



WAHLUKE HIGH SCHOOL

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August 4, 2014

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Wahluke High School

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a school not meeting the state's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements as defined under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. It is now in Step 5 of school improvement.

What is School Improvement Step 5?

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I, Part A schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as in improvement after six consecutive years of not making AYP. Washington determines AYP by considering the following three measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the Washington Standards Test for English-language arts (reading) and mathematics.
- The percentage of students participating in those tests.
- The graduation rate for high schools/unexcused absence rate for elementary and middle schools.

Why is our school identified as a school in improvement Step 5?

The reason our school continues in improvement is because it was in Step 5 of AYP in 2010–11 (2012–13 for school participating in SMARTER BALANCED field test) and did not make AYP in 2013–14. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Reading/English-language Arts
- Mathematics
- Graduation Rate/ Unexcused Absence rate

The school's 2010 AYP report may be obtained from the school or on the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) State Report Card Web page at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx>.

Public School Choice: What right does a parent have to request a transfer to a school that is not in a step of improvement?

All parents/guardians of students attending a school that has been identified in a step 5 improvement have the right to request a transfer for their child(ren) to another school within the district (referred to as a "choice school") that has not been identified as a school in a step of improvement.

Because we receive federal money under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we are required to offer public school choice to students until we have made our AYP achievement targets for two consecutive years. This means you have the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district or in a neighboring district that has met its AYP target. However, we do not have other schools in our district that serve the same grade levels to transfer into.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child(ren)?

Students from low-income families who attend a Title I, Part A school identified in Step 5 of improvement, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 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.

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

- He/she receives specific help in reading/English-language arts, mathematic, and or science.
- The tutoring is provided beyond the regular school day, weekends and school breaks
- 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.

If you are interested in SES, Forms and information on accessing this service are available by contacting Ima Terry at (509) 932-4565 EXT.3081, the list of providers will be made available on our web site at www.wsd73.wednet.edu and the district office at as soon as the list of accepted providers is approved through OSPI.

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

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school restructuring plan to include:

- Strategies, policies, and practices that utilize scientifically-based research and have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all groups of students will meet the state's achievement targets.
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from Step 5 status.
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in Step 5 of School Improvement (Restructuring Implementation)?

Our district is working closely with the OSPI to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. For Title I, Part A schools that have been identified in Step 5 for the 2014-15 academic year, these school must develop a restructuring plan with the assistance of the district. The implementation of the restructuring plan must occur in the 2015-16 academic year which will be monitored by the district.

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:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

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 Step 5 status, please feel free to call me (509)932-4477 and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

| Jeff Pietila
Principal Wahluke High School