

McSwain Elementary Union School District

Parental Notification Letter about Corrective Action in Year 3 of Program Improvement.

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August 17, 2015

To the Parents/Guardians of students at McSwain Elementary:

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 is now a PI Year 3 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 2013 and 2014. We continue in the same status since a new assessment will not be available until the 2015-16 school year. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- English-language arts
- Mathematics

The school’s 2014 and 2015 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(ren) 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(ren) to a non-PI school in the district for the 2015-2016 school year, please select from the following schools. This list of schools is also available on our Web site at www.McSwain.k12.ca.us. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration. Please be advised however, that all schools listed as choices have now also entered Program Improvement Status. Please keep in mind that under No Child Left Behind PI Status is extremely difficult to exit

Name of School	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 89.2%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient **or above (Elementary target = 89.5%)
Washington Elementary	756/800	37.2%	42.6%
Ballico-Cressey	818/800	47.8%	53.7%
Name of Non-PI School	/800		

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

** Percentage targets vary by grade level span

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district 209-354-2700. You may also go to the district’s Web site at www.McSwain.k12.ca.us 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.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by November 13, 2015. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Helio Brasil at 209-354-2700.

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 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.

If you are interested in SES, please review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district. The list identifies the subject area(s) and any special groups of students a provider is approved to serve. This information can also be found on our Web site at www.McSwain.k12.ca.us. Please, complete and return the attached SES application form to the district by November 13, 2015. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Helio Brasil at 209-354-2700.

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 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 me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Helio Brasil
Superintendent