



Shaffer Elementary School

“Excellence In Education”

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Terri Daniels
Superintendent/Principal

July 24, 2015

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Shaffer Elementary School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI), Year 5 school under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended.

What is PI?

The ESEA 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. Last year, these schools were identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). California determined AYP by considering the following three measures:

1. The percentage of students scoring at the “proficient” or “advanced” level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics; and
2. The percentage of students participating in those tests; and
3. California’s own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API).

Why was our school originally identified for PI?

The reason for our original identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years (2007 and 2008). The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- English-language arts
- Mathematics

The school’s Accountability Progress Reports 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/>.

What are the changes in PI for the 2015-2016 school year?

On March 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education approved California’s testing waiver for certain statutory and regulatory requirements of the Title I, Part A of the ESEA. A one-year waiver was granted that allows flexibility in making AYP determinations for schools and local educational agencies participating in the Smarter Balanced Field Test.

The CDE did not produce a 2014 AYP Report for elementary and middle schools and elementary and unified school districts. Therefore, the PI status for elementary and middle schools and unified school districts have not changed. With the current state testing in California, and the fact that it is not able to be compared equitably to the former state testing under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) the requirements for entering and exiting PI are being revised. Elementary and middle schools and unified school districts will not enter or exit PI in 2015. However, these schools and districts will continue to implement the PI requirements associated with their current PI status.

Public school choice: What right does a parent/guardian 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. However, there are no Public Schools of Choice currently located in Lassen County.

For parents/guardians who wish to select this option in other districts in California, 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. The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school without paid transportation.

Again, please note: At this time there are no public schools of choice located in Lassen County.

Supplemental Educational Services: How does a parent/guardian obtain a provider for their child?

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents/guardians did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free Supplemental Educational Services (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.

- He/she receives specific help in ELA, 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 are interested in SES, please contact the Shaffer School office at (530)254-6577.

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

At Shaffer School we have made great strides and great improvements in addressing the PI status. We are working closely with the district staff to continue to implement, and revise as necessary, our school plan, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Strategies, policies, and practices that utilize scientifically-based research and have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all groups of students will meet the plan'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

**Please feel free to review the current district LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) and SPSA (Single Plan for Student Achievement) for a more detailed list of actions in place to address student achievement.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 5 Continued Status?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. In addition to choice and SES, the school will continue to implement and refine the Alternative Governance Plan.

How can parents/guardians become involved?

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

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s)
- 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,



Terri Daniels
Superintendent/Principal