

July 27, 2015

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Program Improvement School Sites:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your school is in Program Improvement (PI) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

What is Program Improvement?

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP by considering the following four measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the “proficient” or “advanced” level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- The graduation rate for high schools
- California’s own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API). **Please note – awaiting results.**

The school’s Accountability Progress Reports may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp>.

Public school choice: What right does a parent have to request a transfer to a school that is not in PI?

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation.

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school, provided there is room available; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

*800 on the API = Meeting the state proficiency target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

**Percentage targets vary by grade level span.

The following chart reflects the current Program Improvement schools and the schools that are being offered Public School Choice for the 2015-2016 school year. Schools offered for Public School Choice may vary from year to year. If you are interested in transferring your child (ren) to a non-PI school for the 2015-2016 school year, please select from the schools listed below. As space is available, your request will be considered

Name of Program Improvement School	Year in Program Improvement	2013 Growth API Scores *	2013 English-language arts Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 89%)	2013 Mathematics Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target= 89.1%)
Cordova Meadows Elementary	3	741	37.4	51.1
Cordova Villa Elementary	4	781	40.1	61.4
Rancho Cordova Elementary	4	725	36.2	48
White Rock Elementary	5+	709	33.4	45.4
Williamson Elementary	4	713	35.9	40.8
Name of Public School Choice -		2013 Growth API Scores *	2013 English-language arts Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 89%)	2013 Mathematics Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target= 89.1%)
Cordova Gardens Elementary		767	43.5	53.6
Peter J. Shields Elementary		786	47.9	60.2

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it after **July 28, 2015 and on or before August 14, 2015**. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Elena Cabrera at (916) 294-9000, extension 104630. For more information you may also visit the District's Web site at www.fcusd.org.

What will Folsom Cordova Unified School District do to address the problem of low achievement?

FCUSD is working closely with all district staff to revise school plans to include:

- Strategies, policies, and practices that utilize scientifically-based research and have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all groups of students will meet the state's achievement targets (For example: Program Improvement schools have focused instructional support through Universal Access and academic interventions to close learning gaps in English Language Arts and Math for students who are not yet Proficient or Advanced on the state level testing. Additionally, each school site provides highly qualified curriculum coaches that collaborate with classroom teachers to provide resources and effective teaching strategies).
- High quality professional development for all school staff that will lead to removing each school from PI status
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in all schools
- Analyzing various data reports for revising each school plan

- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents to increase student academic achievement

How can parents become involved?

Research shows that parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents interested in partnering with their school are encouraged to contact their school for additional information regarding:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in your school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss your school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call your school or the undersigned at (916) 294-9000 ext. 104630.

Sincerely,

Elena Cabrera
Director of Categorical Programs & Grants

