



Dr. Sally Sarnstrom
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Kay Ihlenfeldt
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707

February 24, 2009

Dear Ms. Ihlenfeldt,

Per the instructions in your email on February 19, 2009, I am writing to update the ISES data that was incorrectly reported for Merrill Area Public Schools for the 2007-2008 school year. (See email attached.)

It was incorrectly reported, in ISES, that Merrill High School, had 18 students counted as 2006-2007 summer dropouts. In actuality, of those 18 students only 5 of those students were actual dropouts (DPI code ODO) and 13 of those students were foreign exchange students who returned to their homeland (DPI code TNC). **Merrill High School's data should have reported that there were 5 (ODO) summer dropouts for the 2006-2007 school year.**

In a conversation with Beth Lewis from the DPI on February 24, 2009, this correction in dropout data will make the Merrill Schools ineligible for categorical aide for at-risk. Now that the dropout data has been corrected Merrill Area Public Schools will not be filing the application for the categorical aide for At-Risk students that was included in the letter that Ms. Lewis sent to Dr. Sarnstrom, Merrill Superintendent, on February 13, 2009.

The preliminary notification of AYP status will be released to schools on May 22, 2009. I have already emailed Susan Ketchum, at the Office of Educational Accountability, to learn how to "clean-up" Merrill's data before the lifting of the embargo on June 9, 2009.

In speaking with you on the phone, on February 19, 2009, you stated that the incorrect data could not be changed in Merrill's WINNS area, but that the correct data would be posted in the "corrections" section of WINNS. Please share with me where these "corrections" can be found on the DPI website.

Thank you for all of the help that you and Barbara Ballweg have given the Merrill Area Public Schools as we worked to correct our data error.

Sincerely,



Carole Witt Starck
Co-Assistant Superintendent, ISES/WSLs Administrative Contact
Merrill Area Public Schools

Attachments

CC: Sally Sarnstrom, Superintendent of Schools
Shannon Murray, Principal- Merrill High School
Beth Lewis, DPI
Barbara Ballweg, DPI
Susan Ketchum, DPI