



CENTRAL UNION HIGH SCHOOL
1001 Brighton Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

September 17, 2010

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Central Union High School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a Year 1 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

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 for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years: 2009 and 2010. AYP is determined, mostly, by sophomore scores (proficient or above) on the CAHSEE. To be proficient, a student must receive a score of 380 or better; however, CAHSEE is considered passed when a student receives a score of 350. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are

- English-language arts
- Mathematics

While we did not meet the growth target for percentage of students proficient on the CAHSEE, we did have a sizeable increase in the percentage of students that passed the CAHSEE (Math - 78% in 2009 to 82% in 2010, and English – 72% in 2009 and 78% in 2010).

The school’s 2009-10 Accountability Progress Reports may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

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 Central Union High 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 Central Union High School continues to be identified as a PI school. If CUHS 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.

At this time, Southwest High School is the only school not currently identified as PI for the 2010-11 school year within the Central Union High School District. However, their status is pending due to Safe Harbor (**see explanation below). The district is awaiting final notification as to SHS' status. If SHS is granted Safe Harbor and you are interested in transferring your child or children to a non-PI school in the district for the 2010-11 school year, your option would be SHS. The following chart presents pertinent AYP data for both Central Union High School and Southwest High School, for your review.

Name of School	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above (Target = 55.6%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above (Target= 54.8%)
Central Union High School	729/800	45.8%	46.3%
Southwest High School	723/800	54.7%**	58.7%

* 800 on the API = Meeting the state's percent proficient target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

** Safe Harbor = The school, LEA, or subgroup met the criteria for safe harbor, which is an alternate method of meeting the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) if a school, an LEA, or subgroup shows progress in moving students from scoring at the below proficient level to the proficient level.

Please note that Central's API is still above that of SHS. Our CST scores continue to rise, particularly in the areas of math and science. As stated earlier, our CAHSEE passage rate also continues to rise; however, SHS' proficiency rate on the CAHSEE is higher.

For more information about Southwest High School, please contact the district at (760) 336-4500. You may also go to the district's Web site at <http://www.cuhsd.net>. To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by October 1, 2010. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Jeff Magin, CUHS principal, at (760) 336-4300.

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 standards

- 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
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Magin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "M".

Jeff Magin
Principal