



# SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY

## Grades K-5

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To the Parents/Guardians of students at Sierra House Elementary 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 1 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. Sierra House Elementary School not only met the Targets set by the State, but exceeded them. This means our school will continue in Year 1 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, Sierra House Elementary 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. 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 for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years (2006-07 and 2007-08). The AYP area(s) that caused the identification is: English-language arts

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](http://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 children 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 or children 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.

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 – All Students	799	54.2%	66.9%
<u>Subgroups</u>			
Hispanic	723	39.0% SH	51.7%
Socioecon. Disadv.	748	43.8% SH	58.4%
English Learners	701	36.8% SH	47.9%
Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School	919	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

For more information about Lake Tahoe Unified School District schools, please contact the district at 541-2850. You may also go to the district's Web site at [www.ltusd.org](http://www.ltusd.org), under the Schools Tab or Parents Tab.

As an alternative to transferring to another school, the following programs are available for your child during the time his/her school is identified for improvement:

→ Additional academic intervention program will be provided by the school.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school or the above listed alternative programs, complete the attached application form and return it by October 9, 2009. If you need assistance or have questions, contact Principal Ryan Galles, at 543-2327, extension 352.

#### **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 Year 1 (School 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 academic achievement

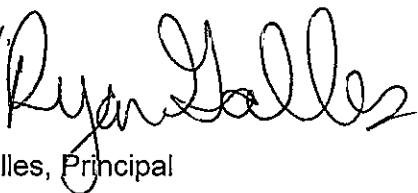
#### **How can parents become involved?**

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:

- \* 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,



Ryan Galles, Principal

**Lake Tahoe Unified School District  
Public School Choice and Alternative to Public School Choice**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ School: Sierra House Elementary

Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, you have the right to request that your child be transferred to another school because Sierra House Elementary School has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years. Requesting a transfer still requires you to pay a transportation fee. The District will cover the cost of the additional distance and/or runs needed.

If you would like to request a school transfer, please fill in the Option 1 section below.

If you would prefer an alternative to transferring your child to a non-program improvement school within the district, please fill in the Option 2 section below.

Use a separate form for each child and return the form to your child's current school.

Option 1

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The district will respond to your request with which school(s) are eligible to accept transfer students, and if transportation to the new school can be provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ Transfer my child to another school that I will select from those identified by the district as eligible to accept transfer students.

Option 2

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As an alternative to transferring to a non-program improvement school, enroll my child in the following programs:

\_\_\_\_\_ Enroll my child in the following program(s) when offered by the school:

\_\_\_\_\_ In-school / before school / after school academic program when offered

\_\_\_\_\_ Summer School

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Please complete and return this request by October 9, 2009. If you do not want to request a transfer for your child, you do not need to return this notice.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_