



August 3, 2011

Adequate Yearly Progress Notification for Life for Life Academy School and District

Marshall Cohen
Founder & Executive Director

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

Katrice Noble, Ed.D
Principal

Charter sponsored by



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The goal of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 is to ensure that all children in this country receive a quality education. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess all schools to determine if each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the school's attendance rate or graduation rate. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of the 2010-2011 academic testing in communication arts and math and the school's attendance rate or graduation rate, your child's school, Lift for Life Academy, did not make adequate yearly progress for the following reasons:

1. The combined test results of middle and high school students in communication arts and math did not meet the scores set by the state to exit the school from federal school improvement status.

2. Lift for Life Academy did perform equal to or better than a number of schools and districts with similar student backgrounds. This includes comprehensive schools within the Saint Louis Public Schools, other Saint Louis and Kansas City Charter Schools, and some schools located in Saint Louis County. Especially significant was the strong performance of Lift for Life Academy's high school students. In 2011, 74% of students participating in the Algebra I End of Course (EOC) exam and 58% of students who tested in English II EOC exam scored proficient and met the state's standards. This represents real growth and success for our school. In addition, the school/district did meet the state's daily attendance rate with an attendance rate in excess of 94%.

School Improvement Plan:

Because of the school improvement designation, the school must develop a plan for improvement. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan. Interested parents should contact members of the administrative team at 314-231-2337.

School Choice:

Lift for Life Academy is unable to offer a school choice option to parents and students. The state department of education states, "The only reasons that choice may not be offered is that no other school with the same grade level is available in the district or no school with the same grade level is making AYP." Lift for Life Academy is organized as an independent school district. There are no other schools that are part of the Lift for Life Academy school district that students may attend. If parents are interested in transferring their child from Lift for Life Academy, then they should contact the St. Louis Public Schools or a Saint Louis charter school for placement and enrollment.

Information about public school choice, including a scanned copy of this letter, will be available on the district's website at www.liftforlifeacademy.org.

Despite our federal school improvement status, the school has made significant progress in student achievement over the past five years and is working hard to be even better in the years to come. We also believe that parents are our greatest resource. We encourage you to become involved with your child's school to your child's education and our overall school improvement efforts.

Five Ways Parents Can Be Involved:

- Attend the fall's open houses for an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and find out about what students are learning.
- Have students pull out work from their folders and bags daily. Let them show and tell you about what he/she is learning.
- Monitor your child's grades on-line through the Ed-Line program available at the school. Contact the school's administrative offices for account log-ins and passwords.
- Communicate with teachers and administrators via e-mail and phone. All teachers and administrators have their own school web address and private voice mail.
- Stop by or schedule an appointment to meet with your child and his/her teachers and principals.

On behalf of everyone at Lift for Life Academy, we are truly excited and grateful for the opportunity to educate your child.

Sincerely,


Katrice Noble, Principal