



HOLLY A. HERMANSEN, SUPERINTENDENT

112 Nevada City Highway  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
530-478-6400 · fax 530-478-6410

To the Parents/Guardians of students at schools under the jurisdiction of Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office:

## LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY IDENTIFIED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

It is important to first state that the school mentioned above is listed by the State Dept. of Education as being under the jurisdiction of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) Office in Nevada City, California. There are 13 schools that are under NCSOS. None of those 13 schools are currently considered PI (Program Improvement) Schools. Of these 13 schools only 3 schools receive Title I funds, which could make them eligible for PI status. Your school is one of the 3 schools under NCSOS that receives Title I funds and although these schools are not currently in school PI status, if they did not achieve AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for 2 consecutive years they may be eligible for PI status in the future. The designation of PI LEA is the result of combining all the AYP results for these 13 schools together. Although none of the NCSOS schools are in Program Improvement, the district (NCSOS) is.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-language arts and mathematics. Every school must improve each year until all students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance, which includes the academic standards and other components, is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

ESEA/NCLB also requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) that receives funds under Title I, Part A. An LEA can be a school district or a county office of education. An LEA receiving Title I, Part A funds is identified for Program Improvement (PI) if it does not meet AYP goals for two consecutive years within specific areas, focused primarily on academic achievement in English-language arts and mathematics. Although Earle Jamieson Educational Options and Sugarloaf Mountain met all 2013 components for AYP, the school district did not.

### 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 are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines 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)

ESEA/NCLB requires the CDE to inform parents/guardians of students about LEA performance. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office has been identified as a PI (Program Improvement) LEA. The school's 2013 Accountability Progress Report 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 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

### **SES: How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?**

Student from low-income families at continuing PI, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free tutoring (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, mathematic, and or science.
- 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 call our office for more information.

### **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. In addition to choice and SES, the school must revise its school plan to include at least one of the following options:

- Replace school staff (may include principal) who are relevant to the school's failure to make AYP
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum based on scientific research, including professional development
- Decrease management authority at the school level
- Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making AYP
- Extend the school day or year for the school
- Restructure the internal organizational structure of the school

### **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 our office for more information.

Sincerely,

Shar Johns  
Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools