



**Bloomington Public Schools
District 87**

Dr. Barry M. Reilly
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Herschel A. Hannah, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Mrs. Cindy Helmers
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. David Wood
Chief Financial & Legal Officer

July 28, 2011

Dear Bent Elementary School Parents/Guardians:

Bloomington Public Schools District 87 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program to help all students succeed.

Your child attends Bent Elementary School which receives federal Title I funds to help your child meet state achievement standards. The federal *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*, requires schools to assess students each year in reading and math.

Bent Elementary School did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) on state tests in the area of reading for two consecutive years. However, Bent did make adequate yearly progress in the area of math. This means Bent, along with many schools across the state and nation, is in school improvement status and is required to offer public school choice. This also means that your child has the option to transfer to other designated elementary schools within the district which made AYP with transportation provided by the district. Priority is given to the "lowest achieving children from low-income families" [Section 1116(6)(1)(e)(II)].

You can find information about the educational program and test scores of all District elementary schools at the District 87 website www.district87.org or at your child's school. This information, including the 2010 report card, most recent AYP status report, and school improvement plans, will help you compare Bent to other schools in our district and state.

Bent and the District are working to improve its academic program by providing:

- ✚ Highly-qualified classroom teachers
- ✚ Reading and new Math curriculum aligned with the Illinois State Standards (ILS)
- ✚ Standards Aligned Classroom training and Grade Level meetings to ensure teaching to the ILS
- ✚ Data driven teaching decisions including IlliniData system at the teacher and classroom level
- ✚ Differentiated instruction focusing on the individual needs of students
- ✚ Response to Intervention (RtI): Reading interventions for students at their level
- ✚ Reading interventionists to work with students to increase their reading skills
- ✚ Multiple community and volunteer programs
- ✚ After-school programs to enhance reading and math skills
- ✚ Summer School programs
- ✚ Progress monitoring in phonics, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and math skills via DIBELS, Discovery, Mide, and ACCESS
- ✚ SMART board technology in every classroom
- ✚ Multiple computer labs and supplemental individualized curriculum programs
- ✚ Developmental Bilingual program available for students K-5

- ✚ Full continuum of special education services
- ✚ Media Center containing leveled reading materials
- ✚ Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)
- ✚ Professional staff development designed to continuously strengthen skills in using engaging instructional strategies, technology integration, problem-solving, intervention strategies, and the analysis of student data at the building and district levels

District 87 appreciates your past support and requests you remain involved in your child's education by participating in parent-teacher conferences, reading to and assisting your child in their reading, monitoring your student's progress with school work, providing a suitable place for your child to do homework and read, and communicating frequently with your child's teacher and Principal.

NCLB allows you, the parent, to transfer your student. The following elementary schools have consistently made adequate yearly progress and are designated as school choice sites:

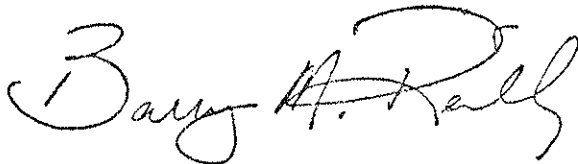
- ✚ Oakland Elementary, 1605 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701
Dr. Mary Kay Scharf, Principal.
- ✚ Washington Elementary, 1201 East Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701
Jeff Lockenvitz, Principal.

Please note that **neither Oakland Elementary nor Washington Elementary provide the extra support services** which exist at Bent Elementary because they are not eligible to receive supplemental federal Title I funding. These additional services provided at Bent Elementary include the Transitional Bilingual Program of Instruction, after-school programs, Early Start programs, reading interventionists, additional computer technology labs, and additional instructional materials.

If you are interested in sending your child to one of these schools, please complete the student transfer form and return it to the address indicated on the form by August 11, 2011. Applicants will be notified of the decision prior to the beginning of school.

Please call Mrs. Cindy Helmers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, at 309-827-6031 ext. 224, if you have any questions about these services.

Thank you,



Dr. Barry Reilly, Superintendent
Bloomington Public Schools District 87

Enclosure: Student Transfer Form



Public School Choice Option Form

Please complete this form and return by August 11, 2011. If you wish to have your child remain at Bent Elementary, your home school, there is no need to return this form. School choice is a full-year commitment.

Send to: Mrs. Cindy Helmers
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Bloomington Public Schools District 87
300 E. Monroe
Bloomington, IL 61701

If you have any questions about this form or the public school choice option, please contact Mrs. Helmers at 309-827-6031 ext. 224 or helmersc@district87.org

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|--------------|--------------------------|
| Student Name | 2011-12 Grade of Student |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Please check the appropriate box:

_____ I wish my child to remain at Bent Elementary School, their home school.

_____ I wish my child to transfer to another school for the entire 2011-12 school year.

First Choice School: Oakland Elementary Washington Elementary

Second Choice School: Oakland Elementary Washington Elementary

Please indicate first and second school choice preference. We cannot guarantee you will receive your choice. Priority for available classroom seats will be given to the "lowest achieving children from low-income families" [Section 1116(6)(1)(e)(II)].

_____ My child/children will need transportation to the other school. Yes No

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date