

Parental Notification Letter about Corrective Action in Year 3 of Program Improvement

September 16, 2013

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Scotia USD:

We have received all of the information from last year's STAR Testing. Our District API in 2013 was 752, which is down from the 794 we scored in the previous year. As a staff we are analyzing the data and developing a plan to improve our test scores. As a District, we are transitioning to the new adopted Common Core Standards and will make every effort possible to keep you informed as we move towards a new set of standards.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. It is now a PI Year 3 school.

What is PI?

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)

Why is our school identified as PI?

The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2012-2013. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are: English-language arts, Mathematics, and Academic Performance Index.

The school's 2011-2012 Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

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 child(ren) 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; 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.

Unfortunately, we are a school district with only one school within its boundaries. In this case, if there was a boarding school district with room to accept students we would offer you transportation to that school district. However, all schools of LEAs that border our district are also in school improvement.

SES: How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?

Students from low-income families at continuing PI, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free tutoring (SES). These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible students who apply for the SES program exceeds the financial resources available, the lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first.

There are many benefits to your child(ren) receiving free tutoring. [Examples are described below. District may choose or add additional benefits.]

- He/she receives specific help in English-language arts, mathematics, and or science.
- The tutoring is provided beyond the regular school day.
- The tutoring is delivered in a one-to-one setting or in small groups.

- A student learning plan will address his/her specific academic needs.
- You, as the parent/guardian, will be consulted in developing your child's learning plan.

. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Ronan Collver at 764-22123. You may visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov> for a list of providers in our area.

What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school plan 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
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 3 (Corrective Action)?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. In addition to choice and SES, the school must revise its school plan to include at least one of the following options:

- Replace school staff (may include principal) who are relevant to the school's failure to make AYP
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum based on scientific research, including professional development
- Decrease management authority at the school level
- Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making AYP
- Extend the school day or year for the school
- Restructure the internal organizational structure of the school

How can parents become involved?

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

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

We will keep you updated and informed about opportunities to discuss plans for our school. If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Ronan Collver
Superintendent/Principal