



**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 Sheridan 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 Sheridan Elementary School which receives federal Title 1 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.

Sheridan Elementary School did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) on state tests in the area of reading and math for two consecutive years. This means Sheridan, along with many schools across the state and nation, is therefore 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](http://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 Sheridan to other schools in our district and state.

Sheridan 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
- ✚ Early Start and 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

- ✦ 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:

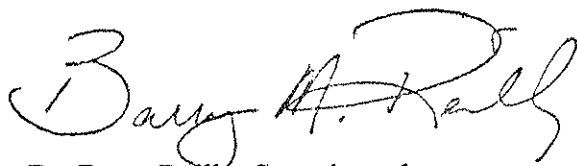
- ✦ Oakland Elementary, 1605 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Dr. Mary Kay Scharf, Principal.
- ✦ Washington Elementary, 1201 East Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701  
Jeff Lockenvitz, Principal.

Please note that **neither Oakland Elementary nor Washington Elementary provide the extra support services** which exist at Sheridan Elementary because they are not eligible to receive supplemental federal Title I funding. These additional services provided at Sheridan Elementary include 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 Sheridan 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](mailto: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 Sheridan 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