



Hilldale Public Schools

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Dear Parents and Patrons:

As you have probably heard, there has been considerable controversy regarding the Oklahoma State Department of Education's initiative, the "A-F School Grading System." This letter grading system is being implemented for the 2012-13 school year based on data from the 2011-12 testing.

We want to inform you of the release of Hilldale's letter grades. While we realize there is certainly room for growth and improvement, we are proud of the district's performance, overall. Here are the school site letter grades, as reported to us:

- Hilldale Lower Elementary – B
- Hilldale Upper Elementary – C
- Hilldale Middle School – B
- Hilldale High School – A

You may go to the Oklahoma State Department of Education website for more information, at www.ok.gov/sde/ and click on the link for the A-F School Report Cards. This grading system is compiled through a complex calculation, using the following categories:

- 33% of a school's or district's grade is based on student achievement on state exams
- 33% of a school's or district's grade is based on the whole school performance factors, such as student attendance rates, dropout rates, graduation rates, advanced course participation and performance. Bonus factors are awarded for school climate surveys and parent and community involvement.
- 17% of the grade is overall student growth of certain students
- 17% of the grade is student growth of the bottom 25% of students, based on previous testing

District administrators have already spent considerable time on this initiative. We will continue to work as a staff to understand the criteria behind the letter grades, in order to continue with our focus to provide the best education that we can for our students! We sincerely appreciate your support!!