

**Joe Gillentine, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Mary Branca**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Personnel Services

**Linda Low**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Services



# East Whittier City School District

**Dorka Duron, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Educational Support Services

**Flor Hotchkiss**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Lee Bean**  
Chief Operations Officer

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October 7, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardians of Students in East Whittier City School District:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for the all grades in English-language arts and mathematics. Every school must improve each year until all students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance, which includes the academic standards and other components, is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

NCLB also requires the California Department of Education to annually review the performance of each Local Education Agency (LEA) that receives funds under NCLB, Title I, Part A. An LEA receiving Title I, Part A, funds is identified as a Program Improvement LEA if it does not meet AYP goals for two consecutive years within specific areas, focused primarily on academic achievement in English-language arts and mathematics. NCLB requires the California Department of Education to inform parents/guardians of students about LEA performance. The East Whittier City School District has been identified as a Program improvement LEA for the following reasons:

- Elementary grade span participation rate of students with disabilities
- Middle school grade span English Language arts achievement of students with disabilities
- Middle school achievement in mathematics for the English learners

As a Program Improvement LEA, our district must:

- Revise our LEA Plan. We must consult with parents and school staff when revising this Plan, which explains how we will use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement.
- Reserve at least ten percent of our annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators.
- Continue to provide assistance to schools identified for Program Improvement.

### **How can parents help their school and local education agency to improve?**

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and LEA to support improvements:

- Learn more about the new NCLB requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites: The California Department of Education <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/ti/titleparta.asp> and <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp> or the U.S. Department of Education <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
- Talk with LEA staff about the LEA Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in reading and mathematics.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.

I encourage you to contact Danelle Almaraz at (562) 907-5943 for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in Program Improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Joe Gillentine, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

This letter has been amended to note original reason for PI status and posted on November 21, 2008.