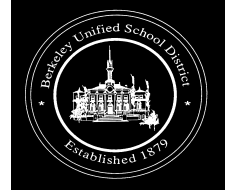


Berkeley Unified School District
Willard Middle School
2425 Stuart St. Berkeley 94705
Phone: 510--644-6330 BUSD website: www.berkeley.k12.ca.us



Principal
Robert Ithurburn

August 27, 2008

To the Parents/Guardians at Willard Elementary School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school 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 5 school.

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 Adequate Yearly Progress in 2007-08. The area(s) that caused the identification are: In English Language Arts and Mathematics the percent proficient fell below target for one subgroup.

The school's 2008-2009 Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site 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 a PI school in Year 1 or greater have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI school that is identified by the district. Because of our limitations based on facilities we are working with neighboring districts to identify these schools of choice. Once identified parents who select the school choice option the district will provide a form of transportation for the student. Limitations exist on the amount of funding available for transportation and should the demand for transportation necessary to provide school choice exceed funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

Supplemental educational services (SES): What is it and who is eligible?

SES is *not* available for PI schools in Year 1. However, students from low-income families at PI schools in Year 2 or greater whose parents did not select a public school choice option 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. All eligible families will receive an application packet including a list of eligible providers in the next few days. For more information about the SES program parents may attend the district-wide SES Parent Informational meeting on September 8, 2008] from 5:00p.m. to 6:00 p.m.at the Washington Elementary school room 200. Washington school is located at 2300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 94704. Cross street Bancroft. For further information, call the office of Curriculum and Instruction at (510) 644-4500 Ext. 62022.

You can get involved in our school improvement efforts by participating in your school's PTA, School Site Council, English Language Advisory Committee. Additionally over the next three months you will notified of opportunities to participate in reviewing our school plan for meeting student achievement. Please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Ithurburn".

Principal -Willard