



# FOWLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 45

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GOVERNING BOARD  
Dolores Penunuri  
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July 15, 2009

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

In January 2002, the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), was signed into law to improve educational opportunities for all children attending a Title I school. This federally funded program provides assistance to schools serving students who are at risk for academic failure. This legislation supports the school district's efforts to provide a strong standards-based educational program for students along with accountability for student achievement.

Fowler Elementary School operates a Title I program. NCLB requires that all Title I schools make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all indicators for two consecutive years. Parents of children attending Title I schools that have not made AYP are required to be notified of the school's AYP status. Parents of children attending Title I schools that have not made AYP have two options:

- Public School Choice with free transportation to a school not identified for improvement; **or**
- Free tutoring from an approved Supplemental Educational Service Provider.

The table below details the AYP determination for our school:

AYP Determination	Yes or No
Met 95% Percent Tested in Math?	Yes
Met 95% Percent Tested in Reading?	Yes
Met Annual Measurable Objectives in Math?	Yes
Met Annual Measurable Objectives in Reading?	No
Met 90% K-8 Attendance Rate?	Yes

As a result of the above, pending any appeal and its approval, our school is currently identified to be in Year 5 Restructuring Implementation of Title I School Improvement.

The following chart provides a comparison of our school to other elementary schools in the district and in the State:

Grade	My School	My District	Arizona Schools	My School	My District	Arizona Schools
	% Proficient in Math	% Proficient in Math	% Proficient in Math	% Proficient in Reading	% Proficient in Reading	% Proficient in Reading
3	57%	66%	72.9%	46%	59%	71.6%
4	58%	68%	74.3%	45%	55%	72.1%
5	79%	71%	72.0%	61%	63%	73.5%

### School Choice

Due to our school's Title I School Improvement designation, your child will be eligible to attend a school that is NOT identified for Title I School Improvement and the district will pay for transportation. Please note the number of students eligible to transfer is limited by the amount of funds available to pay for transportation costs. If funds are not sufficient, lowest-achieving students from low-income families must be given priority. Parents choosing to transfer their child have the following choice of schools: Sunridge or Western Valley Elementary School.

Attached is a list of information about these schools and how they compare to other schools in the district. Please complete the attached form by July 31 to let us know which school you would like your child to attend.

Please contact Dora Barrio at 623-707-2500 should you need assistance in selecting a school to transfer your child.

### **Free Tutoring**

In addition, your child may receive free tutoring from an approved state Supplemental Educational Service Provider (SES). This free tutoring will be an opportunity for your child to improve reading, math, or writing skills and are tailored to the particular academic needs of each student. Please see attached list of approved tutoring providers for our school. If you have questions regarding the SES tutoring services, please contact Dora Barrio at 623-707-2500 for information about your options.

Parents may request free tutoring from an approved Supplemental Educational Service Provider. A list of approved free tutoring programs and a description of their services is enclosed. These providers have been approved by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and will provide your child with free tutoring that is coordinated with your child's instructional program. Please complete and return the attached form to your school to request free tutoring for your child by August 30, 2009. Please contact Dora Barrio at 623-707-2500 should you need assistance in selecting an approved tutoring provider.

### **School Improvement Plan**

We have been working with the district and ADE to revise the Arizona School Improvement Plan for our school. In order to address the indicators of not making AYP, the district and ADE are assisting our school in:

- Providing support in developing/revising an Arizona School Improvement Plan (i.e., leadership mentoring, high-quality ongoing professional development, facilities, adopting research-based interventions, logistics, and instructional time);
- Coordinating resources (i.e., instructional and non-instructional staff, state and federal funding).

The school is implementing the following strategies to address the indicator(s) of not making AYP:

- Restructuring the internal organization of the school which includes: school improvement teams focused on the school goals; teachers on assignment changes; and change of the daily instructional schedule by adding 100 minutes each week.
- Implementing a scientifically research-based reading core program, Houghton Mifflin with a focus on reading comprehension.. Teachers are receiving ongoing training and one-to-one coaching by the reading coach to implement the program with fidelity. A 90-minute uninterrupted time has been allotted at every grade level for reading instruction with an additional 30 minutes for reading interventions.
- Implementing Best Reading Practices to ensure that our students receive effective reading instruction in the early grades. We have reading interventionists to assist students who need intensive interventions. We are implementing SIPPS intervention program to ensure students receive additional small group instructional reading assistance.

We encourage you to become involved by participating in the development of the Arizona School Improvement Plan. Please contact Dora Barrio at 623-707-2500 if you are interested in being part of a committee or would like more information on our school. As a reminder, our Title I annual meeting will be held on August 12, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fowler Elementary School Cafeteria, and our instructional staff will be available to answer questions.

Educationally yours,

*Dora Barrio*, School Principal

*Cindy Bradley*, Academic Services Director

Enclosures

*School Comparisons for Public School Choice*

*Parent Request for Transfer/Tutoring*

*List of approved Supplemental Educational Service Providers*