



# DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

400 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West • P.O. Box 586 • Benkelman, NE 69021-0586

*"Every Day...Every Child...A Success!"*



November 10, 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Patron,

Dundy County Stratton Public Schools is dedicated to providing all students with a sound education that prepares them to succeed in school and in life. We set high learning expectations for every child. Last year reading and mathematics achievement increased at many grade levels but also went down in some areas. The state and federal governments judge schools based on the results of State NeSA tests for many student subgroups. Examples of student groups include English language learners and special education students.

As a part of a federal law known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, public schools, through NeSA test scores, are judged against multiple goals established by NCLB. Last year, Benkelman Elementary was required to meet reading and math goals in multiple subgroups in order to be judged as meeting Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP. If one of these subgroup goals is not met, the school is labeled as not meeting AYP. In 2014-2015, Benkelman Elementary did not meet AYP. This is due to NCLB goals being at 100% for all subgroups. Overall, Benkelman Elementary met many of the AYP criteria but not all. However, for the last five years some of the student subgroups did not meet the goals in the areas of reading and mathematics. As a result, Benkelman Elementary School has been labeled as a school in need of improvement, Year 3. This places the building in corrective action status.

Names of the Title I schools that did and did not meet the AYP standards for 2014-2015 were released by the Nebraska Department of Education in the *State of the Schools* Report. You can compare and contrast the proficiencies of all Nebraska schools, including all schools in Dundy County Stratton Public Schools, at the following website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/documents/SOSR.html>. The link to follow is "2014-2015 Report".

Because of our corrective action status our school is required to develop a comprehensive corrective action plan. As a part of our school's plan we:

- Use classroom reading and math results to focus instruction on specific student needs;
- Plan lessons to include effective teaching techniques;
- Provide descriptive feedback to students throughout lessons to improve their understanding and skill;
- Differentiate instruction with small groups of learners to re-teach for mastery or extend learning for rigor; and
- Provide many literacy strategies throughout all subject areas.

It takes two years to prove that our students are making adequate yearly progress and be removed from the School Improvement classification; therefore, our school will be designated as School Improvement for at least an additional two years. The law provides the option for students who live in our attendance area to choose and enroll in another Dundy County Stratton Public Schools that did meet AYP. Only those schools that have met AYP are eligible for the school choice option and in our case Stratton Elementary also did not meet AYP, therefore public school choice is not an option.

**Mr. Jim Kent**  
Superintendent  
308.423.2738  
Fax: 308.423.2711

**Mr. Adam Fette**  
HS Principal • Activities Director  
308.423.2738  
Fax: 308.423.2711

**Mr. Mike Rotherham • Elementary Principal**  
Benkelman Elementary      Stratton Elementary  
308.423.2216                      308.276.2281  
Fax: 308.423.2320                Fax: 308.276.2129



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As a needs improvement school for at least two years, Benkelman Elementary is required to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to any student who is eligible for free and reduced lunch. Parents who choose to have their children participate in SES are asked to contact the Dundy County Stratton Public Schools office at [\(308\)-423-2738](tel:308-423-2738) by November 30, 2015. If more eligible students sign up for SES than can be funded, priority will be given to students with the greatest academic need. A list of vendors providing supplemental educational services in the Dundy County Stratton Public Schools area is available on the school website at: [www.dcs.tigers.org](http://www.dcs.tigers.org). A paper copy is also available in the front office.

Your support matters and we encourage you to attend school events such as parent/teacher conferences and curriculum nights. Please contact us or check our website for information about our parent events. We would also be eager to provide you any "at home" strategies to support reading and math learning. You can regularly monitor your child's academic progress by registering for and using the Infinite Campus Portal. The portal can be found at [www.dcs.tigers.org](http://www.dcs.tigers.org). The portal allows you to view current assignments and grades.

We invite you to contact the school if you have additional questions about any details. We will continue to celebrate our school's many successes as we continuously work to provide a quality education for all students.

Sincerely,

Mike Rotherham  
Principal, Benkelman Elementary

Enclosure

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