

**PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LETTER: YEAR 3 OF PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT**

**Dana Elementary School**

920 W. Teft St.

Nipomo, CA 93444

September 21, 2015

To The Parents/Guardians of Students at Dana Elementary,

This is to inform you that Dana Elementary has been identified as a Year 3 Program improvement (PI) school in Year 2014, under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended. The ESEA requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the student academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools were identified a PI schools after two reporting cycles of not making Adequate yearly Progress (AYP).

**Why is our school identified as remaining in PI?**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) invited states to apply for a one-year waiver that would allow PI determinations to be made using **only** the participation rate, attendance rate, and graduation rate for the 2014-2015 school year. California applied for the waiver and the ED has approved this waiver request.

As a result, Title I funded schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) will:

- Be identified for PI if they miss AYP in the same content area for two AYP reporting cycles, or miss the same additional indicator for two AYP reporting cycles.
- Advance in PI if they miss the participation rate or the additional indicator (attendance rate for transitional kindergarten through grade eight schools and graduation rate for high schools)

Our school remains in PI because it did not meet the AYP for two reporting cycles

Academic Performance Index (API) Report  
3 - Year Average API School Report

Groups	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students</u> <u>Included</u> <u>in 2011</u>	<u>2011</u> <u>Growth</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students</u> <u>Included</u> <u>in 2012</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>Growth</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Students</u> <u>Included</u> <u>in 2013</u>	<u>2013</u> <u>Growth</u>	<u>Non-</u> <u>Weighted</u> <u>3-Year</u> <u>Average</u>	<u>Weighted</u> <u>3-Year</u> <u>Average</u>
	<u>Growth API</u>	<u>API</u>	<u>Growth API</u>	<u>API</u>	<u>Growth API</u>	<u>API</u>	<u>API*</u>	<u>API*</u>
Schoolwide	400	814	401	813	396	810	812	812
Black or African American	5		5		4			
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		1		1			
Asian	1		2		2			
Filipino	1		2		6			
Hispanic or Latino	208	769	213	757	208	764	763	763

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1		4		1			
White	177	868	171	881	172	864	871	871
Two or More Races	6		3		2			
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	256	781	273	771	267	772	775	775
English Learners	116	745	129	724	121	746	738	738
Students with Disabilities	52	659	55	679	63	655	664	664

**PUBLIC SCHOOL P.I. TRANSFER: WHAT RIGHT DOES A PARENT HAVE TO REQUEST A TRANSFER TO A SCHOOL THAT IS NOT IN PI?**

Lucia Mar allows for open enrollment throughout the district as space permits. All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation. Central Coast New Tech High School, Grover Heights, Ocean View, Shell Beach and Branch are non-PI schools.

To apply for a public school P.I. transfer, please contact the principal to complete the transfer request and submit it to the school office during the P.I. transfer window of October 1 – October 15, 2015. All requests will be sent to the Curriculum Office for review. If the demand for P.I. transfers exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Jim Empey at 474-3000 ext. 1131.

Parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have rights to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation for the next school year. To apply for public school P.I. transfer, please contact the principal to complete a transfer request and submit it to the school office prior to May 1, 2015. All requests will be sent to the Curriculum Office. If the demand for P.I. transfer exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

**SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (SES): HOW DOES A PARENT OBTAIN A PROVIDER FOR THEIR CHILD?**

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools are eligible for SES. SES services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day by educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If you feel that your child needs more help than can be provided by school staff, you may wish to consider SES. 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.

If you are interested in SES, you may review the list of providers approved by CDE to serve Lucia Mar at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/ap/sspsearch.aspx> or contact the school office to consult a copy of approved SES Providers. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child, please contact Kathy Alberda, 602 E Orchard Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA. 93420 474-3000 X1097. **An SES application form may be requested from Kathy Alberda.**

When SES funds are not needed for SES, the district is able to re-distribute funds set-aside for SES directly to PI schools to provide tutoring by school staff right at the schools.

**WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF LOW ACHIEVEMENT?**

Our teachers and support staff are working diligently to assess and identify individual students in need of intervention. Once these students are identified we will set goals for groups of students with similar needs. We have materials and staff available to effectively target the needs of our second language learners. We will also be increasing the frequency and quality of student assessments throughout the school year. At Dana we also recognize that our student’s needs extend beyond a once a year test score and will continue to expand our programs to include science, the arts, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skill development. We are confident that your student will continue to receive a high quality educational experience in a safe and nurturing environment at Dana Elementary.

We are working closely with the district staff to continue to implement and revise as necessary, our school plan which includes:

- 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 achievement standards.
- Have quality professional development for school staff that will lead to improved academic achievement
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school.
- All Lucia Mar schools are focused on improving student achievement and offering support services to students who are below proficient in English Language Arts and math.

At Dana Elementary we have before, during, and after school tutoring to support below proficient students.

#### **WHAT IS THE DISTRICT DOING TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN PI?**

Our district is working hard to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. PI schools receive district support for tutoring, assessment, instruction, intervention, professional development.

- Analyzing various data reports for revising the school plan
- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents/guardians 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, school-parent compact, parent/community meetings, advisory committee/school site council meetings, and parent volunteer opportunities.

If you have additional questions on any of the information contained within this letter, please contact Kathy Alberda at 805-474-3000 ext. 1097.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Russell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stacey Russell

Principal

Dana Elementary