



PO Box 5038  
Sacramento, CA 95817

September 29, 2009

To the Parents/Guardians of Students at Sacramento Charter High School,

This letter is to inform you that Sac High has moved into Program Improvement (PI) Year 3 for the 2009-2010 school year under the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* and *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*.

*Este aviso está disponible en español en la oficina de Sac High (This notice is available in Spanish in the Sac High main office).*

### What is Program Improvement (PI)?

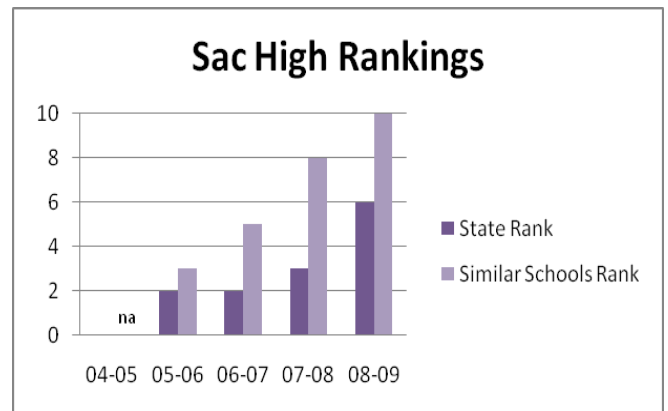
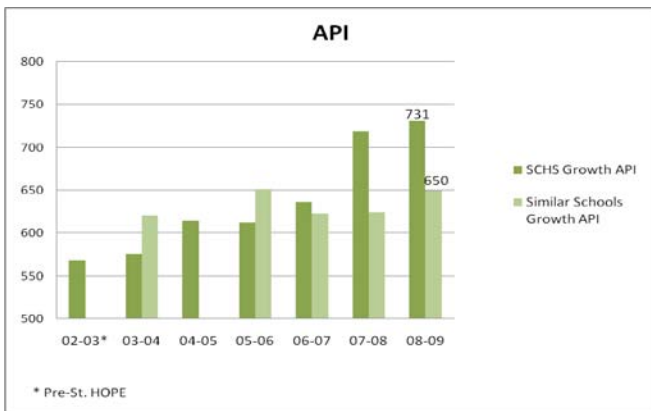
NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP by considering the following four measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at or above the proficient level on the CAHSEE in language arts and math
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- The graduation rate (for high schools only)
- California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

### Why is our school identified as PI?

The reason for the initial identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years (2004-05 and 2005-06). Due to successful implementation of the Program Improvement process, our school met AYP for the 2006-2007 school year; however, scores for 2007-2008 indicated that we did not meet AYP in 1 criteria area (with adjustments pending). Schools must meet AYP for two consecutive years in order to be removed from PI.

Our Year 3 designation is despite another increase in API (Annual Performance Index); Sac High's API has increased from 568 in 2002-2003, the year before St. HOPE took over the school, to 731 for 2008-2009 (see API chart) . Sac High's state and similar schools ranks also continue to go up (see Rankings chart; based on rank out of 10). As the federal requirements continue to increase towards the goal of 100% of students testing at or above grade level by 2014, it is becoming increasingly difficult for schools to move out of, or stay out of, Program Improvement. For example, 675 new schools entered Program Improvement for 2009-2010; however, only 54 schools exited. Only 37% of high schools statewide made AYP for 2008-2009. For more information, please see CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell's press release at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr09/yr09rel130.asp>.



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## What will the school do to ensure that our school meets AYP in 2009-2010?

We are working closely to implement plans within the school to ensure that we meet AYP in 2009-2010. Over the summer and early fall of 2009, staff, administrators, teachers, and advisory groups and committees began putting in place plans to strengthen all aspects of Sac High. We have already:

- Revised our school site plan to build on our strengths and address our weaknesses (approved at the September 10, 2009 SHPS Board of Directors meeting).
- Started implementing new 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.
- Continued to focus on high quality professional development for school staff.
- Adjusted our administrative structure at the school level by moving to a principal/vice-principal structure and giving more authority to our department heads to make key changes in their respective content areas.
- Re-instituted our School Site Council, implemented a new Parent Involvement Policy, and created new ways for parents to become involved in their student's achievement

In addition, in the coming weeks, parents of students that qualify for free/reduced lunch will receive notice of free after-school tutoring services they may participate in through the school (Supplemental Education Services). Eligible families will be mailed an application and information regarding specific tutoring programs (to learn more about tutoring providers see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/supplemental.asp>).

## Your right to request a transfer

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school. Students enrolled in direct-funded charter schools (such as Sacramento Charter High School) have the option of returning to their "home" public school. If the home public school is a PI school, the student may request a school transfer to a non-PI school in the home district, with paid transportation.

The home district will pay for transportation costs. The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school **without** paid transportation.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in your home district, please contact your home district directly. The home district will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools.

## 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 parent volunteer opportunities, committee participation, or other ways they can become involved in their student's education.

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 contact any of us.

Sincerely,

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