

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

2300 Highway 166, New Cuyama, California 93254

(661) 766-2482 • Fax: (661) 766-2255

www.cuyamaunified.org

Superintendent/Principal
Roland Maier

Chief Business Officer
Chris Rahe
Administrative Assistant
Whitney Goller

Parental Notification Letter about Implementation of Restructuring in Year 5 of Program Improvement

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Cuyama Elementary 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. It is now a PI Year 5 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. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- English-language arts
- Mathematics
- Academic Performance Index

The school's 2013 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?

Within the No Child Left Behind law, parents of students attending a Title I Program Improvement school may request to send their child to a non-Program Improvement school within the district and receive transportation to a designated school at district expense. However, since Cuyama Elementary School is the only elementary school in the district, this is not an option for our district. Below, you can see how Cuyama Elementary School compares in terms of academic achievement to a similar school in California.

Name of School	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 46%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target= 47.5%)
Cuyama Elementary	702/800	40.1%	43.5%
West Riverside Elementary (Non-PI School)	790/800	46.3%	61.5%

* 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

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

All students in our district 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 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 tutoring services, please refer to our website at www.cuyamaunified.org where you can download an SES application form. You must complete and return the SES application form to the district by 09/24/2013. If you were unable to attend the SES Provider Faire and you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider, please contact the district office at (661) 766-2482.

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 5 (Restructuring Implementation)?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. Schools in PI Year 5 must implement the restructuring plan for alternative governance written during the previous year. The implementation of the restructuring plan will be monitored by the local district.

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,

Roland Maier
Superintendent