



Fortuna Union High School District

# Fortuna High School

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## Parental Notification Letter about Choice and Supplemental Educational Services in Year 2 of Program Improvement

9/16/2014

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Fortuna High School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. We are now a PI Year 2 school.

During the previous two school years we made great improvements in the academics and culture at Fortuna High. Evidence of our improvement can be seen everywhere on campus, new innovative classes are being offered, students are enthusiastic and involved in campus life. Our recent API score rose 44 points to an all time high of 735. Even with all of the improvements our school is still recognized as being in program improvement.

### What is PI?

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 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)

### Why is our school identified as PI?

- The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2013. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are: English-language arts

The school’s 2013 Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

### 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.

“Fortuna High School is a supportive community of learners encouraging excellence, practicing integrity, and preparing for the future.”



If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in the district for the 2013/2014 school year, please set up an appointment to see Clint Duey at the Fortuna High School Office. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

Name of School	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above**	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above **
		88.9%	88.7%
Fortuna High	735	57%	55%
Academy of the Redwoods	864	98%	96%

\* 770 on the API = Meeting the state's percent proficient target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

\*\* Percentage targets vary by grade level span

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district at 707-725-4461.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by 10/15/14. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Clint Duey at 707-725-4461

**SES: How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?**

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents 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, mathematic, 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.
- A student learning plan will address his/her specific academic needs.

If you are interested in SES, please contact the school at 707-725-4461 and ask for Clint Duey, or come into the main office to set up an appointment. A desire for SES students needs to be made via a meeting with the principal by 10/15/13

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

- Professional development and implementation of curriculum for new common core standards

### **What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 2**

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 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
- Parents bill of rights
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings

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.

Sincerely,

Clint Duey  
Principal  
Fortuna High School