

August 18, 2010

To All High School Parents:

On Monday, August 16th, Bloomingdale Public Schools was made aware by the Michigan Department of Education that Bloomingdale High School had been placed on a 5% Lowest Achieving Rate List in the State of Michigan. This announcement has subsequently been published quite heavily in the media with several significant comments by Michigan Department of Education (MDE) officials. As with most of you, this announcement by the state was unexpected by the District and there was approximately 5 hours of notice from MDE that this designation had been made and they were releasing it to the public.

First of all, I want to reiterate that Bloomingdale High School **will be open on Tuesday, September 7th** excited and ready to receive your student(s)! While the Board, administration and staff is extremely disappointed by this designation, we will be looking at this as an opportunity to provide an even better education for your student(s). Your child will remain in a caring and nurturing environment that is dedicated to providing the best education possible.

Second, I want to provide a little information regarding this designation by the state. Back in December, the State of Michigan passed a series of laws that were intended to position itself for massive amounts of federal money being awarded to states across the nation, known as Race to the Top. As I am sure you are aware, Michigan tried twice to receive this grant and was denied both times. However, the legislation that was passed by the Michigan Legislature intended to be funded by Race to the Top dollars, remained. One of those pieces was this new 5% Lowest Achieving Schools designation. Scores on the Michigan Merit Examination are the primary factor for labeling schools. The formula used by the state is quite statistically detailed and the District is still learning about the calculations. Interestingly, Bloomingdale High School made Adequate Yearly Progress this year as defined by another system produced by the Michigan Department of Education, which demonstrates significant progress in student achievement.

Lastly, the District will be working diligently with the state to implement an effective plan to remediate the issues identified. The high school has been actively working on making improvements over the past several years. We plan on making the necessary and needed changes as required by the state to our program without affecting the day to day pressures on your students. All of our offerings are in place and we are excited to start the school year. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 521-3900

Respectfully,

Brett A. Geier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools