



July 15, 2011

To the Parents/Guardians of Students at Sacramento Charter High School,

RE: Required notice of continuing Program Improvement status

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Sac High will be continuing in Program Improvement (PI) status for the 2011-2012 school year under the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* and *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*.

Este aviso está disponible en español en la oficina de Sac High (This notice is available in Spanish in the Sac High office).

In 2010-2011, Sac High was designated as a PI Year 4 school. We expect that we will continue to be in PI Year 4 for 2011-2012 (see below for specific information on moving in and out of Program Improvement); however the school may move to Year 5. If this occurs, you will receive a separate notification as soon as that information is made available for public release.

What is Program Improvement (PI)?

NCLB requires the state to review 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 High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE; 10th graders only)
- 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?

Initially, Sac High did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Due to successful implementation of the programs in the school, Sac High met AYP for the 2006-2007 school year; however, scores for 2007-2008 indicated that we did not meet AYP in one area. Schools must meet AYP for two consecutive years in order to be removed from Program Improvement. If Sac High meets AYP in 2011-12 and meets AYP in 2012-13, the school will exit Program Improvement.

Our continued PI status is despite yearly increases in API. Students are showing improvement every year on the CAHSEE as well as the California Standards Tests (CSTs); improvement that is not being captured in the AYP indicator. The school also continues to prepare students to attend 2- and 4-year colleges and universities with 70+% of seniors accepted to a 4-year university in 2011.

What will the school do to ensure that our school meets AYP in 2011-2012?

While we await our 2010-11 AYP results, we are implementing plans within the school to ensure that we meet AYP in 2011-2012, including:

- New programs and curriculum that were created after a comprehensive review of the school programs in 2010-11 (through the accreditation process the school underwent);
- High quality professional development for school staff;
- Support for low-performing students in core subject areas, particularly math and English language arts;
- More high quality data assessment to make immediate and long-term changes to instruction;
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school, including implementing some parent conferences (9th grade only for 2011-12);
- Tutoring (Supplemental Education Services). These services will be offered during the 2011-12 school year at no cost to you if your child receives free or reduced cost lunches. Applications to participate in this program will be mailed to eligible families in the coming weeks.

Your right to request a transfer

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school. Students enrolled in direct-funded charter schools (such as Sacramento Charter High School) have the option of returning to their "home" public school. If the home public school is a PI school, the student may request a school transfer to a non-PI school in the home district, with paid transportation.

The home district will pay for transportation costs. The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school **without** paid transportation.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in your home district, please contact your home district directly. The home district will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools.

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:

- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



Will Jarrell
Principal

Sacramento Charter High School
(916)277-6200



Jim Scheible
Superintendent
St. HOPE Public Schools
(916)277-6200



Nicole M. Michalik, Ph.D.
Title I Coordinator
St. HOPE Public Schools
(916)649-7952