

Berkeley Unified School District
Emerson Elementary School
2800 Forest Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705
Phone: 510-644-6390 BUSD website: www.berkeleyschools.net



Principal
Susan Hodge

September 6, 2013

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 4 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 Emerson school continues to be in PI is because it did not achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2013. AYP target percent proficient rates in English-language arts (ELA) and Math have increased by 11% this past year making it increasingly difficult for schools to meet the criteria. The current target percent proficient rates are 89.2% for ELA and 89.5% Math. The school's Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://ayp.cde.ca.gov/reports/Acnt2013/2013AYPDst.aspx?allcde=0161143>

Public School Choice

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school in Year 1 or more have had the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school that has been identified by the district. However, since all non-PI schools are full, Berkeley Unified is able to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) in lieu of School Choice to Year 1 or more PI schools per the federal SES non-regulatory guidance policy, item H-13

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

Students from low-income families at all PI schools 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 Tuesday, September 17, 2013 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Susan Hodge", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Hodge, Emerson School Principal