



**WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

**Johnson Middle School
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To the Parents/Guardians of students at Johnson Middle School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school remains identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school for the 2011-12 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Official information regarding our Program Improvement status will be available when the California Department of Education releases accountability scores during the month of September.

What is PI?

NCLB requires that the state and district review, annually, the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP by considering the following measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

Why is our school identified as PI?

The reason for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP in the areas of Mathematics and ELA for one or more of our significant subgroups.

The school's Accountability Progress Reports may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay>.

Public school choice: Parental right to request a transfer to a school that is not in PI

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school.

Our Vision:

**"High academic
Achievement, Health,
Safety, and Well-Being
for all Westminster
School District
Students"**

At this time all three Westminster School District Middle Schools have been identified as Program Improvement Schools; therefore, a non PI school is not available for school choice. We are pursuing additional options and will notify you as these become available.

The availability of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for your child (*free tutoring*)

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for SES. These services 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 lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first.

If your child is eligible for SES, additional information, including informational meeting dates and times, will be sent to you after the beginning of the school year.

What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school plan. We are also implementing the following strategies to address the needs of our students:

- Targeted Reading and math intervention classes
- Block scheduling for extended math and ELA time
- Thinking Maps
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) for ELS
- Implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
- Jupiter Grades for parents
- Counseling for referred students
- Leveled ELD Classes
- SST will assist teachers in providing interventions for low achieving students.

What are the district and state doing to help the school?

Our district is working closely with Johnson School to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. Program Improvement schools will receive district and/or state technical assistance in:

- Analyzing various data reports for revising the school plan
- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents to increase student academic achievement

How can parents become involved?

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

- ELAC (site level) (*English Learner Advisory Committee*), DELAC (district level), PTSA (*Parent/Teacher/Student Assoc*), and School Site Council
- Parenting Partners—Beginning in October (7 week class for parents to learn how to work with their middle school child.)
- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities (We are asking for parents to provide 12 service hours by attending conferences, school events, helping in the library, or classroom, etc.)

We will keep you updated and informed about opportunities to discuss plans for our school. If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Shane Vinagupta

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