

STORM LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Paul Tedesco – *Superintendent*

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Press Release----Press Release----Press Release

RE: Storm Lake Community School District ELL Plan

The adoption on June 17, 2009 of a revised English Language Learner (ELL) Plan by the Storm Lake Community School District Board of Education was the culmination of over a year long study of the District's ELL Program. The study began in April of 2008.

As a result of the concerns raised this Spring and through cooperation with the Commission of Asian and Pacific Islanders (CAPI) and the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ), the district was able to conduct a more thorough final review of the newly revised ELL plan. In addition, our work with CAPI and the USDOJ led to the inclusion of more efforts identified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being signed today. Notably, the SLCSO plans to conduct meetings for parents of ELL students in their home language. The Storm Lake District is very proud of our educational efforts and we look forward to better communication with students and parents regarding our ELL programming.

Additional efforts in our ELL program will be made for the 2009-2010 school year. In November of 2008, Teresa Coenen, High School Principal and Lori Porsch, Curriculum/Special Education Director proposed a change in the duties of the ELL instructors at the Storm Lake High School. The major change being the implementation of one ELL instructor as the High School ELL coordinator to oversee the proper identification, program placement and assessment of ELL students at Storm Lake High School.

Overall the Storm Lake Community School District's instruction of ELL students has resulted in an increase in the number of ELL students being proficient in English over the past four years. The data for this statement comes from the change in the number of ELL students deemed proficient in reading by their Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) test scores and the number of ELL students exited from the program by proficient scores on the State of Iowa mandated Iowa English Language Development Assessment (IELDA).

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Further the achievement gap in reading from 2004-2005 to the districts 2007-2008 test scores in ITBS and ITED demonstrate the gap has narrowed to the following proficiency comparisons. For 2004-2005 in Grade 4 Reading ITBS scores, 54% of the ELL students were proficient as compared to 2007-2008 when grades 3-5 were 62%. Similarly for 2005 in grade 8 reading ITBS scores, 35% of the ELL students were proficient as compared to 2007-2008 when grades 6-8 were 60%. Finally for 2004-2005 in grade 11 reading ITED scores, 49% of the ELL students were proficient as compared to 2007-2008 when 66% were proficient.

Finally, the IELDA evidence shows nearly 200 students exited from our ELL program in 2008-2009 due to being proficient for two years in a row on the State of Iowa required IELDA test. And a little over 100 students will be exited for the 2009-2010 school year as a result of either being proficient on the IELDA over the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years or by being proficient on three of the four criteria that the State of Iowa has set in their new guidelines for the 2009-2010 school year, including being proficient on the IELDA in 2008-2009.