



Principal
Susan Hodge

September 29, 2012

To the Parents/Guardians at Emerson Elementary 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. Now it is a PI Year 3 school.

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 (CST) for English-language arts and mathematics, called Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs)
- 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 why Emerson is in PI is because it did not achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2012.

The school did not meet the CST ELA criteria. The school's Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site starting October 11, 2012 at

<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/APR/APRSearchName.asp?TheYear=&cTopic=AYP&cLevel=School&cName=berkeley&cCounty=&cTimeFrame=S>

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 in Year 1 or more have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school that has been identified by the district. John Muir Elementary School has been identified as the school choice option. Parents who select the school choice option will be provided transportation. Limitations exist on the amount of funding available for transportation and should the demand for transportation necessary to provide school choice exceed funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students. To request a choice application, please call Jesse Montiel in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (510) 486-9364.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES): What is it and who is eligible?

Students from low-income families at PI schools in Year 2 or greater 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.

We are excited that this year **BUSD's Berkeley Build Program** (<http://publicservice.berkeley.edu/BUILD>) will be offering services for a limited number of 2nd-5th grade students during their after school program at school. 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. Enclosed you will find the SES Application, list of eligible providers, and more information about Berkeley Build. For more information about the SES program parents may attend the district-wide **SES Parent Informational meeting on Monday, October 29, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at the BUSD Technology Lab 2020 Bonar St., Room 126, Berkeley CA 94702. The cross street is University Ave. For further information, call the office of Curriculum and Instruction at (510) 486-9364.

You can get involved in our school improvement efforts by participating in your school's PTA, School Governance Council, and English Language Advisory Committee. Please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,


Susan Hodge, Emerson Principal