

Minnesota
Department
of Education

October 31, 2011

Barbara Novy, Director
Stonebridge Community School
4530 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Dear Ms. Novy:

I'm writing today to offer my personal congratulations for the remarkable progress Stonebridge Community School made in improving student achievement. The gains your students made in reading and math this year, and your subsequent designation as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a testament to your commitment and dedication to helping all students succeed.

As a former teacher, principal and superintendent, I fully understand how troubling it can be to find your school labeled by the designations currently in place under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. I also understand the kind of effort it takes to put systems and strategies in place that yield the kind of results your school has shown. You and your entire team deserve sincere congratulations for this outstanding achievement.

In the coming months, the Minnesota Department of Education will continue working with the U.S Department of Education to pursue a waiver from NCLB and develop better accountability measures for Minnesota's schools. Our goal is to maintain a level of accountability that ensures all students are learning to a high standard and at a rate that prepares them for success in college or the workplace. We also want our new accountability system to apply a more appropriate and realistic measure of gauging school effectiveness that highlights more clearly the successes of schools like Stonebridge Community School.

Again, congratulations on your tremendous achievement! I couldn't be more thrilled on behalf of your students, teachers and families. Please accept my best wishes as you continue working to ensure every Minnesota child reaches their highest potential.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner of Education