



Alpine County Office of Education Alpine County Unified School District

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Parental Notification Letter Regarding the Continued Status of Program Improvement, Year 1 for Elementary and Middle Schools

March 19, 2015

To the Parents/Guardians of Students of 2015-16 Kindergartners in Diamond Valley Elementary School.

California remains one of the few states in the nation that does not have a waiver from the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements. Reauthorization of this federal legislation has been expected, but has not happened yet. With state testing suspended for the 2013-14 school year, no California School was granted the opportunity to show how they might have met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets per the NCLB requirements. Although NCLB provided alternate ways of meeting the targets for English Language Arts and Math, for the 2013-14 school year, the expectation was that 100% of all students demonstrate proficiency on state tests for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

You might recall that Diamond Valley Elementary School did not make all targets during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. So, it was identified as a Year 1 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. As California has no test results for any students last year, all schools have kept their previous year's status. So, Diamond Valley Elementary School will remain a Year 1 PI school for the 2014-15 school year.

Following is some information we need to communicate to parents as a result of being identified as a PI Year 1 school. We hope you find this information beneficial and ask that you contact us if you have any further questions (530.694.2230).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI), Year 1 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 for elementary and middle schools:

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 this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years, 2011-12 and 2012-13. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- English-language arts

Diamond Valley Elementary Schools’ 2011-12 and 2012-13 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 2014–15 school year?

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

The CDE will **not** produce a 2014 AYP Report for elementary and middle schools and elementary and unified school districts. Therefore, the PI status for these schools and districts will not change. These schools and districts will not enter or exit PI. 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.

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, Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School is the only non-PI school within reasonable distance for transportation. For the last year the API and AYP data were available (Spring of 2013) we are showing a comparison to help in your decision.

School Name	Academic Performance Index (API) 2012 Base/2013 Growth Scores (State Target is 800)	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) English Language Arts (ELA) (Federal and State Target is now 100%)	AYP Math (Federal and State Target is now 100%)
Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School	941/930	82.9%	86.1%
Diamond Valley Elementary School	792/805	52.5%	59.0%
State Average	791/790	56.6%	59.5%

There are no Non-PI schools in our region for grades 6-8; therefore, this option is not available to incoming sixth through eighth graders.

* 800 on the API = Meeting the state's percent proficient target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

** Percentage targets vary by grade span

For more information about choice, please contact the district at 530.694.2230 You may also go to the district's Web site at www.AlpineCOE.k12.ca.us 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. Children enrolling in Kindergarten for next year need to have their application submitted to the school by March 26, 2015 as Lake Tahoe Unified School District's deadline is March 27 for Kindergarteners. Children enrolling in first through fifth grades for next year need to have their application submitted to the school April 14, 2015 as Lake Tahoe Unified School District's deadline is April 15, 2015 for first through fifth graders. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact school administrative assistant, Ms. Kathy Oien at (530.694.2238).

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 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 Year 1 (School 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

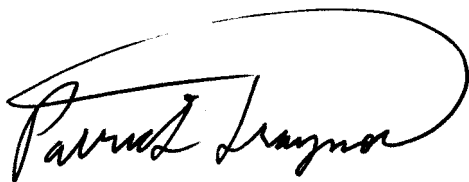
How can parents/guardians become involved?

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,



Patrick Traynor
 Superintendent
 Alpine County Unified School District/
 Alpine County Office of Education

Program Improvement School Choice Application Form
Alpine County Unified School District

Student Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Grade Next School Year: _____

My signature below signifies my agreement that I am exercising my right for my child to attend a non-Program Improvement school.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please submit this application to the school's office by the deadline stated in the letter above.