December 2015

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 advanced to a PI Year 3 school. Even though this identification is based on the old model of testing, school sites are still required to send this notification. Schools identified as Program Improvement will remain in that status until the federal government authorizes a new system.

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 were identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determined 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)

What are the changes in PI for the 2015-16 school year?
Due to the new testing and accountability system, schools will not have an opportunity to exit from Program Improvement. Therefore, the Program Improvement (PI) status for elementary and middle schools and unified school districts will not change. However, these schools and districts will continue to implement the PI requirements associated with their current PI status.

Why is our school identified as PI?
The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2014-2015. Encina met 13 of 14 AYP criteria. The AYP areas that caused the identification was:

- Graduation rate was not meet overall graduation rate criteria

The school’s 2014-15 Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) website 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?
Under NCLB, 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.

The following chart includes the non-PI schools that you may select to transfer your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barrett Middle School</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>4243 Barrett Road, Carmichael</td>
<td>971-7842</td>
<td>7:38</td>
<td>2:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Oaks K-8 School</td>
<td></td>
<td>171 Mills Road, Sacramento</td>
<td>575-2390</td>
<td>7:55</td>
<td>2:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Americano High School</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>4540 Americano River Drive, Sacramento</td>
<td>971-7494</td>
<td>7:50</td>
<td>2:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mira Loma High School</td>
<td></td>
<td>4000 Edison Avenue, Sacramento</td>
<td>971-7465</td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>2:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you wish to apply for a transfer to a school(s) listed above, you need to complete the enclosed form and return it to the Office of Student Learning Assistance no later than January 8, 2016. If you wish to have your child stay at his/her current school, no response is necessary.

Supplemental educational services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?
Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free tutoring, 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.

Parents of students who are eligible for SES will receive detailed information about the SES application process. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the Office of Student Learning Assistance at (916) 979-8049.

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
- Supporting our English Learners with high priority

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. Schools in PI Year 3 continue to provide professional development, collaborate with district to improve student achievement, notify parents of non-highly qualified teacher status. The district will continue to provide technical assistance.

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,

Richard Judge, Principal
Encina Preparatory School