

WILLIAMS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Parental Notification Letter

about

School Choice in Year 2 of Program Improvement

School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services in Year 2 of Program Improvement

October 23, 2012

To the Parents/Guardians of students in Williams Unified School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the District has been identified as a Year Two Program Improvement (PI) district. Per the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, three schools within the district have received the PI classification; Williams Upper Elementary (Year Two), Williams Junior High (Year Three), and Williams Senior High (Year Two).

What is PI?

NCLB requires the state to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I districts 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 our Schools are Identified as PI?

The reason our District is in PI, is our schools did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

<i>Upper Elementary</i>	<i>Junior High</i>	<i>Senior High</i>	<i>Williams Unified</i>
English Language Arts Mathematics	English Language Arts Mathematics	English Language Arts Mathematics Graduation Rate	English Language Arts Mathematics Graduation Rate

Williams Upper Elementary School has achieved "Safe Harbor" status and has met all 17 Adequate Yearly Progress criteria for 2011-2012. The number of students scoring below proficient has decreased as a result of improvement efforts at the school.

The Districts' 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 District school with District-paid transportation. Currently, the Williams Unified School District doesn't have any other school to transfer students.

The District has established a cooperative agreement with other districts in the county.

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 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 PI Year 1 or Year 2 (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 to increase student academic achievement

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

Students in grades 4-12, at continuing PI schools are eligible for SES services; enrollment in SES is limited to 50 students. 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 in grades 4-12, 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 receiving free tutoring. A few are listed below:

- He/she receives specific help in English Language Arts, Mathematics and/or Science
- Tutoring is provided beyond the school day.
- Tutoring is delivered in a small group setting or online computer assisted learning.
- A student learning plan will address his/her specific academic needs.

If you are interested in SES, please review the list of providers willing to serve the district. The information can also be found on our Website at www.williamsusd.net. Those students receiving SES applications need to return them to the district as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please contact Jennifer Foglesong (4th - 6th grade) at 473-5304, or Dr. Nicholas R. Richter (7th - 8th grade) at 473-5369.

Supplemental Education Service Providers (SES)

- Professional Tutors of America, Inc.
- ATS: Project Success

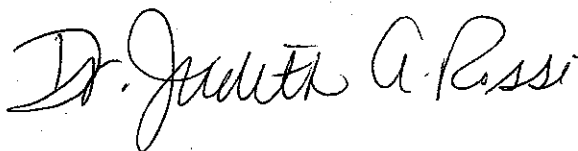
How can parents become involved?

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:

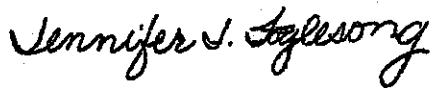
- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- On-going parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

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/District instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call us and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,



Dr. Judith A. Rossi, Superintendent



Jennifer J. Foglesong, K-6 Elementary School Principal



Dr. Nicholas R. Richter, Secondary School Principal