

October 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Lompoc Unified School District,

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 meet these standards. 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. Lompoc Unified School District is the LEA in the Lompoc area and also receives Title I, Part A funds. An LEA that receives 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.

NCLB requires the California Department of Education to inform parents/guardians of students about LEA performance. Lompoc Unified School District has been identified as a Program Improvement LEA. You can find specific achievement data used to make this decision at <http://www.lusd.org>. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Jesse Bass, Director of Student Services/Special Projects in the district office at 742-3310, 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 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 new 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 reading 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 Program Improvement 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 Jesse Bass, Director of Student Services/Special Projects at 742-3310 for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in Program Improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Lynch, Ed. D.
Superintendent