



July 12, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at New Millennium Secondary School:

NOTICE OF SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that New Millennium Secondary School has been identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

What Is PI?

Our county office of education receives funding from many sources, one of which is Title I, Part A, a grant from the federal government. As a condition for receiving these funds, NCLB requires all states to create academic standards that identify what a child should know and be able to do in kindergarten through grade twelve in English-language arts and mathematics. California already has highly regarded content standards in place in our schools. Schools must then test students each year to determine if they are proficient in these subjects. Each school is reviewed annually, using a system approved by the California State Board of Education, to determine if students at that school are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is based upon several factors including:

- California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)
- The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- For high schools, the graduation rate

When reviewing the progress of schools in the district, the state looks at the school as a whole and subgroups¹ of students. In order to make AYP, each school must test at least 95 percent of its students and 95 percent of students in significant subgroups. Targets

¹ A subgroup is numerically significant and included in the AYP report if there are 100 students or more with valid test results or 50 or more students with test results who make up at least 15 percent of the total valid scores. There are ten subgroups that are used in the AYP: African-American or Black, American Indian, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic or Latino, Pacific Islander, White (not of Hispanic origin), socioeconomically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities.

are set for the percent of students scoring proficient, and that target increases each year with the expectation that all students will score proficient by the year 2014. Every school and subgroup is also expected to increase its API and graduation rate each year.

The California Department of Education (CDE) must annually publish the data necessary to determine if each school has or has not made AYP. *Only schools that receive Title I, Part A, funds and do not make AYP for two years in a row are identified for PI.* Each PI school must take certain steps to give parents choices concerning their students' education and to improve the school's performance.

A report of the PI status of all schools is available on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp>. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact the Main Office at NMSS and ask to be provided this information.

Why Is Our School PI?

Using information from the tests given last spring, New Millennium Secondary School was identified as PI for the following reasons:

- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in English-language arts.
- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in mathematics.

What is the School Doing to Improve Student Achievement?

New Millennium Secondary School is working to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance at the school. Listed here are some of the steps that have been taken or that will be taken by the beginning of the second semester of this school year.

- We have started a new math program that will help students who are not at grade level in mathematics.
- Students in need of help can receive after-school tutoring in reading and mathematics.
- We are training our teachers on how to help students who are not at grade level.
- We will work to help parents become involved at the school and at home.

What Is the State Doing to Help Our School Improve Student Achievement?

NCLB requires each state to establish a statewide system of support to help LEAs with PI schools. The intent is to ensure that all students enrolled in PI schools meet the state's academic standards so that the school will no longer be in PI. California provides information, special help, and access to resources for these schools.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is working with the state and others to help New Millennium Secondary School improve student performance. Listed here are some of the interventions that already are under way or that will be in place by the beginning of the second semester of this school year.

- A team of experts will help the school to revise the school plan.
- Workshops for teachers will help them to make better use of the instructional materials for English-language arts and mathematics.

Your Right to Request a Transfer

A parent or guardian has the right to request a transfer of his or her child to a non-PI school with paid transportation only if the child's placement in the county-operated school is voluntary. If the placement of your child in New Millennium Secondary School is by order of a court, you may be able to transfer the student if the court approves the transfer.

The student may have the option of returning to the "home" public school. If the home public school is a PI school, the student may request a school transfer to a non-PI school by contacting the home district.

The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school **without** paid transportation.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school, please contact the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The county will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools.

How Can Parents Help to Improve Student Achievement?

Although it often is difficult to find the time, you can help to improve student achievement at your child's school by becoming involved. Here are some things you can do:

1. Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. 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/sp/sw/t1/titlelpf.asp>
 - The U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=fp>
2. Attend the School Site Council meetings to revise the school plan. The school plan should address the issues that caused the school to be identified for PI.
3. Visit your child's school and volunteer to help in the classroom or office.
4. Participate in activities that encourage parents to get involved at your school. The research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school.

For additional information or concerns, or to find out more information about how you can help at your child's school, we encourage you to contact the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Sincerely,

Kim Irons
NMSS Principal/Executive Director