



**East Allen County Schools**  
**Southwick Elementary School**  
6500 Wayne Trace  
**260/446-0250 fax 260/446-0253**

**NOTICE OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS AT SOUTHWICK ELEMENTARY**

May 2008

Dear Southwick Elementary Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to let you know that Southwick Elementary did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on fall 2007 ISTEP+ test results. AYP determinations are based on student performance and participation rates on Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP+), attendance rates for elementary and middle schools, and graduation rates for high schools. This chart shows where our school did not make AYP:

<b>2007 Areas that did not make AYP</b>
English: Black
English: Free/Reduced Lunch
English: Limited English Proficient
English: Overall
Math: Free/Reduced Lunch

A school is identified for School Improvement after it has not made AYP for two consecutive years. Our district's ISTEP+ report (enclosed) shows how our school compares to others in the district and the state. You can also go to the Indiana Department of Education's website and look up information on any school by putting in the school's name. The website is: <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/SEARCH/search.cfm>.

Since Southwick Elementary has not made AYP for two consecutive years, this means that all parents with children enrolled in our school can send their child to another school in the district that has not been identified for improvement for the 2008-2009 school year. Parents do not have to transfer their child, but may do so if they wish. Transportation costs will be covered by the school district for as long as Southwick Elementary remains in School Improvement. Southwick Elementary must make AYP for two consecutive years to be removed from School Improvement status.

If there are not enough funds to provide transportation to each student who requests a transfer, we must give priority to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families. However, all students would still have the option to transfer to another school and provide their own transportation. Here are the choices of schools for your child:

School Options	Grades Served	Location	Fall 2007 ISTEP+ Data
<i>Highland Terrace</i>	K-5	1445 Berwick Lane New Haven, IN 46774	Overall: 68.2% passing English/Language Arts Overall: 78% passing Mathematics
<i>Hoagland</i>	K-6	12009 Hoagland Road Hoagland, IN 46745	Overall: 68.1% passing English/Language Arts Overall: 79.4% passing Mathematics

If you would like to have your child transferred to one of the choice schools, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the school office no later than June 6, 2008. A transfer cannot be considered if your form is not received by June 6, 2008.

If a requested transfer is approved, you will be notified by mail and your child will be allowed to attend the choice school until he or she completes the fifth grade.

### **HOW PARENTS CAN BE INVOLVED**

Parent support is essential to Southwick Elementary. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

Our school's parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall. If you would like to be involved in this process, please call Mrs. Gremaux at 446-0251. In addition, Southwick Elementary will have its annual meeting to review parent rights under Title I and the home-school compact on August 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Southwick Cafeteria.

### **HOW OUR SCHOOL WILL BE IMPROVING**

This means several things for our school. First and most importantly, Southwick will focus on new ways to achieve success for every student. We have identified the following key strategies for instructional improvement:

- Reading comprehension will be integrated through math problem-solving, reading, writing, social studies, and science using research-based instructional strategies. The Indiana State standards will be addressed through differentiated instruction to better meet the needs of all students.

In addition to changes within our school, the district and/or state will also provide support to help us address the needs of our students.

EACS has a supportive Title I team whose motto statement is "Believe to Achieve" focused on the following school and community initiatives:

- Title I Area Administrator – Dr. Jeanne Zehr assists principals and Title I funded interventionists in your school. She ensures that the No child Left Behind law is properly implemented as well as its accompanying Title I regulations. The ultimate goal is improving student achievement.
- Assistant to the Title I Administrator – Dr. James Hendrix develops community connections with apartment complex managers, community agencies (Ft. Wayne Urban

League, CANI, local universities, Wal-Mart, and McDonald's, as well as area churches) to create student programs for raising achievement. In addition, a "Man-to-Man Mentoring" program is offered to identified young men at Village, Southwick, and Prince Chapman.

- Special Education Coach – Mrs. Debbie Gibson provides support services to all parents of students with special needs and their teachers, both in special education and general education classrooms. A *Parent Council for Children with Special Needs* meets quarterly. Call her if you have an interest in participating on this important council.
- Early Intervention director – Mrs. Juanita Tolbert joins the Title I team in June of 2008 to coordinate literacy-rich professional development to all area preschools and day care providers whose children will attend the kindergarten. She will provide transition activities for students moving from preschool to kindergarten. The restructuring process for Village Elementary will be a priority for Mrs. Tolbert as parents and staff strive to develop a strong program focused on early childhood and possibly a prenatal clinic.
- Title I Coordinator – Mrs. Jennifer Rose provides parent information to anyone who calls the Title I office at 446-0269, daily 7:30-3:30 and coordinates the schedules and programs of the Title I staff.

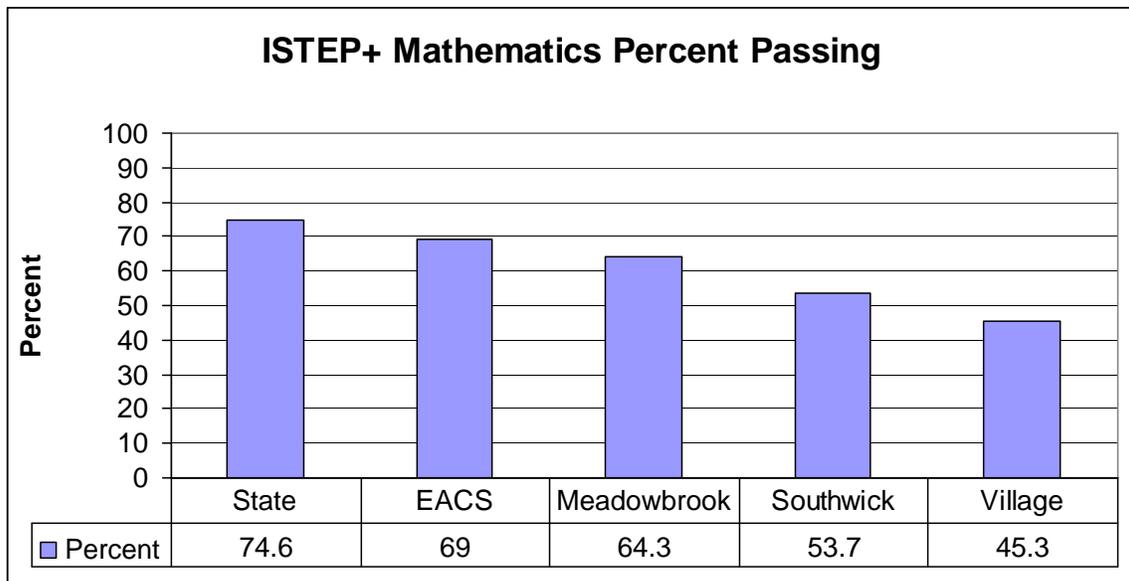
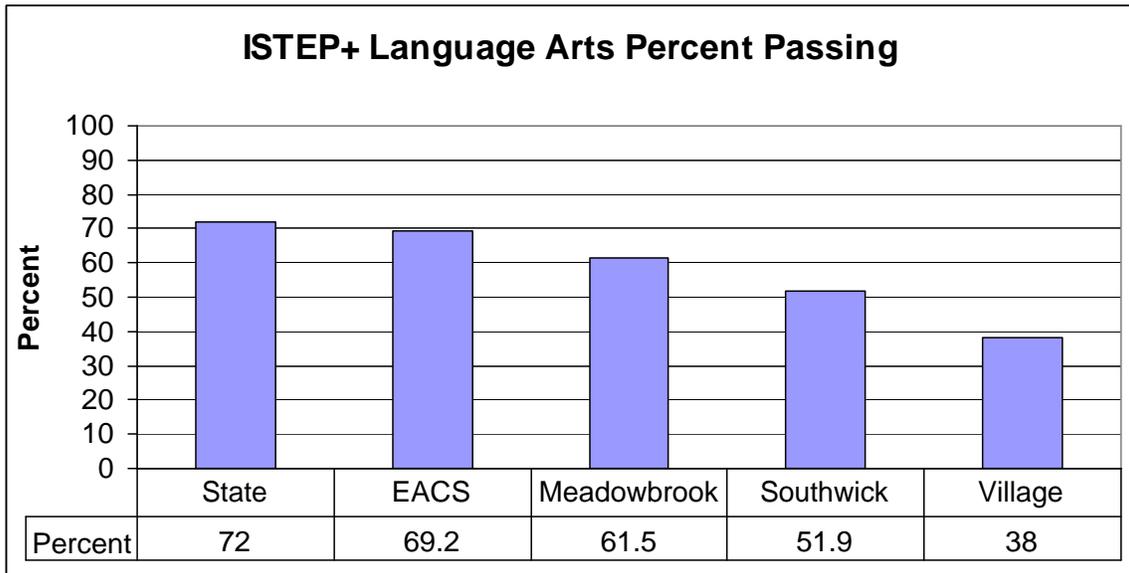
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the academic progress of Southwick Elementary or your options for a transfer. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to make our school the very best place for all children to reach high academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Teresa Gremaux

Enc (1): District ISTEP+ Data  
(2): School Transfer Request Form

# East Allen County Schools ISTEP+ Results 2007



## SCHOOL TRANSFER REQUEST FORM

Yes, I am interested in transferring my child to another school for the 2008-2009 school year.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Current School: Southwick Elementary School

Parent's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The following schools in our district have been identified as *possible* options for parents interested in participating in transferring their child to another school.

Options	Grades	Location	Fall 2007 ISTEP+ Data
New Haven	K - 5	800 Homestead Drive New Haven, IN 46774	Overall: 68.2% passing English / Language Arts 78.0% passing Math
Hoagland	K - 6	12009 Hoagland Road Hoagland, IN 46745	Overall: 68.1% passing English / Language Arts 79.4% passing Math

To review information on these schools' academic progress, please see the attached letter or visit <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/SEARCH/search.cfm>.

Please identify, in order of preference, the school you are most interested in attending. Please remember that we will do our best to honor your first choice request if possible, but the final decision on the school each child will attend is up to the district. Please also remember that we will pay for transportation for as many students as possible, but will give priority to the lowest-achieving low-income students in the district if there is not enough money to pay for transportation for all students.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Southwick Elementary School (Attention: Mrs. Gremaux), 6500 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46816 by 3:00 p.m. on June 6, 2008.**

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_