

Parental Notification Letter about Choice and Supplemental Educational Services in Year 2 of Program Improvement

Estrellita Continuation High School
12395 Marengo Road, Galt CA 95632

November 16, 2011

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Estrellita Continuation High School:

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. We are now a PI Year 2 school.

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 our school identified as PI?

The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2009 and 2010. The AYP areas that caused the identification are:

- API (2009)
- Math Percent Proficient (2010)

The school’s 2011 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/>.

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 child to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation.

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in the district, please select from the following schools. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

Non-PI School in District	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above (High School target = 66.7%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above (High School target = 66.1%)
Liberty Ranch High School	797	65%	60.6%

* 800 on the API = Meeting the state's percent proficient target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

For more information about any of these schools, or to apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please contact Estrellita Principal Tony Lara at 745-2167 by December 16, 2011.

You may also go to the Estrellita High School Web site at <http://www.qhsd.k12.ca.us/ehs/EHS.htm> to obtain information on the number of students who are eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES) beginning with data from 2007-08.

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 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.

There are many benefits to your child receiving free tutoring.

- He/she receives specific help in English-language arts, mathematic, and or science.
- The tutoring is provided beyond the regular school day.
- 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.

The following SES provider has contracted with the district and is approved to serve students in English Language Arts and mathematics: *Ace It! Of California Tutoring Powered by Sylvan Learning*. If you are interested in SES services, please contact Estrellita Principal Tony Lara at 745-2167.

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

What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 2

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 through staff development
- Collaborating with parents to increase student academic achievement

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:

- English Learner Advisory Committee
- Single Plan for Student Achievement

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,

Tony Lara
Principal, Estrellita Continuation High School (209)745-2167