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Board of Directors • Steve Baxter • Dr. Patti Happe • Cindy Kelly • Lonnie Linn • Sarah Methner

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Port Angeles School District:

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has removed the State's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request (Waiver) that was approved by USDE in 2012. This April 24, 2014 non-renewal requires the State to return to determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for school districts.

The ESEA/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 required 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 (ELA) (reading) 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).

ESEA/NCLB also requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to annually review the performance of each local district. A district receiving Title I, Part A, funds is identified as a district in improvement 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.

ESEA/NCLB requires OSPI to inform parents/guardians of students about district performance. Port Angeles School District has been identified as a district in improvement (Step 2). The district did not meet AYP for two consecutive years in English Language Arts and Mathematics in the district's elementary, middle, and high schools. The AYP standard requires that 100% of students become proficient, otherwise, a school or district moves down a step annually in improvement status.

You can find specific AYP data used to make this decision at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ayp.aspx?domain=AYP&groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&year=2014-15>. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Marsha McKay, Assistant for Teaching and Learning, in the district office at 360-457-8575, and a hard copy of the report will be provided.

As a Title I, Part A district in improvement, we are required to institute the following:

- Write an addendum to our District Improvement Plan. We must consult with parents and school staff when writing the District Improvement Plan Addendum, which will include information on how we plan to use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement. We will post the approved District Improvement Plan on our Web site, www.portangelesschools.org.
- 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 in Step 1–5 of school improvement.

How can parents help their school and district improve?

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

- Learn more about the ESEA/NCLB requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:
 - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: <http://www.k12.wa.us>
 - Washington State School Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2014-15>
 - Adequate Yearly Progress: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/AYP/default.aspx>
 - The U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
- Talk with district staff about the District Improvement Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA 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, Part A school in improvement (Step 1-5), 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.
- If you are a parent of a student who attends a Title I, Part A school that is in Step 2-5 of school improvement, ask about supplemental educational services (SES) that may be available for your child. Supplemental educational services are tutoring services provided outside of the regular school day for eligible students.

I encourage you to contact the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Gerald Gabbard, for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in district and school improvement efforts. We believe all of our schools are excellent schools and our test scores continue to meet and exceed the state average, in most cases.

Sincerely,



Marc S. Jackson, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools