



Soaring Eagles
Casa Ramona Academy for
Technology, Community, and Education
 1524 West 7th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92411
 (909) 888-3132

Parent Notification Letter Identified for Program Improvement: Year 4

June 02, 2014

Dear Casa Ramona Academy Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Casa Ramona Academy has been identified as Program Improvement Year 4 under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

What is Program Improvement (PI)?

Our charter school 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 that 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 subgroups of students. In order to make AYP, each school must test at least 95% of its students and 95% of students in significant subgroups. Targets 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 Mr. Larry Mendez at (909) 888-3132 and ask him to provide this information to you.

Why is our School PI?

Using the information from the tests given last spring, Casa Ramona Academy 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.

Your Right to Request a Transfer

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school. Students enrolled in direct-funded charter schools have the option of returning to their “home” school. Casa Ramona Academy is a direct-funded charter school. If the home public school is a PI school, the student may request a school transfer to a non-PI school in the home district, with paid transportation by contacting the district.

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-public school **without** paid transportation.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in your home district, please contact Mr. Larry Mendez, Principal. The district will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools.

If it is not possible for your child to transfer to another school in the home district because there is only one school per grade level or all schools are PI, Casa Ramona Academy will, if possible, arrange for a transfer with other local educational agencies (LEAs) in the area.

What are the School District and School Doing to Improve Student Achievement?

The San Bernardino City Unified School District has provided a charter school liaison to work with the school to review Casa Ramona Academy activities and ensure that the school is true to the petition. Casa Ramona Academy has taken the following steps that are underway or that will be in place by the beginning of the second semester of this 2013-2014 school year.

- A new principal was hired in September 2013 to improve student performance and establish a staff development program to improve the rigor of instruction.
- The Principal in collaboration with teachers have established student academic action plans to assist underperforming students in vocabulary development, reading comprehension, expository reading and writing across the curriculum and mathematical reasoning.
- Secondary students who were placed on academic support at the end of the first semester will receive after school tutoring in English-language arts and mathematics.
- Title I and Title III tutors were assigned to the elementary underperforming student for English language support.

- A CAHSEE English-language arts class was established this school year to prepare tenth grade students for this section of CAHSEE. Approximately, 75% of the students are English learners.
- The School Site Council and DELAC/ELAC have expanded parent participation in the operation of the school.
- The school has established a trainer or trainer's model to train teacher on Common Core and Smarter Balance.

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

NCLB requires each state to establish a statewide system to support and 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 schools will no longer be in PI. California provides information, special help, and access to resources for these schools.

Casa Ramona Academy is working with the state and others to improve student performance. Listed are some of the steps that are already under way or that will be in place by the beginning of the second semester of this school year.

- The state has allocated funds to train staff on Common Core and Smarter Balance and has provided additional funding to acquire the technology for this new curriculum.
- The school has established a trainer of trainers' model to train staff on Common Core.

Supplemental educational services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?

Students from low-income families at continuing Program Improvement (PI) schools, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free supplemental educational services (SES). These services are tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible students who apply for the SES program exceeds the financial resources available, the students achieving proficiency of Basic and below in English, Math, and/or Science that are designated English Language Learners and/or students with disabilities from low-income families will receive SES first.

If you are interested in applying for SES, please return the attached SES application form to Marisol Sanchez, Secretary, in the Casa Ramona Academy Main Office by 06/30/14. If you need further information in regards to SES services for your child(ren), please contact Larry Mendez, Principal at 909-888-3132.

There are many benefits to your child(ren) receiving free tutoring.

- He/she receives specific help in English-language arts, mathematic, and or science.
- The tutoring is provided beyond the regular school day.
- The tutoring is delivered in a one-to-one setting or in small groups.
- A student learning plan will address his/her specific academic needs.

- You, as the parent/guardian, will be consulted in developing your child's learning plan.

Students Eligible and Student Participants for SES Services by School Year

School Year:		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
SES	Students Eligible	0	0	0	0	117	70	138	Data coming soon
	Student Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Data coming soon

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.

- 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>
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titlelpf.asp>
 The U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov>
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=fp>
- Attend DELAC/ELAC meeting to help monitor and revise the school plan/LEA Plan.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer to help in the classroom or office.
- Parents will complete parent contract of serving at minimum 20 hours of community service to the 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 Mr. Larry Mendez, Principal at (909)888-3132.

Sincerely,

Larry Mendez, Principal
 Casa Ramona Academy
 1524 W. 7th Street
 San Bernardino, CA 92411

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the SES provider listed below:

SES Provider Information:

Professional Tutors of America Inc.
 3350 E. Birch Street, Suite 108
 Brea, CA 92821
 1-800-832-2487