

September, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you of the good news that Orland Unified School District continues to lead many local school districts in terms of Academic Performance Index, course offerings, clubs, athletics and overall school program. According to the last "Growth API" reporting by the California Department of Education at: <http://api.cde.ca.gov/Acnt2013/2013GrthAPICo.aspx?cYear=2011-12&cSelect=11,GLENN>, Orland Unified School District's API stands at 729. While we always strive for continuous improvement we continue to stand as the API leader amongst the following local districts: Hamilton Unified School District – 721, Willows Unified School District – 717, and Glenn County Office of Education – 714.

However, as a result of federal accountability standards, and like many other local districts, Orland Unified is a district in Program Improvement (PI) based on the federal requirements of (ESEA). Over half of the states in our country have been granted a waiver of the unrealistic requirements of ESEA. Those states have set reasonable targets for their districts and are allowed to allocate much more of their federal funds to the school level instead of using scarce resources to carry out the requirements of NCLB Program Improvement.

Like the other schools mentioned above, Orland Unified did not meet all of our Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. AYP measures the performance of all students and specific student groups based on race/ethnicity, disability, English proficiency and free/reduced lunch status. To make AYP, a certain percentage of students in each group must meet the goals on the state tests given last spring. If one student group does not meet the goal, the entire school district does not meet AYP. This does not mean the school district is failing; it means that the district needs to target the instructional needs of those students not meeting the state targets.

Our district's Local Education Agency Plan (LEA Plan) and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) address the achievement of our students and the areas the district will strive for improvement. Our districts approved plans are posted on the district website. Orland Unified will take the following action(s):

- Implement and support a standards-based aligned curriculum in English/Language Arts and Math using state adopted or board adopted materials, including intervention materials as appropriate.
- Provide professional development, including, but not limited to, professional development related to the Common Core Standards, and professional development on the use of effective instructional strategies.
- Target the instructional needs of students not meeting targets, especially English learners and students with disabilities.
- Report our progress on implementation of our LEA Plan to the school board and the California Department of Education.

You play an important role in your child's education. We invite you to become involved in your child's school and district. Here are ways you can make a difference:

- Attend school events
- Ask your child what is happening in class
- Support your student's responsibility to complete homework and class assignments and/or projects
- Provide reading opportunities for your child
- Become involved in policy and decision making opportunities such as School Site Council or English Learner Advisory Committee
- Get to know your child's teachers and school principal
- Ask how your talents can best be put to work in our educational efforts

Together we can make a difference for our children, for our schools and for our district. If you have any questions regarding the academic progress of your child's school or the district as a whole, please contact myself or your student's principal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scheele
Assistant Superintendent