

AREA LEARNING CENTER

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School Support Notice

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

Dear parent or guardian,

Our school is committed to ensuring every child has access to the opportunities and academic experiences needed to be successful. As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we want to share with you some information about our school's recent identification for support from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides Minnesota with a limited amount of funding for school support and improvement work. MDE worked with students, families, educators, experts, and community members to create the North Star accountability system. This system helps the state prioritize schools and districts for support. The North Star system uses several measurements organized into three stages to identify schools for different levels of support. Using this system, MDE has identified our school as eligible for support.

Our school has been identified for comprehensive support and improvement because:

- we are in the 5 percent of Title I schools most likely to benefit from support
- our four-year graduation rate is lower than 67 percent for at least one student group of 20 or more students

Our school district will work with the school's leadership team, staff and families to examine the data related to student performance. We will then identify evidence-based practices to improve student success. Specialists from Minnesota's Regional Centers of Excellence will support our work for the next three years.

This is an opportunity to build upon the strengths of our school community and address our challenges. Bringing together a variety of perspectives and voices is very important to the success of our efforts to improve our school. We are very interested in including students' families as part of this process. If you would like to be involved in this effort, please contact Daryl Kehler at dkehler@northfieldschools.org or 507-645-1201.

To compare our school to other schools and to see data about other areas such as student engagement, you will find more information online at <rc.education.state.mn.us>.

To learn more about the North Star system, including how these measurements are calculated, you can visit <<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/account/>>.

Thank you

Daryl Kehler
Director