



Parental Notification Letter about School Choice in Year 1 of Program Improvement

September 20, 2011

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Weaverville Elementary School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a Year 1 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The staff and administration will work diligently to exit PI and to continue to improve the educational experience we have to offer.

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)

Why is Weaverville Elementary identified as PI?

The reason for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years, 2010 and 2011. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Making adequate gains in the number of students achieving proficiency in **mathematics** in our socioeconomically disadvantaged (SED) subgroup as well as schoolwide (SW).

Even though our school has fallen into PI, there were many students who worked extremely hard to achieve their personal best scores. Kudos to those students and may they continue to strive to achieve their very best.

The school’s 2010 and 2011 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/>.

Public school choice: What right does a parent 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 school within the school district with district paid transportation if another district school is available. Weaverville Elementary is currently the only Elementary school within the Trinity Alps Unified School District and therefore paid transportation is not available. Parents may contact Douglas City, Lewiston, Junction City, or Hayfork Elementary schools to check availability and/or to request a transfer to a non-Program Improvement school for the 2011/12 school year. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school of transfer or return to Weaverville Elementary.

For more information about any of these schools or to apply for a public school choice transfer, please contact Weaverville Elementary School principal Keith Sprague at 530-623-5533 by October 18, 2011.

Name of School	API Scores Meeting the state's percent proficient target for schools on the Academic Performance Index.	English-Language Arts Percent Proficient or Above (Elementary target = 67%) Percentage targets vary by grade level span.	Mathematics Percent Proficient or Above (Elementary target= 67.3%) Percentage targets vary by grade level span.
Our School Weaverville Elementary School	796/800	56.5%	51.5%
Douglas City Elementary School	829/800	67%	65.9%
Junction City Elementary School	821/800	53%	71.2%
Lewiston Elementary School	Too small of a testing population to be assigned an API score.	53.1%	68.8%
Hayfork Valley Elementary School	789/800	51%	57.7%

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

This depends on how you view problems. Hugh Miller, author of *Snow on the Wind*, says, "Problems are only opportunities with thorns on them." Using this perspective our PI status becomes a call to opportunity.

We now have the opportunity to work 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 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 now has the opportunity to work 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 to increase student academic achievement

How can parents become involved?

Parents have the opportunity to become more 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,

Keith Sprague
Weaverville Elementary School Principal