



Dear Parent or Guardian:

In March 2014, the U.S. Department of Education declined to renew the State of Washington's conditional Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver for schools receiving Title I, Part A funds. The impact of this decision is that all school districts in the State of Washington are now subject to the punitive and regressive requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind act (NCLB).

After careful deliberation and with strong support from 28 school districts in the Puget Sound Educational Service District, we are sending you this letter to notify you that our districts and schools did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by NCLB. For our schools to meet AYP this year, 100 percent of all students – regardless of special needs, English language mastery, or other life-impacting circumstances – must meet proficiency standards.

As educators, we are fully committed to each and every student reaching his or her full potential and are proud of the significant academic progress our students are making. While not all students have reached proficiency, our use of targeted resources to assist struggling students and schools has made a significant difference.

By reverting back to NCLB, we are now required to set aside approximately 20 percent of Title I funds we receive from the federal government. The money is reserved for the district to either transfer students to a school that meets the federal requirements or pay for private tutoring. In addition, parents whose children attend schools that don't meet federal standards and receive federal Title I funding receive this notice that their child's school is failing to meet those guidelines.

The label of "failing" schools is regressive and punitive, as nearly every Washington school will not meet the NCLB Requirements. Some of our state's and districts' most successful and highly recognized schools are now being labeled "failing" by an antiquated law that most educators and elected officials – as well as the U.S. Department of Education – acknowledge isn't working.

Our bottom line: Your child's school district is effectively addressing the needs of all students. Our outstanding progress is due to the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders through high-quality instruction, effective leadership, and collaborative partnerships. On behalf of the school districts in our region, we appreciate your support of our students, staff and schools.

Sincerely,

John P. Welch
Superintendent

Dr. Kip Herren, Superintendent
Auburn School District


Dr. Justin "Tim" Mills, Superintendent
Bellevue School District

Thomas Seigel, Superintendent
Bethel School District

Debbie LeBeau, Superintendent
Clover Park School District



Krestin Bahr, Superintendent
Eatonville School District



Mike Nelson, Superintendent
Enumclaw School District




Sally McClean, Superintendent
Federal Way School District



John McCrossin, Superintendent
Fife School District



Dr. Frank Hewins, Superintendent
Franklin Pierce School District



Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent
Highline School District



Ron Thiele, Superintendent
Issaquah School District



Dr. Edward Lee Vargas, Superintendent
Kent School District



Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent
Lake Washington School District



Larry Francois, Superintendent
Northshore School District



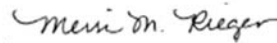
Michelle Corker Curry, Superintendent
Orting School District



Chuck Cuzzetto, Superintendent
Penninsula School District



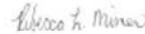
Dr. Timothy Yeomans, Superintendent
Puyallup School District



Dr. Merri Rieger, Superintendent
Renton School District



Dr. Anthony L. Smith, Superintendent
Riverview School District



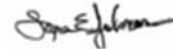
Rebecca Miner, Superintendent
Shoreline School District



Joel Aune, Superintendent
Snoqualmie Valley School District



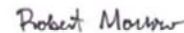
Kathi Weight, Superintendent
Steilacoom School District



Dr. Sara Johnson, Superintendent
Sumner School District



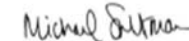
Carla Santorno, Superintendent
Tacoma School District



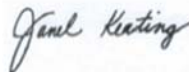
Rob Morrow, Superintendent
Tahoma School District



Dr. Nancy Coogan, Superintendent
Tukwila School District



Michael Soltman, Superintendent
Vashon Island School District



Janel Keating, Superintendent
White River School District

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 started with a lofty goal: Every student was to pass every state test in reading and math by the year 2014, no matter what their school passing rate was in 2001. To make sure they were on track to meet that goal, schools reported annually whether or not they had made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward meeting the 100 percent pass rate on time.

We've come a long way since 2001. The number of students passing their state tests has increased significantly.

But as our nation moved closer to 2014, it became apparent that a 100 percent pass rate was unrealistic. Although scores were improving, more and more schools were not meeting AYP because the percentage of students needing to pass the tests increased each year. Many people considered reporting AYP meaningless, because so few schools could meet it. Most states, including Washington, applied for waivers from AYP. Our state was granted a waiver during school years 2012-13 and 2013-14. During those years, the state of Washington was given the flexibility outside the AYP system to identify schools that needed the most help and target funding to schools with the highest need.

State test scores and graduation rates continued to rise.

Despite our continued success, the U.S. Department of Education did not renew our waiver for the 2014-15 and the 2015-16 school year. They denied the waiver because the Washington State Legislature did not pass a bill to require teacher/principal evaluations to include student growth on state tests, when appropriate. The use of student test scores as part of the teacher evaluation system is a federal requirement to keep an AYP waiver.

That means we're back to reporting AYP. We are abreast of the progress of the re-authorization of NCLB, and the new passing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We recognize that this Act will once again establish new guidelines and regulations. We believe it is in the best interest of our families to develop options that meet the intent of the new law. Additionally, we believe that we have met the intent of the current law by providing these options to families.

One of those NCLB requirements is to let you know that, using data from 2010-11 and 2013-14 our school did not meet AYP this year because at least one of the following has happened:

- One or more of our students did not pass the state tests in reading and/or math.

We realize that the new requirements regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Public School Choice (PSC), will be forthcoming as the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds ACT) was just signed by President Obama on Dec 10th, 2015.

This means we are considered to be in “Step 5 of Improvement” according to AYP. You can see our school’s AYP reports and compare them to the reports from every school in the district and state on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website: www.k12.wa.us. Click on the “School Report Card” button.

Because our school receives federal Title I, Part A money, there are consequences for not meeting AYP this year. We must inform you that:

- You may choose to transfer to nearby school that is not in a “step of improvement.”
- We are revising our school improvement plan.
- We are receiving extra support from OSPI.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to get involved at our school.

Public School Choice

You may choose to transfer to a nearby school that is not in a “step of improvement.” The school district will pay for transportation to and from that school, until our school meets AYP for two years in a row. The only school in our district that is not in a step of improvement at this time is Washington Elementary. If you would like to transfer your child(ren) to this school, you will need to fill out the attached application at the end of this letter. Please note that in order to be eligible to participate in Public School Choice (PSC), your student(s) must:

- Currently attend a Title I school in a step of Improvement
- Return a form stating your interest in attending a PCS by the proscribed due date

To apply for a public school choice transfer, please fill out the attached application form and return it by:

Friday, February 12th, by 4pm.

If you have questions, please call Title I Office at 253-571-1049.

Please note, if you and your student(s) choose to participate in Public School Choice (PSC), you will no longer be able to receive Supplemental Education Services (SES) Tutoring services.

Name of School	ELA Smarter Balance Average Percentage of Proficient Students (School Target is 100%)	Math Smarter Balance Average Percentage of Proficient Students (School Target is 100%)
Larchmont	34.7%	30.1%
Washington**	72.9%	69.1%

** Denotes school of choice option

School Improvement Plan

We are revising our school improvement plan. Parents are invited and encouraged to take part in that process. We will continue to develop strategies, policies and practices that use scientifically based research. Our staff will continue to receive high-quality professional development. Please understand, however, that all this was going on even while we were not required to meet AYP requirements.

State Support

We receive support from OSPI to help us analyze data reports and improve curriculum, strengthen core academic instruction, and work with parents to improve student learning. Again, this was going on before we lost our AYP waiver.

Parental Involvement

Parents are strongly encouraged to get involved at our school. Research shows that when parents are a part of the school community, students are more successful. Please contact your school to find out more about:

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

Parents can support school improvement through making sure students are ready to learn with adequate rest, a healthy breakfast, checking homework daily, and communication with teachers on student progress.

Please keep in mind the only reason you are receiving this letter this year is because Washington State lost its waiver from NCLB requirements. Our school continues to make progress. Our teachers and students work hard every day in the classroom.

Sincerely,



Sandra Lindsay-Brown, Ed. D.

Director Title I/LAP

On behalf of

Cindy Horner, Principal

Larchmont Elementary

Declaration of Decision for Public School Choice

If you would like more information about Washington Elementary, please visit:

<http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/wh/Pages/default.aspx>

You may also call Washington Elementary School at 253-571-5700.

Public School Choice: If you want to change schools, please complete this form and return it to the Title I / LAP department, located at 601 South 8th Street, Tacoma, WA 98405, Room 318, by:

Friday, February 12th, by 4pm.

This is a strict deadline. **Enrollment will be based on space availability.**

Student Name(s)_____ (Current Grade)_____

Student Name(s)_____ (Current Grade)_____

Student Name(s)_____ (Current Grade)_____

Parent/Guardian Name_____

Daytime Phone Number_____

Other telephone number_____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

I want to transfer my student(s) from **Larchmont Elementary** to:

Washington Elementary
2615 North Adams Street
Tacoma, WA 98407
Principal, Ed Schau 253.571.5700