



SOUTH TAHOE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The choices I make today shape who I will become tomorrow. Middle School Matters!

Beth Delacour
Principal

Pat Harnett
Assistant Principal

September 16, 2009

To the Parents/Guardians of students at South Tahoe Middle 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. South Tahoe Middle 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, South Tahoe Middle 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, Mathematics, & API

Visit 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 2007-2008.

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, the ability of the district to transfer your child to another school currently does not exist for the following reasons:

- ✓ There is no other middle school in the district
- ✓ It is not feasible or possible to transfer to a school in another district

A National AVID Demonstration School • Part of a National AVID Demonstration District

2940 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone (530) 541-6404 • Fax (530) 541-4624

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

- ✓ Supplemental Educational Services after school for qualified student only
- ✓ Additional in-school academic intervention class(es) provided by school district personnel

If you would like an additional in-school academic intervention class provided by school district personnel, please fill out and sign the attached "Alternative to Public School Choice". Return completed form to our school's front office no later than October 9, 2009.

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 Beth Delacour at 541-6404.

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
- 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,



Beth Delacour
Principal

SOUTH TAHOE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Alternative to Public School Choice

All parents/guardians of students attending a Program Improvement (PI) school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school. However, the ability of Lake Tahoe USD to transfer your child(ren) to another school currently does not exist as there are no other comprehensive high schools in our district and it is not feasible or possible to transfer to a school in another district.

As an alternative to transferring to another school, the following is available for your child(ren) during the time South Tahoe Middle School is identified for PI.

- Additional in-school academic intervention class(es) provided by school district personnel

If you would like your child(ren) to attend an additional in-school academic intervention class(es) or provided by school district personnel, please complete the section below and return the entire form to South Tahoe Middle School.

Name of Student(s): _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent: _____ Grade: _____

I understand that although my child(ren) is eligible, the ability to transfer my child to another school does not exist. I have selected the following as an alternative to public school choice:

_____ Enroll my child(ren) in additional in-school intervention class(es) provided by school district personnel.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please complete and sign this form and return to South Tahoe Middle School front office by October 9, 2009

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: South Tahoe Middle 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

South Tahoe Middle School front office by October 9, 2009