

**Parental Notification Letter Regarding the Maintained Status in  
ESEA Title I Program Improvement, Year 3+ for Tustin Unified School District**

September 2016,

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Tustin Unified School District:

This is to inform you that the Tustin Unified School District remains as a Program Improvement (PI) local educational agency (LEA) in Year 3+ under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended. The ESEA requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the student academic progress of federally funded Title I LEAs and schools and to identify LEAs and schools in need of improvement. An LEA is identified as a PI LEA if it fails to meet yearly student performance goals, known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), for two consecutive reporting cycles.

**Why is our LEA remaining in PI?**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) invited states to apply for a one-year waiver that would allow PI determinations to be made using **only** the participation rate, attendance rate, and graduation rate for the 2014–15 school year. California applied for the waiver and the ED has approved this waiver request.

As a result, Title I funded schools and LEAs will:

- Be identified for PI if they miss AYP in the same content area for two AYP reporting cycles, or miss the same additional indicator for two AYP reporting cycles.
- Advance in PI if they miss the participation rate or the additional indicator (attendance rate for transitional kindergarten through grade eight schools and unified LEAs and the graduation rate for high schools and high school LEAs).

Our LEA maintains PI status because it is in PI and made AYP for this reporting cycle. As a continuing PI Year 3+, Corrective Action LEA, the Tustin Unified School District must continue to implement the following corrective action(s):

- Revise the LEA Plan, as necessary, to document steps to fully implement the SBE-assigned corrective action. We must consult with parent/guardians and school staff when revising and implementing the LEA Plan, which will include information on how we plan to use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement. We will continue to post the approved LEA Plan on our LEA Web site.
- Continue to demonstrate progress of LEA Plan implementation and monitoring by submitting an annual report describing the LEA's progress towards implementation of the strategies and actions in the LEA plan through annual electronic submission of local evidence to the CDE.

### **How can parents/guardians help the LEA improve?**

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and county to support improvements:

- Learn more about the ESEA requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:
  - The CDE Title I, Part A Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp>
  - The CDE Program Improvement Status Determinations Web Page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>
  - The ED Web site at <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
- Request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s).
- Talk with LEA staff about the LEA Plan and the revisions that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school. You may also participate in voluntary activities to assist your school or LEA.

If you are a parent/guardian of a student who attends a Title I PI school, ask your school about school choice options to transfer your child, with paid transportation, to a public school in your LEA that is not identified as a PI school. If you are a parent/guardian of a student who attends a Title I school that has been in PI for two reporting cycles or more, ask your school about supplemental educational services, or free tutoring, that may be available for your child.

I encourage you to contact [**Name and contact information of LEA**] for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in our efforts to improve our District.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.  
Tustin Unified School District