

# Soledad High School

2013-2014

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Soledad High School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The school is designated year 5 in Program Improvement.

## What is PI?

NCLB requires the state and district to 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 four 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 our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2012-13. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Mathematics

The school’s 2012-13 Accountability Progress Report 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: What right does a parent have 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 with district-paid transportation. However, at this time Soledad High is the only comprehensive high school in the district thus this option is not available. If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in a neighboring district for the 2013-14 school year, please contact your child’s school site principal for further information. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

| Name of School      | API Scores * | English-language arts<br>Percent Proficient or above**<br>(High School target = <b>88.9%</b> ) | Mathematics<br>Percent Proficient or above**<br>(High School target = <b>88.7%</b> ) |
|---------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Soledad High School | 697          | 47.9 ***   | 47.9***  |

\* 800 on the API = Meeting the state proficiency target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

\*\* Percentage targets vary by grade level span.

\*\*\* A school does not make their AYP target if one or more subgroups do not meet the AYP target.

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

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

**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 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 PI status
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school
- Establish and sustain highly effective student proactive intervention programs
- Create and establish a strong Professional Learning Community
- Create and establish curriculum guide benchmarks and pacing guides
- Culture of collaboration and consistent assessment

**What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 5 (Restructuring Implementation)?**

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. Schools in PI Year 5 must implement a restructuring plan for alternative governance written during the previous year. The implementation of the restructuring plan will be monitored by our district office. Soledad High School made a 15 point gain in our API this year and a continues to make progress.

**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 PI status, please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Austin  
Principal