



**Bear River School**  
Wheatland School District  
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## **Parental Notification Letter Regarding the Maintained Status in Program Improvement, Year 2 for Schools Excluding Direct-funded Charter Schools**

August 24, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Bear River School:

This is to inform you that Bear River remains as a Program Improvement (PI) school in Year 2 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 as PI schools after two reporting cycles of not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

### **Why is our school 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 2014–15 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 targets for two reporting cycles. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the State changed the test and we have been unable to advance out of PI because of the new system. We are essentially frozen in Year 2 of PI.

Bear River is still an excellent school and ranks 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> among all middle schools in the county. In addition, Bear River was awarded the State Gold Ribbon Award for excellence in 2014/15.

**Public school choice: What right does a parent/guardian have to request a transfer to a school that is not in PI?**

If you are a parent/guardian of a student who attends a Title I PI school, ask about school choice options to transfer to a school that is not in PI.

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.

For parents/guardians who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. 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 or children to a non-PI school in the district for the 2015–16 school year, please select from the following schools. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

- Lone Tree School (for grades 4 & 5 only)
- Middle School Grades (6 – 8) No other Middle School in our District so there is no ability to transfer

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district at 530-633-3130. You may also go to the district Web site at [www.wheatlandisd.com](http://www.wheatlandisd.com) to obtain information on the number of students who are eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please ask the school for an application form and return it by September 30, 2015. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact the District Office at 530-633-3130.

**Supplemental Educational Services (SES): How does a parent/guardian obtain a provider for their child? [Required for PI Year 2, 3, 3+-Optional for PI Year 1]**

Students from low-income families at PI schools, whose parents/guardians 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 (ELA), mathematics, 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.

If you are interested in SES, please ask your school office. Currently we offer Academic Intervention through our after school program. No outside SES organizations have signed up to serve the students in our community so we offer the service through our own After School Program.

## **What are the district and state doing to support schools in Program Improvement?**

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/guardians to increase student academic achievement

## **What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?**

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's achievement standards
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to improved academic achievement
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

Learn more about the ESEA requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:

- The CDE Title I, Part A Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp>
- The CDE Program Improvement Status Determinations Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>.
- The ED Web site at <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.
- Request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s).
- Talk with LEA staff about the LEA Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school. You may also participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents/guardians interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s)
- 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.

If you have any additional questions on any of the information contained within this letter, please contact the Bear River Office at 530-633-3135.

Sincerely,

Angela Gouker  
Principal  
Bear River