



Mill Street School

Understanding “Choice” and the impact on your student

Why are Mill Street students being offered “Choice”?

Test scores for a small group of students indicate that those students have not made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for two years in a row. By federal law, families must be given the option to attend an alternate school when a school fails to meet AYP for a category or subgroup of students for two years in a row. Two years ago, 85% of students were required to meet or exceed those standards. Today the benchmark is 92.5%, a very high bar for any group of students.

***Please Note:** The State Board of Education has submitted a waiver from many mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act to the U.S. Department of Education. If this waiver is approved prior to the first day of school on August 15, 2012, and Mill Street Elementary School is no longer identified as having to offer the Public School Choice option, the option to transfer your child to another school will no longer be available.*

What was being done to correct this concern before “Choice” was imposed?

Mill Street administrators, teachers and support staff worked diligently to address this issue and have made some strides, but more needs to be done to identify and address improvement areas. The leadership of Mill Street School had already identified a course of action prior to the District being notified of AYP status.

How will you improve achievement for every child?

Mill Street’s faculty and staff will implement a multi-pronged approach:

- Increase monitoring of student progress by assessing each student at the beginning of the year to identify individual achievement targets; reassess at specified times throughout the school year to check progress.
- Provide additional support in math and reading, including a multi-tiered intervention approach using core instruction and differentiated instruction with small guided reading and math groups, and extensive professional development for teachers and staff.
- Align resources, including staff, class size, professional development opportunities and materials, to address identified student learning targets.
- Ensure a positive climate that supports learning everywhere - classrooms, lunchroom and playground.

How does this impact our students?

High achievement for each child at Mill Street is critically important. We will continue our focus on positive growth for every student, no matter their subgroup. We believe that the additional support planned for Mill Street will strengthen the core instruction every child receives.

Can a school be successful in other areas and still not make AYP?

Yes. Other subgroups at Mill did make AYP and we will continue to emphasize those things that have made their achievement possible in addition to those things that make families proud of Mill Street. We believe the actions we have planned ensure greater success for all students.

If students decide to leave, how could that impact Mill scores?

It would be difficult to know what impact, if any, this may have. Regardless of who chooses to leave, our focus is on the successful achievement of Mill Street students. This is a strong staff and parent community with the ability to move forward. Learning takes place every day and in many ways.

How do our overall scores compare to other district schools?

The District average of 90.7% meets and exceeds with *all students included*. Mill Street's scores are 88.5 overall. The school overall scores range from 84.7 to 97.6. It is important that all subgroup scores, as well as the overall student scores, reflect improved student achievement.

How were the "Choice" schools determined?

The District selected two schools, Meadow Glens and River Woods, based on several factors, including their ability to support the educational and social-emotional needs of your student should you elect to take this option. Enrollment at both schools is low enough to ensure adequate classroom space, and additional class sections can be added should the need arise. Achievement levels at both schools indicate that they are not at risk for failing to meet AYP in the future. In addition, River Woods and Meadow Glens are not adding new students this year as the result of boundary changes.

Will transportation be provided?

Transportation to the other schools will be provided as long as Mill remains below AYP OR until a waiver is granted. Once Mill Street is no longer in this status, transportation will be provided for the remainder of the academic year. Transportation becomes the responsibility of the parent/guardian if their student continues to attend the alternate school the following year. Times and bus pick-up locations will be determined at a later time.

If we choose to leave Mill, will we get our first choice of schools?

Transfer requests will be filled according to the priority established under the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**. The District must give priority to the lowest achieving children from low-income families first. All transfer forms must be submitted by Wednesday, August 8 to Mill Street School where they will be dated and time stamped. Transfer placements will be based on this information.

What happens when the scores rise at Mill or a waiver is granted?

Mill Street will focus on increased growth for every student and continue to take the steps needed to reach AYP. Families who have elected to send their student to an alternative school may have their child remain at that school or may elect to have him/her return to Mill to rejoin their class.

How do class sizes at Meadow Glens and River Woods compare to Mill Street?

Mill Street class sizes for this year are very comparable to Meadow Glens and River Woods as of *this date*. With the boundary changes, the total enrollment for Mill Street has been reduced by about 140 students. We are currently looking at an enrollment of about 650 students with some fluctuation expected as we get closer to the start of the year. Tentative class sizes are as follows:

2012-2013	K	1	2	3	4	5
Mill Street ¹	18	20	19	25	22	24
Meadow Glens	19	21	23	26	23	23
River Woods ²	20	25	21	25	27	28
2011-2012						
Mill Street	25	24	28	28	26	27

Note that the last line above indicates class sizes at Mill for the 2011-2012 school year. Class sizes at each grade level either match or are below the prior year's number. Additional sections have been added as needed to keep class size lower. At some grade levels this year, students will notice as much as five fewer students in their class compared to the prior year. For example, the average class size for K-2 grades is holding around 20-21 students compared to last year's average of 26.

¹This does not include Dual Language sections. ² Fourth and Fifth grade multi-age classes influence class sizes.

What are the AYP scores of the selected “Choice” schools?

Overall, Meadow Glens has a score of 95.4% with a Reading AYP of 95% and Math AYP of 96.7%. At River Woods the overall AYP score is 96.4% with a Reading AYP of 96.3% and Math AYP of 97.9%. State Report Cards for all our schools are posted on the District web site: [State Report Cards](#)

Are there before and after school programs at River Woods and Meadow Glens?

Each school hosts an after school Safe 'n Sound program offered through The Y.

Will my student still have the benefit of programs such as Enrichment, PI, Honors, LEAP, etc.?

Students at Meadow Glens and River Woods have the same programs available to them as are available to Mill Street students.

Will the school scores follow my student through his/her school career?

Only your child's individual achievement scores are part of his or her school record.

What junior high/high school will my student attend if we select an alternative school?

Your child will attend the junior high for the attendance area in which you reside. Providing an alternative choice for your child's elementary education does not affect your attendance area assignment.

Who do I talk to if I have other questions?

Your principal, Mary Baum, will be available to talk to any family who is considering taking the choice option or who would like to better understand the goals for Mill Street this coming year. You may contact Principal Baum at 630-420-6353. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Kitty Ryan is also available for your calls at 630-420-6318.

If emailing is more convenient for you, their email addresses are:

Mary Baum at mlbaum@naperville203.org

Kitty Ryan at kryan@naperville203.org