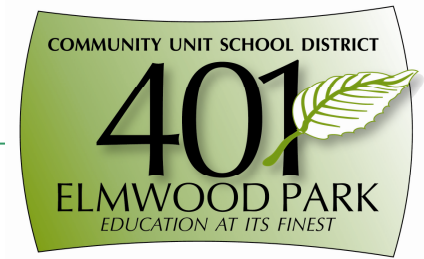


# Elmwood Park C.U.S.D. #401

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Kevin M. Anderson, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*



July 8, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Elmwood Park is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends John Mills Elementary School which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) targets. Your child's school is in school improvement which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years in the same subject and is required to offer public school choice.

Our district's report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child's school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at your child's school, and at the school district office.

[www.epcusd401.org](http://www.epcusd401.org)

Your child's school has been identified because the special education subgroup did not make the target of 85% proficient in math and reading. In addition, the group composed of all students in grades three through six failed to meet the 85% proficiency target in reading. The school is working to improve the school's academic program by offering professional development for teachers in the areas of reading and mathematics for all students and the special education students. Specifically, the following professional development occurred this summer:

- Effective Vocabulary Instruction through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Differentiating Instruction through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Best Practices for English Language Learners Instruction: Strategic Reading through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Midwest Conference on Differentiated Instruction through Staff Development for Educators

In addition, the following professional development is being offered during our Institute Day on October 7 through our special education cooperative for all staff:

- Word Mapping Strategy and Inference Strategy training
- Integrating Interventions into Core Curriculum

Furthermore, John Mills School is one of the schools working with the West Cook Math Initiative to improve mathematics instruction. Professional development for teachers took place this summer and will continue through the year for our special and regular education sixth grade students. The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child's school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. Please continue to attend Parent/Teacher conferences to learn about and support your child's abilities and effort, check PowerSchool for your child's grades, and talk to your child's teacher or administrator about state and local test scores. Did your child complete their summer reading assignment? If not, we would highly recommend that you visit our site for the details at [www.epcusd401.org/reading](http://www.epcusd401.org/reading).

The *No Child Left Behind Act* provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. There is one other grade school in our district that you will find listed – Elmwood Elementary School, 2319 North 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elmwood Park. The Student Transfer Form that must be completed and returned to Dianne Cravens (8201 West Fullerton Avenue, Elmwood Park 60707) by **August 9** is attached. Late responses will **not** be honored for students transferring to Elmwood Elementary School.

Please call Dr. Paula Hlavacek (708-583-5835) if you have any questions about these services or to confirm the district received the form requesting the transfer of your child. You may also join us to talk about your options on August 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the John Mills Library to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Anderson".

Kevin M. Anderson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosures: List of schools with Student Transfer Form