



BIJOU COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Grades K-5

3501 SPRUCE AVENUE
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA 96150
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September 16, 2009

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Bijou Community School:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on our Program Improvement status. Last year in September 2008 you were notified that our school had been identified as a Year 5 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

For the last three years, district staffs have been refining teaching strategies to improve students' mastery of state standards. The 2008-09 state test scores reflect a dramatic improvement for all schools in the district as a result of these efforts. Bijou Community School not only met the Targets set by the State, but exceeded them. This means our school will continue in Year 5 Program Improvement. Our goal is to continue our focus and give that extra degree, and then some, so that the spring 2010 test results will reflect additional growth. If we see another year of growth on test results, Bijou Community School will be removed from Program Improvement status.

We need your continued support to accomplish these goals. You as a parent can help by having your student attend school on time every day, become involved at your child's school site, monitor your child's schoolwork, and communicate with our school if you have any questions.

Below is mandated by NCLB to inform parents.

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 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are: English-language arts and Mathematics

The school's 2008-09 School Accountability Report Card (SARC), may be obtained from the school or online at the Lake Tahoe Unified School District website at www.ltusd.org, under the Schools Tab.

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.

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in the district for the 2009-10 school year, please select from the following schools. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration. [The district will list the non-PI schools for transfer.

Name of School	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 45.0%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above** (Elementary target = 45.5%)
Our School	689	29.9% SH	45.5% SH
Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School	819	83.0%	87.8%

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

** Percentage targets vary by grade level span. ***SH (Safe Harbor) – pass by alternate method

You may go to the district's Web site at www.ltusd.org to obtain information on the number of students who are eligible for and the number of students who participated in public school choice beginning with data from 2007-08.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by October 9, 2009. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Principal Karen Gillis-Tinlin at 543-2337, extension 503.

Supplemental educational services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child? *Only students from low-income families (have qualified for free & reduced lunch)* at continuing PI schools 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.

If you are interested in SES *(and qualify for free & reduced lunch)*, please review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district and return the attached SES application form to the district by October 9, 2009. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Principal Karen Tinlin at 543-2337, extension 503.

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

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 the restructuring plan for alternative governance written during the previous year. The implementation of the restructuring plan will be monitored by the local 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
- * Ongoing parent/community meetings
- * Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- * School-parent compact
- * 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,



Karen Gillis-Tinlin
Principal

Lake Tahoe Unified School District School District

Open Enrollment Request Form

School Year: 20__-20__

The Lake Tahoe Unified School District permits parents to request to transfer their children to any elementary school determined by the District to have space available subject to the conditions stated below.

1st Child _____ Grade _____ 2nd Child _____ Grade _____

3rd Child _____ Grade _____ 4th Child _____ Grade _____

School where you want your child to be enrolled: Bijou Community School Environmental Science Magnet School
 Sierra House Elementary School Tahoe Valley Elementary School

Home School: Bijou Community School Tahoe Valley Elementary School
 Sierra House Elementary School

Reason for Request:

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) work primarily at this school
- Homeless Student
- School of Residence is a Program Improvement School
- School of Residence is "Persistently Dangerous" or student is a victim of a violent criminal offense
- Other: _____
- Transportation arrangements
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) work schedules
- Childcare arrangements
- Moving into this attendance area soon
- Sibling of currently-enrolled student

If a transfer is granted:

1. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide transportation to and from school. (Except the Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School).
2. I realize this transfer covers the child(ren) named above and does not imply transfer approval for a sibling in future years, though priority is given to siblings. Space availability and ethnic balance remain determining factors.
3. I understand that, once my child is enrolled at this school, my child may be subject to displacement due to excessive enrollment.
4. I understand that my child may be transferred back to his/her school of residence for any of the following reasons: unsatisfactory attendance, behavior, grades, or citizenship as determined by Board Policy 5116.
5. I understand that this transfer is not approved/denied until signed by the Superintendent or designee.
6. I understand that I do not have to reapply each year for open enrollment.

I have read this form in its entirety.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____

Physical Address _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Contact Phone No. _____

E-Mail _____

Signature of Principal, School of Choice _____

Date _____

Recommended: Yes No

Signature of Superintendent or Designee _____

Date _____

Approved Denied

Comments: _____

LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURES FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFER

Lake Tahoe Unified School District offers parents the choice of transferring to elementary school outside of the school serving their attendance area on a *space available* basis through the open enrollment process. Current open-enrolled students do not need to reapply. All schools in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District offer a highly academic program designed to meet the needs of each individual child. School principals will be happy to work with parents who are considering a change to help them make the best educational choices for their children.

Parents/guardians may request permission for students to attend school outside the designated attendance area by complying with the following procedures. According to California Education Code, approval of transfers is *not* on a first-come, first-served basis, but is on a lottery basis.

- Priority for attendance at any school shall be given to pupils residing within its normal boundaries.
- All transfer requests are governed by SPACE AVAILABILITY.
- One open enrollment request form must be completed for each family.
- Students must be enrolled at their home school before an open enrollment can be requested.
- Parents must provide transportation to the selected school (except to the Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School) and agree to see that the student maintains acceptable standards of behavior and punctuality.
- Applicants who submit requests by the end of April will be notified of approval/denial by the first week in May and must confirm their enrollment within two weeks of receipt of notification. If the application is denied, the reasons for denial shall be stated.
- Applicants who submit requests after May 1st may not be notified until the end of August.
- Students who move into the District any time during the school year may apply for a position in a school outside of their specific attendance boundaries on a space available basis.
- After all children wishing to remain in their home school are placed, a lottery procedure for additional enrollees will be established which takes into account the priority criteria for placement (see below). All children in each priority category will be placed until a category is reached which contains more applicants than there is space available. At that point, a lottery will be held within that category.

Open enrollment applications will be processed according to the following priorities:

1. Students enrolled in a school identified for program improvement, corrective action or restructuring (No Child Left Behind Act).
2. Students who, while on school grounds, become a victim of a violent criminal offense (as defined by the State Board of Education) or attends a school designated by the California Department of Education as persistently dangerous.
3. Upon finding that special circumstances exist that might be harmful or dangerous to the student.
4. Students who are siblings of a student currently attending with an approved transfer.
5. Students whose parent/guardian is an employee of Lake Tahoe Unified School District.
6. Students not currently enrolled in the District (private / home-schooled students).
7. Students whose before or after child care center is located close to the school of choice
8. Homeless students, as defined under Education Code 1981.2.

Any complaints regarding this process should be taken to the Superintendent or designee.

09/10 SUPPORT PROVIDER INFORMATION

Academic Adventures Plus - Environmental Science Magnet School

Academic Adventures provides productive, positive tutoring and teaching by highly qualified and experienced local teachers! Students in grades 3-8 will participate in small groups focused on specific instruction: reading, language arts and/or math. Engaging direct instruction and motivating computer based programs will ensure progress toward meeting academic goals. Instruction in small groups 3 days/week for six weeks after school will include snacks and transportation home. Students in grades 3-5 will be at Bijou and grades 6-8 will be at STMS.

- ❖ Contact Name: Wilma Hoppe
- ❖ Phone: 530-541-2850 x229

100% Learning Fun Center

100% Learning Fun Center provides instruction in reading, math, science, and English language learning tutoring for all grades. Instruction is focused and designated to increase student's self esteem and confidence. Our "worry free guarantee" ensures that students will meet their goals otherwise we will continue to tutor the student.

- ❖ Contact: Strauss Abdul-Rahman
- ❖ Phone: 310-928-1037
- ❖ Cost: \$60 per hour, per student

ACE Tutoring Services, Inc.

ACE Tutoring Services provides individualized 1-on-1 small-group tutoring in English language arts and/or math at the student's home or local library. Students choose their own convenient tutoring schedule. Tutoring sessions are available 7 days a week. Bilingual (English/Spanish) tutors available.

- ❖ Contact Name: Jeff Wang
- ❖ Phone: 800-688-1103
- ❖ Cost: \$60 per 1-2 hours, per student

Arriba Education

Arriba Education provides small group instruction (grades 1-5) in the student's school or local library, student's home, during student's enrollment in ASES after school program, or community center. Instruction will be rendered in the subject areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics in grades K-12. Services will be delivered using small group (1:5) instruction with a maximum of five students to one tutor.

- ❖ Contact: Monique Todd
- ❖ Phone: 866-378-0009
- ❖ Cost: \$40 - \$45 per hour, per student

Carney Educational Services

We tutor in grades K through 12th. Our program is effective and fun for all ages! The parent sets the schedule! Our tutors will come to the student's home or local library. We tutor students in Language Arts/Reading and Math. We service all students regardless of any special circumstances.

- ❖ Contact: Tanya Maldonado
- ❖ Phone: 888-511-7737
- ❖ Cost: \$45 per hour, per student

Club Z Tutoring Services, Inc.

Club Z Tutoring Services provides individualized instruction in both language arts and mathematics. KTEA II (Pre and Post Test) is used for ongoing tutoring and assessment of achievement towards goals on a monthly basis. Tutoring services are provided in the student's home and at school site.

- ❖ Contact Name: Katie Wilson
- ❖ Phone: 800-432-5829
- ❖ Cost: \$55 per hour, per student or \$38 per hour for groups

EduThink

EduThink uses direct instruction to teach each standard so that students can demonstrate proficiency on State tests. EduThink lessons are online with a University of California student or graduate student. Test preparation for each standards is also built into instruction.

- ❖ Contact name: Patrick Traynor
- ❖ Phone: 909-653-3471
- ❖ Cost: \$15 per hour, per student

Questions for Service Providers

1. How many sessions will be provided in your program?
2. In what content areas are you prepared and qualified to provide support services to my student?
3. What do you currently use to monitor and assess student progress?
4. How do your assessment measures reflect state content standards?
5. What evidence do you have of effectiveness of your services?
6. How will my student's progress be reported to the school and to me?
7. How will you coordinate support services with me?
8. How will you coordinate support services with my student's basic educational program at the school?
9. How are the teachers or other tutors selected?
10. For Special Education students, how will your supplemental service plan be connected to the Individual Education Plan (IEP)?
11. What is the delivery mode for your service (i.e. 1 to 1 tutoring; small group instruction; computer-based lessons, etc.)?
12. How frequently will my student receive your service?
13. What will my student need to access your services (i.e. transportation to a site-where, how far from schools? Computer access-what kind, hook ups, internet access, etc.)?
14. What do you currently include as a "guarantee" of your effectiveness as a provider?
15. What are the options/ramifications if my student fails to attend or participate in your services? How will attendance be monitored and reported?
16. What programs, materials, instructional strategies do you use for delivery of your services?
17. Do you provide primary language instruction?
18. How are English Learners supported?

LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Parent Request for Supplemental Educational Services Form

Student's Name: _____

Home School: Bijou Community School

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have selected the following agency/provider to provide tutorial support:

Name of Selected Agency/Provider

I understand that:

1. My student must attend the program daily. If he/she is absent 4 or more days, my student will be dropped from the program.
2. The district is only obligated to pay up to a rate set by the California Department of Education for the services I have selected.
3. If I cancel the service with this provider during the current school year, I will not be allowed to select another provider until the next school year.
4. Tutorial services will terminate on December 11, 2009 or until my student has utilized the rate set by the California Department of Education allocated for his/her tutorial support, whichever comes first.
5. Any transportation costs to and from the tutor/supplemental service provider's location are the responsibility of the parent.
6. I must attend a meeting with a representative of the agency/provider and the school's representative to establish goals for my student.

Parent Signature

Date

Please complete and sign this form and return to

Bijou Community School front office by October 9, 2009