

Dear Parent:

Your child is a student at Jessie Loomis Elementary School. You know that your child is important to us and that we want to provide every opportunity for success. Each school in Michigan is required to test students every year using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests/Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The results of these tests, as well as participation on the tests are used to determine whether our school is meeting the Michigan School Proficiency Targets and where it ranks in a "Top to Bottom" list of schools and their performance. As a result of this ranking in a "Top to Bottom" list of schools and their performance, a low achieving school may be identified as a *Priority* or *Focus* school. Jessie Loomis has been labeled as a Priority School because it is among the bottom 5% of the Top to Bottom list. A school identified as Priority for the 2014 cohort remains in that cohort of schools supervised by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) until Spring 2018.

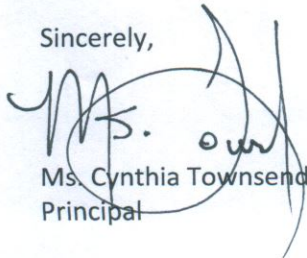
Saginaw Public Schools District has received communication from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) about a recently approved Flexibility Waiver of the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). School districts with Priority schools in the 2013 and 2014 cohorts, and Focus schools, are no longer required to offer Choice/Transfer and transportation for students. Schools and districts are no longer required to continue transportation for students whose parents had in the past elected to transfer under the Choice/Transfer option.

In order to address the areas of need in Math and Reading, we are working closely with the district staff to revise our school plan to include:

- Strategies, policies and practices that utilize scientifically-based research and have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all groups of students will meet the states' achievement standards.
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from Priority status.
- Strategies to promote effective parent involvement in the school.

We anticipate that these initiatives will result in increased student achievement and will keep you updated and informed about the opportunities to discuss plans for our school. If you have any questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and Priority School status, please feel free to call me at 399-4750 and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,



Ms. Cynthia Townsend
Principal

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