

# Bowman Middle School

410 South Mitchell Avenue  
Bakersville, North Carolina 28705  
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Stacie Burleson  
Principal

August 1, 2011

Dear Bowman Parent or Guardian:

As a parent at Bowman Middle School, you have options for your child in the 2011-12 school year that require careful consideration. Please read this notice, taking special note of deadline dates and contact names and phone numbers you can access for additional information.

According to 2010-11 student test results, Bowman did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) law for four years in math and is in the corrective action phase of Title I School Improvement for the 2011-12 school year. Bowman must offer public school choice to all parents of students enrolled at the school. Also, the school system must offer free tutoring services to students receiving free or reduced-price lunch. (Eligible families may transfer to another school or receive free tutoring services, but not both.) Bowman receives federal Title I funds designed to help students who are not achieving at grade level in high-poverty schools. As a Title I school, Bowman must make AYP or face consequences. The bar of expectation for student achievement was raised for 2010-11 and we did not meet all of the federal goals. Seven out of nine schools in our district made AYP and our district is the only district in our state that made AYP for 2010-11.

Your child's options for the 2011-12 school year are to:

1. **Remain at Bowman; or**
2. **Enroll in another school, designated by the district, with transportation provided; or**
3. **Remain at Bowman and, if eligible, receive free tutoring services.**

More information on each of these options is below.

1. **Remain at Bowman.**

**The staff at Bowman has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child through eighth grade. If you want your child to remain at Bowman, you don't need to take any additional action.**

The many successes at Bowman cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your past and continued support. I am pleased that Bowman is one of five Mitchell county schools who made high growth in testing.

However, we are concerned about the academic progress of all of our students. We've identified the following instructional strategies in which to focus, with district and state assistance:

- *Grade level planning*
- *Subject specific planning*
- *Walk through team observations*
- *Lesson plan reviews*
- *Grade level pacing guides throughout the LEA*

- *Enrichment time for study skills and academic development*

The school district is developing a plan for Bowman's corrective action to:

- *Provide, for all relevant staff, appropriate, scientifically, research-based professional development that may improve academic achievement of low-performing students.*
- *Align instruction with and fully implement the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, including providing appropriate professional development.*
- *Extend the length of the school year or school day.*
- *Replace the school staff members who are relevant to the school's not making AYP.*
- *Significantly decrease management authority at the school.*
- *Restructure the school's internal organization.*

We welcome your involvement at Bowman. There are many ways to participate including becoming a member of the Parent Teacher Organization, offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, attending parent conferences with your child's teacher(s), making sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day, and monitoring your child's homework and class grades.

Bowman will have its annual meeting to develop our Title I parent involvement policy and to review other information. The Title I district-wide parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall and parents are invited to be a part of that review process.

**2. Enroll your child in another school, designated by the district, with transportation provided.**

**Transfer options for your child are: (1) Harris Middle School** More information on this school is enclosed and is on the Web at [www.ncreportcards.org/src/](http://www.ncreportcards.org/src/).

Please complete and return a "Request for a School Transfer" form (enclosed) for each child requesting a transfer by August 15, 2011 and return to Mitchell County Board of Education. The district will respond to your request by August 22, 2011 with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Bowman. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be allowed to attend the choice school through the eighth grade.

If you are the parent of an exceptional child or an English language learner, please call Sherry Bell at 766-2220 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

**3. Remain at Bowman and receive free tutoring services.**

**The free tutoring program for students who receive free or reduced-price lunch and choose not to transfer from Bowman will be offered by several providers.**

More information regarding free tutoring services will be forthcoming in October 2011.

**If you have questions about any of these options**, please call Chad Calhoun at 766-2220. In addition, more information about public school choice and free tutoring services, also known as supplemental educational services, can be found on the Web at [www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb).

We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for each student.

Sincerely,

Stacie Burlison Principal

cc: Superintendent, Title I Director, Public Information Officer

Enclosures: NC School Report Card Snapshots for Bowman and Harris; School Transfer Form; Public School Choice