
January 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter comes to you as an urgent cry for help. Recently, you were sent a letter stating how our current school system was functioning according to state and federal standards. However, that information has been grossly unreported.

“The No Child Left Behind” initiative has hit our community hard. Our school district has been labeled as Effective; yet, federal guidelines have dictated us as a failure. We have an extremely limited amount of time to adhere to these guidelines to bring us up to a level of perfection. Let’s face it, in a perfect world we all strive to be excellent, but it takes time in order for us to get there.

The federal government will not give us the time we need as a community to be excellent. We have achieved so much educationally, and yet many of our accomplishments are not being recognized by the federal government. Our students are being penalized for standards so far beyond our control. We will be federally sanctioned within two years if we do not act now as a community.

On behalf of the Lakewood Council PTA, the Lakewood Board of Education, and City of Lakewood officials, we are asking for your support. Please take a moment and review the letters enclosed. Help us get the word out that we are not only a community; but also, individuals, families, and children who matter. If we do not act now, the reality is that our schools will be overtaken by the state, our key personnel will be replaced, and Title I funding will be cut. We will no longer have a say in any matter as it pertains to any level of education and curriculum for our children.

In conclusion, the more you get involved, the more your voice gets heard. We must act together now to protect the integrity of our schools as we work to provide our children with a quality education. Please take a moment to read, review, and sign one of the letters to let our Congressional Representatives know that we as a community care about our children and their education.

Please help by writing the following members of Congress:

- ◆ Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich, 14400 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107
Website with email link: <http://kucinich.house.gov>

- ♦ Senator George V. Voinovich, 1240 East 9th Street, Suite 2955, Cleveland, OH 44199
Website with email link: <http://voinovich.senate.gov>
- ♦ Senator Michael DeWine, 600 East Superior Avenue, Room 2450, Cleveland, OH 44114
Website with email link: <http://dewine.senate.gov>

Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Jody Ross, Legislative Chair, Lakewood Council PTA