



SANTANA HIGH SCHOOL

A California Model Continuation High School

1006 OTTERBEIN AVE. • ROWLAND HEIGHTS • CA 91748 • (626)965-5971 • FAX(626)854-2225

DEBI KLOTZ.....PRINCIPAL

September 10, 2010

Dear Santana Parents:

I am sending to you the attached letter which is a requirement under the federal No Child Left Behind Act that a District must notify parents that it is a Program Improvement (PI) District.

Even though our District continues to outperform the State and County in both Academic Performance Index (API) growth and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets, the District will be moving into PI Year 2. Every student subgroup must make AYP targets or the District does not make AYP. It is important to note that 55% of all Districts in Los Angeles County are now designated as PI.

Let me assure you that Santana High School is not a Program Improvement School and continues to be one the top performing continuation schools in the state thanks to your support. Here are just a few reasons why:

- State Model School for 15 years
- Provide Advanced Placement and Honors courses
- Enrichment courses such as guitar, ceramics, photography
- A recognized National Standards Counseling Program
- Accept/Life Center Programs
- On-line courses

If you have further questions about the attached, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (626) 965-5971.

Regards,

Debi Klotz
Principal

Mission: To inspire and educate individuals to realize their dreams and fulfill their responsibilities to society. We proudly join the parents and community in preparing each generation to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

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Maria G. Ott, Ph.D.
Superintendent

September 22, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Rowland Unified School District (RUSD):

Rowland Unified School District takes an active role to ensure that all students reach their full potential by working toward increasing student achievement.

Administrators, teachers and RUSD staff are actively participating in comprehensive, ongoing professional development in standards-based lesson design, assessments and using data to monitor student achievement. RUSD was selected by the Ball Foundation as a partner to promote systemic transformation committed to creating high performance schools in which all children learn at high levels, and where all stakeholders have been involved in the adoption and implementation of the RUSD Strategic Plan.

The RUSD school site teachers and staff members are assessing students in reading, writing and math to monitor their growth on a continual basis and providing interventions, if needed. Teachers offer tutoring before school, after school, and Saturday classes for students who are not making progress toward meeting grade level standards. As a result RUSD API growth of 15 points was the largest increase of the past six years. The overall district AYP was 56.5% in ELA and 61.3% in mathematics, both meeting the Proficiency targets set by the state. Districtwide, schools are continuing to work diligently to close the achievement gap of all subgroups.

In addition, RUSD parents are involved by providing input on the Improvement Plan, Parental Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compacts. Parents share responsibilities to increase their children's academic achievement by supporting their learning in such ways as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television use. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer in the classroom; and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.

The 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 all students are proficient by 2014. This yearly improvement in school performance, which includes the academic standards and other components, is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

NCLB also requires the California Department of Education to annually review the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) that receives funds under NCLB, Title I, Part A. An LEA can be a school district or a county office of education. An LEA receiving Title I, Part A, funds is identified as a Program Improvement LEA 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.

Based on the 2010 AYP Report from the California Department of Education (CDE), Rowland has been identified as a Program Improvement Year 2 District. You can find specific District achievement data used to make this decision at rowlandschools.org under State Academic Achievement Reports. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Dr. Chris Ericson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Division for RUSD, in the district office at (626) 854-8348, and a hard copy of the report will be provided.

As a Program Improvement LEA, our district must:

- Revise our LEA Plan. We must consult with parents and school staff when revising this Plan, which explains how we will use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement.
- 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 Program Improvement.

How can parents continue to help their school and local educational agency improve?

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

- Learn more about the 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/index.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 reading and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school. You also may participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.
- If your child attends a Title I Program Improvement school, ask about school choice options at your school site to transfer your child, with paid transportation, to a school in our District that is not identified as a Program Improvement school.
- **If you wish for your child to remain at the current school, you do not need to complete any forms.**
- Supplemental educational services and tutoring services are provided outside of the regular school day for eligible students at schools that have been in Program Improvement for two years or more.

If you have any questions or need information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in Program Improvement efforts, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Chris Ericson at (626) 854-8348.

Sincerely,



Dr. Maria G. Ott
Superintendent

c: Dr. Chris Ericson
Rosemary Santos
Elaine Ganiko
Barbara Okiishi
Dr. Melissa Smith
Principals

Board Vision: The Rowland Unified School District promotes, expects, and accepts nothing short of excellence.
We have a collective commitment to be the best school district in California.

Mission: The mission of the Rowland Unified School District, the progressive international community united in learning, is to empower students so that each actualized his or her unique potential and responsibly contributes to a global society, through a system distinguished by rigorous academics, innovative use of technology, creative exploration, and nurturing learning experiences.