



Orange Unified School District
Special Programs Department
1401 N. Handy Street
Orange, CA 92867

September 2011

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Taft Elementary School:

The Purpose of this letter is to inform you that Taft continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school, under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

It is now a PI Year – 4 school.

What is PI? NCLB requires the State and district to annually review 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 three measures for elementary schools:

- 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.
- Growth on California’s measure of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API).

Why was Taft identified as PI? This year the State’s targets for all students becoming proficient by the year 2014 have significantly increased by 10.8% in English-Language Arts and by 10.5% in mathematics. The school made 16 of its 17 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria targets. Even though the school did not make their one of their Adequate Yearly Progress target, the API score increased by 30 points! The school’s Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the California Department of Education at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar> or the Orange Unified School District’s web site at <http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ayp/>.

Parental right to request a transfer to a non-PI school. As a requirement of Program Improvement, the Orange Unified School District offered the parents the choice to apply for a transfer to another non-Program Improvement School last spring. If you would like more information about transfers, please contact the school office.

The availability of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for your child. Students who attend Taft School, and are low-income, are eligible for free SES. These services are classes or tutoring, which occur outside of the regular school day, with educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible students who apply for SES exceeds the financial resources available, the lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first. Please contact the school or visit the OUSD Website, at www.orangeusd.org, or for more information regarding how to apply for free tutoring services offered through the SES program.

How will Taft address the problem of low achievement? The Taft staff is working closely with the district staff to revise the school plan. The plan includes the use of scientific research-based strategies, which support all groups of students meeting the State’s achievement targets, provides high quality staff development to school staff, and promotes effective parental involvement.



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District and State support for schools in PI Year 4 (Corrective Action). Our district is working with the California Department of Education to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. A school in PI Year 4 is identified for corrective action. The district has provided assistance in the analysis of student achievement data, analysis of our site's practices for underachieving students, and training in the best strategies that school staff members can use as they work together to provide a comprehensive program for your child. Last year, in collaboration with the NCLB Site Support Team, we developed a Corrective Action Plan to implement this year.

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 compacts, parent/community meetings, parent advisory committees and parent volunteer opportunities.

If you have any questions or need further information about Program Improvement, please call Taft at 714-997-6254.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Coe
Principal, Taft Elementary
Orange Unified School District