



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
2975 E. Highway 246 • Post Office Box 398 • Santa Ynez, CA 93460
805 688-6487 • fax (805) 686-4454

PAUL TURNBULL, PH.D.
District Superintendent

October 31, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY IDENTIFIED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-language arts and mathematics. Every school must improve each year until 100% of students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance, which includes the academic standards and other components, is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

ESEA/NCLB also requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the performance of each school district that receives funds under Title I, Part A. A Local Education Agency (LEA) receiving Title I, Part A, funds is identified for Program Improvement (PI) if it does not meet AYP goals for two consecutive years within specific areas, focused primarily on academic achievement in English-language arts and mathematics.

The Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District is the top performing high school district in Santa Barbara County, and its flagship school, Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, boasts student achievement rates in the top 10% in the State of California. However, an achievement gap between the highest and lowest performing students still exists. As such, the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District has been identified as a PI LEA.

You can find specific achievement data used to make this decision by reading the 2010 AYP Report on the District website (www.syvuhd.org). If you would like a hardcopy of this report, please contact Mrs. Laura Cypert in the district office at (805) 688-6487 ext.3570, and one will be provided.

In addition to the actions below, the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District will endeavor to support all students who have not met proficiency in identified state standards. Specifically, the District will focus on students in 3 sub-groups, all of which have been identified as groups who can improve performance on annual state assessments: English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged students, and Hispanic/Latino students.

As a PI LEA, our District must:

- Write an addendum to our LEA Plan. We must consult with parents and school staff when writing the LEA Plan Addendum, which will include information on how we plan to use

Title I and other funds to improve student achievement. We will post the approved LEA Plan on our LEA web site.

- Reserve at least ten percent of our annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators.
- Continue to provide assistance to schools identified for PI.

How can parents help their school and LEA improve?

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and LEA to support improvements:

- Learn more about the ESEA/NCLB requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:
 - The California Department of Education
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp> and
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>
 - The U.S. Department of Education
<http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
- 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 also may participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.
- If you are a parent of a student who attends a Title I PI school, ask about school choice options to transfer your child, with paid transportation, to a public school in your LEA that is not identified as a Program Improvement school.

I encourage you to contact Dr. Paul Turnbull, superintendent, or Mr. Mark Swanitz, principal, for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in PI efforts.

Sincerely,



Paul Turnbull, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Mark Swanitz
Principal