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May 4, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students of East Heritage Elementary,

Etiwanda School District receives funding from the federal government under Title I of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Under these regulations, each year districts and schools are required to meet specific targets for the federal government's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability system. In 2011/12, East Heritage Elementary did not make all of its AYP targets and began Program Improvement (PI). Program Improvement is a two-year program; however, with the suspension of statewide testing, East Heritage Elementary is frozen in Program Improvement until new achievement criteria is established for Program Improvement exit.

The following information provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions when a school is identified as a Program Improvement school.

#### **What Is PI?**

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate 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 for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- The graduation rate for high schools
- 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 for two consecutive years (2010-11 and 2011-12) in the area of Language Arts.

#### **Public school choice: What right does a parent have to request a transfer to a school that is not PI?**

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation.

We believe East Heritage Elementary is on a positive path to increasing student achievement and committed to working with our families. We are confident that with the addition of expert consultants and other program supports, including in-school and after-school support classes, academic progress will be achieved.

#### **Please realize that you are not required to transfer your child from East Heritage Elementary.**

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as your home school continues to be identified as a PI school or until the end of the grade span at that school.

If East Heritage Elementary exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student may remain at the school, however, transportation will no longer be district provided.

The available schools for transfer are West Heritage Elementary and Windrows Elementary. Information about their student achievement is included in this letter.

**Please note: The following information contains the most current scores for schools. STAR testing was suspended in 2014-15 and there are currently no state-wide achievement scores for schools in California.**

Name of School	2012/13 API Score (800 is the target score for schools in California)	2012/13 English/Language Arts Percent Proficient or Above (Elementary Target = 89.2%)	2012/13 Mathematics Percent Proficient or Above (Elementary Target = 89.5%)
Our School	863	66.7	79.7
West Heritage Elementary (Title I School)	877	73.5	81.1
Windrows Elementary	899	73.3	87.4

If you are interested in a transfer, please apply in person at East Heritage Elementary or the Etiwanda School District Support Center by May 22, 2015 for an intra-district transfer to begin on August 6, 2015. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Principal Damita Walton at East Heritage Elementary (909) 823-5696 or Charlayne Sprague at the District Education Center (909) 803-3126. You may also visit the district's website at <http://www.etiwanda.k12.ca.us> to access the School Accountability Reports for the schools listed above. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, lowest income students.

#### **What will the school do to improve student achievement?**

We are working closely with the district to revise our school 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 state achievement targets.
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status.
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement.

#### **What is the district doing to support schools in Year 1 of program Improvement??**

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. The CDE provides information, special help, and access to resources for PI schools. PI 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 achievement.

#### **How Can Parents Help to Improve Student Achievement?**

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:

- Parent volunteer opportunities
- School-Parent Compact
- On-going parent/community meetings
- Advisory Committee/School Site Council
- Parent involvement policies

We recognize the importance of keeping you informed and want you to know that we have an unwavering commitment to provide a rigorous academic program to meet the challenges of federal expectations.

We will continue to 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,



Damita Walton  
Principal  
East Heritage Elementary