



*Terry M. Hirschfield, Superintendent*

## **Parental Notification Letter about Choice and Supplemental Educational Services in Year 9 of Program Improvement**

December 18, 2015

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Orange Center:

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 9 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
- 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 2015. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- English-language arts
- Mathematics
- Academic Performance Index

The school’s 2015-2016 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/>.

### **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 (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.
- You, as the parent/guardian, will be consulted in developing your child’s learning plan.



# Orange Center School District

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- 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.orangecenter.org](http://www.orangecenter.org). Please, complete and return a SES application form to the district by **January 22, 2016**. You can download a form at [www.orangecenter.org](http://www.orangecenter.org) or you can pick one up at the school office. If you have any questions in regarding the SES provider program, please contact Terry Hirschfield at (559) 237-0437.

## **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 9**

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

## **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
- 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,

*Terry Hirschfield*

Terry M. Hirschfield  
Superintendent/Principal  
Orange Center School District

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