

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LETTER: YEAR 3 OF PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

Paulding Middle School
600 Crown Hill St.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

September 21, 2015

To The Parents/Guardians of Students at Paulding Middle School

This is to inform you that Paulding Middle School 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 Students Included in 2011</u> Growth API	<u>2011 Growth</u> API	<u>Number of Students Included in 2012</u> Growth API	<u>2012 Growth</u> API	<u>Number of Students Included in 2013</u> Growth API	<u>2013 Growth</u> API	<u>Non-Weighted 3-Year Average</u> API*	<u>Weighted 3-Year Average</u> API*
Schoolwide	600	837	632	855	644	873	855	855
Black or African American	4		3		2			
American Indian or Alaska Native	2		5		6			
Asian	14	877	11	847	13	921	882	883
Filipino	7		10		8			

Hispanic or Latino	175	770	157	785	176	824	793	793
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1		0		1			
White	381	860	433	879	420	893	877	878
Two or More Races	15	966	13	932	18	937	945	945
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	231	752	230	789	236	808	783	783
English Learners	67	697	51	731	60	793	740	739
Students with Disabilities	48	559	45	592	72	668	606	616

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, 2016. 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?

Paulding Middle School has three main programs to address low achievement:

Program 1: All students in grades 7-8 will participate in the Thinking Maps writing program. This entails all teachers being trained in writing instruction and all students participating in rigorous writing activities in all of their core classes.

Program 2: Paulding has a Response to Intervention (RTI) program that provides ever increasing support for students with various levels of academic needs.

Program 3: All teachers will implement differentiated instruction targeted to student needs based on the results of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment given in September, December and March.

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 Paulding Middle School 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,

Edward J. Arrigoni, Principal