

NCLB: PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT & SCHOOL CHOICE

Pittsburg Unified School District

Updated September 2014

What is Program Improvement (PI)?

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) is a landmark in educational reform designed to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as Program improvement (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 Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- 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)

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school in years 1-5 have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school. All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school in years 2-5 who have not transferred to a non-PI school may be eligible for Supplemental Support Services (SES.)

How are PI requirements designated?

The requirements vary based on the school's PI year and are listed below:

- Year 1: Newly Identified
- Year 2: Continuing Improvement
- Year 3: Corrective Action
- Year 4: Restructuring
- Year 5: Alternative Governance

PI schools in Year 1 and above must provide Public School Choice. PI schools in Year 2 and above must provide either School Choice or Supplemental Educational Services to low-income students. LEAs, direct-funded charters, and schools that receive Title I, Part A funds face NCLB consequences as PI schools and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for not meeting or exceeding the AYP requirements.

What schools in the Pittsburg Unified School District are in Program Improvement?

Los Medanos Elementary	PI Year 1	Willow Cove Elementary	PI Year 4
Marina Vista Elementary	PI Year 1	Foothill Elementary	PI Year 5
Heights Elementary	PI Year 3	Hillview Junior High	PI Year 5
Highlands Elementary	PI Year 4	Rancho Medanos Junior High	PI Year 5

Public school choice: What right does a parent have to request a 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 child(ren) to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation.

For parents 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. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

A list of non-PI district schools is listed below. If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school for the 2014-15 school year, please contact Student Services at (925) 473-2348 by September 30, 2015 or within 2 weeks of an initial enrollment in a PUSD Program Improvement School. Student Services can provide you with the most up to date list of schools for 2014-15 and the most current transfer options.

Non-Program Improvement Elementary Schools

Name of School <i>Nombre de la Escuela</i>	API Scores <i>Puntaje API</i>	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above <i>Porcentaje de Proficiente o más alto en Lenguaje y Literatura en Inglés</i> (2012-13 school year Target = 89.2% <i>Meta para =89.2%</i>)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above <i>Porcentaje de Proficiente o más alto en Matemáticas</i> (2012-13 school year Target = 89.5% <i>Meta para =89.5%</i>)
Parkside	773	47%	57%
Stoneman	810	56%	66%

Non-Program Improvement Jr. High Schools

Name of School <i>Nombre de la Escuela</i>	API Scores <i>Puntaje API</i>	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above <i>Porcentaje de Proficiente o más alto en Lenguaje y Literatura en Inglés</i> (2012-13 school year Target = 89.2% <i>Meta para =89.2%</i>)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above <i>Porcentaje de Proficiente o más alto en Matemáticas</i> (2012-13 school year Target = 89.5% <i>Meta para =89.5%</i>)
Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High	701	37%	27%

How many students in our district have opted for school choice under NCLB?

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
5	2	3	3	2	1

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

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school plan to include:

- Strategies 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 targets
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status
- Mentoring Program
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

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

Our district is working closely with the California Department of Education to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. The California Department of Education provides information, special help, and access to resources for PI schools. PI schools will receive district and/or state technical assistance in a variety of areas.

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
- Ongoing parent/community meetings

- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

Pittsburg Unified School District schools will keep you updated and informed about opportunities to discuss plans for the schools. If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in your school's Program Improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call or visit the school.