents, families, community members, and students to participate in revising the Integrated Action Plan. The three areas that we have identified for improvement are:

\*Implement evidenced-based, rigorous and relevant writing instruction appropriate to student needs, including student on IEPs and those students who are chronically absent or disadvantaged (2.4).

\*Systematically monitor, review and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of adopted curricula ensuring continuous improvement for all students, including our highly mobile or transient student population (4.6).

\*Based on meetings, events, and activities we find that less than 10% of our parents are fully engaged and active in the school culture. The head teacher will send out emails to parents and community members about meetings, event, and activities. Our Title I teacher will coordinate parents and community members for tutoring and provide activity folders for volunteers (6.2).

The school grade that was assigned to our district was based on state assessment guidelines. Students are tested at grade level. This means that even students under the U.S. Department of Education's "Individuals with Disabilities Act", which provides students with specific disabilities to have individualized education plans (IEP), are rarely tested at their skill level. For example, a sixth grade student's skill level is at a fourth grade level; however, the student is tested at a sixth grade level.

Chronic absenteeism is a consideration in the state letter grade. The state letter grade does not take into account student absences due to family situations.

In February of 2019, the district will have an open meeting with school staff, parents, guardians, and community members where the IAP will be presented.

We, at Model Creek School, will continue to deal with these challenges.