

8/4/2015

Dear parents/guardians of students in Biggs Elementary School,

This is to inform you that Biggs Elementary School remains as a Program Improvement (PI) school in Year 3 under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended. The ESEA requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the student academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools were identified as PI schools after two reporting cycles of not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Why is our school remaining in PI?

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) invited states to apply for a one-year waiver that would allow PI determinations to be made using **only** the participation rate, attendance rate, and graduation rate for the 2014–15 school year. California applied for the waiver and the ED has approved this waiver request.

As a result, Title I funded schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) will:

- Be identified for PI if they miss AYP in the same content area for two AYP reporting cycles, or miss the same additional indicator for two AYP reporting cycles
- Advance in PI if they miss the participation rate or the additional indicator (attendance rate for transitional kindergarten through grade eight schools and graduation rate for high schools)

Our school remains in PI because it:

Is in PI and made AYP for this reporting cycle (Maintains PI status)

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

If you are a parent/guardian of a student who attends a Title I PI school, ask about school choice options to 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/guardians 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. 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.

If you are interested in transferring your child or children to a non-PI school in the district for the 2015–16 school year, please select from the following schools. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district at (530)868-5870. You may also go to the district Web site at Biggs.org to obtain information on the number of students who are eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by August 31, 2015. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Mrs. King at (530)868-5870.

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

Students from low-income families at PI schools, whose parents/guardians did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free 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 English-language arts (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 review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district. The list identifies the subject area(s) and any special groups of students a provider is approved to serve. This information can also be found on our Web site at Biggs.org.

Please, complete and return the attached SES application form to the district by \If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Mrs. Meeker at (530)868-5870 ext. 221.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in Program Improvement?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. The CDE provides information, special help, and access to resources for PI schools. PI schools will receive district and/or state technical assistance in:

- Analyzing various data reports for revising the school plan
- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents/guardians to increase student academic achievement

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

We are working closely with the district staff to continue to implement, and revise as necessary, our school plan which includes:

- 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 standards
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to improved academic achievement
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

In addition to choice and SES, the school will:

- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum based on scientific research, including professional development

How can parent/guardians help their school and LEA improve?

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and LEA to support improvements:

- Learn more about the ESEA requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:

- The CDE Title I, Part A Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp>
 - The CDE Program Improvement Status Determinations Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>.
 - The ED Web site at <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.
- Request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s).
 - Talk with LEA staff about the LEA Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA and mathematics.
 - Visit your child's school. You may also participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.

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.

If you have any additional questions on any of the information contained within this letter, please contact Mrs. King at (530)868-5870.

Sincerely,

Minden King
Principal of the Biggs and Richvale Elementary Schools