

WOODROW SCHOOL

Victoria Briscoe, Principal



Parental Notification Letter about School Choice in Year 4 of Program Improvement – School Year 2011-2012

March 7, 2011

To the Parents/Guardians of Current Woodrow Elementary School Students:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school may be entering Year 4 of Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. If we show growth in all areas of the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for NCLB, we will stay in Year 3. Otherwise, we will enter Year 4.

What is PI?

NCLB requires the state and district to review the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. Woodrow School was identified as a PI school after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP at an elementary school by considering the following 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
- California’s accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

Why is Woodrow School identified as PI?

The reason for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years (2006-07 and 2007-08). In 2008-2009 Woodrow School met 23 out of 25 AYP areas. We did not meet AYP in the area of Mathematics. To exit Program Improvement Woodrow must show growth for two consecutive years.

The school's Accountability Progress Reports 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?

Parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school within the district. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

For parents who request and receive this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. Transportation will be provided following District transportation guidelines. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the non-PI school; however, transportation will no longer be provided by the district.

If you are interested in transferring your child or children to a non-PI school in the district for the 2011-2012 school year, please complete an application which you may pick up at the school office. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration. Following is a list of schools within our district that are not Program Improvement. This list of schools will also be available on the District Web site at <http://www.sylvan.k12.ca.us>. All schools may not have space in any or all grade levels for the 2011-2012 school year. As of February 28, 2011 all schools have space, but not at all grade levels.

800 Woodrow Avenue, Modesto, California 95350 (209) 574-5700
Website: www.sylvan.k12.ca.us/woodrow

Sylvan Union School District - K-5 Elementary Schools

All schools will be on a traditional calendar starting with the 2011-2012 school year.

Name of School	API	2009-2010 AYP DATA	
		English-language arts Percent Proficient or above (Elementary target = 56.8%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above (Elementary target= 58.0%)
Woodrow Elementary 800 Woodrow Ave.	775	Overall Percentage 47.6	Overall Percentage 57.7
C. F. Brown Elementary 2024 Vera Cruz Dr. 95355	826	Overall Percentage 57.1	Overall Percentage 68.5
Crossroads Elementary 5800 Saxon Way, Riverbank	845	Overall Percentage 58.6	Overall Percentage 72.5
Freedom Elementary 2101 Fine Ave., 95355	846	Overall Percentage 63.5	Overall Percentage 68.6
Orchard Elementary 1800 Wisdom Way 95355	844	Overall Percentage 58.1	Overall Percentage 71.7
Sanders Elementary 3101 Fine Ave., 95355	862	Overall Percentage 62.7	Overall Percentage 72.0
Sherwood Elementary 819 Rumble Rd., 95350	825	Overall Percentage 60.7	Overall Percentage 64.9
Sylvan Elementary 2908 Coffee Rd., 95355	834	Overall Percentage 60.6	Overall Percentage 68.0
Standiford Elementary 605 Tokay Ave., 95350	872	Overall Percentage 68.5	Overall Percentage 79.0
Stockard Coffee 3900 Northview Dr., 95355	796	Overall Percentage 59.3	Overall Percentage 58.3

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district at 574-5000. You may also go to the district's Web site at <http://www.sylvan.k12.ca.us> to obtain information on the number of students who are eligible for, and the number of students who participated in public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES) beginning with data from 2008-2009.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete an application form and return it by March 28, 2011 to your school office. You may also bring the application to the Sylvan Union School District office at 605 Sylvan Avenue, Modesto. Application forms are available in the school office. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Marti Reed, Director of Categorical Programs, at 574-5444 ext. 209.

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, data analysis, 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.
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status.
- Strategies to effectively address all students through strong instruction.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 4?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. In addition to school choice and SES, the school must revise its school plan. In addition the District is required to work with the school during the 2011-2012 school year to implement one of the following in 2012-2013 if Woodrow enters PI Year 5:

- Reopen the school as a public charter school;
- Replace all or most of the school staff, including the principal, who are relevant to the failure to make AYP;
- Enter into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company, with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, to operate the public school;
- Turn the operation of the school over to the state, if permitted under state law and agreed to by the state; or

- Carry out any other major restructuring of the school's governance arrangement that makes fundamental reforms, such as significant changes in the school's staffing and governance, to improve academic achievement in the school. The actions must have substantial promise of enabling the school to make AYP.

How can parents become involved?

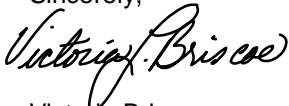
Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success in school. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- School Site Council and English Language Advisory Committees
- Parent volunteer opportunities.

We are proud of our school and our staff. Entering School Improvement gives us an opportunity to improve. You can help support us by making sure your child attends school every day ready to learn, communicate regularly with your child's teacher, and encourage your child to do his or her best.

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 contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Victoria Briscoe
Principal