



Arcadia Elementary School
East 1120 D Street
Deer Park, WA 99006
(509)464-5700 Fax (509)464-5710
Michele Miller, Principal

September 2, 2015

To the Parents/guardians of students at Arcadia Elementary School,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a school in Step 3 of School Improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

What is School Improvement Step 3?

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I, Part A schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. Schools are identified as in need of improvement after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). Washington determines AYP by considering the following three measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the “proficient” or “advanced” level on the Washington Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics.
- The percentage of students participating in those tests.
- The graduation rate for high schools/unexcused absence rate for elementary and middle schools.

Why is our school identified as a School in Improvement Step 3?

The reason our school continues in school improvement is because we did not achieve AYP in 2013-2014 school year. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Reading/English-language Arts
- Mathematics

Arcadia Elementary School’s AYP report may be obtained from the school or on the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) State Report Card Web page at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx>.

Public School Choice: What right does a parent have to request a transfer to a school that is not in a step of improvement?

As a result of not making AYP, federal law states that you have the option to transfer your child to another school within our district. This is not an option as Deer Park School District has only one 3-5 grade level building, and other local school districts are in steps of improvement.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child(ren)?



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Students enrolled in the free and reduced meal program are eligible to receive free tutoring through Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). 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. The extra help can be provided before or after school, on weekends, during school vacation times, or during summer. If you believe you are eligible and would like more information, please contact Greg Swartz, Director of Special Services at 464-5521. SES forms will also be available at the Arcadia main office, once SES windows of registration have been determined.

If you are interested in SES, please review OSPI's approved list of providers willing to serve the district. The list identifies the subject area(s) and any special groups of students a provider is approved to serve. This information will be linked to our district website, once an approved list has been developed by Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. OSPI's website regarding Supplemental Educational Services is attached: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Title1/SES.aspx> Deer Park School District's link is attached: <http://www.dpsd.org/> A separate letter will be coming home providing more details regarding Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and the steps to apply for these services. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Greg Swartz at 464-5521

What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school improvement 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 targets.
- High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from school improvement status.
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in School Improvement?

Our district is working closely with the school to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. The district provides information, special help, and access to resources for schools in improvement. Arcadia Elementary School will receive district technical assistance in:

- Analyzing various data reports for revising the school plan
- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents to increase student academic achievement



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Arcadia Elementary School will develop a Corrective Action Plan to increase student success on state assessments.

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
- Parent volunteer opportunities

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 school improvement status, please feel free to call me and/or visit the school. Each week we will provide weekly updates on AYP status, strategies for improvement, professional development strategies for staff, parent informational nights and strategies for student success as part of Arcadia's weekly newsletter from the principal.

Sincerely,

Michele Miller
Arcadia Elementary School Principal

Cheryl Henjum
Director of Teaching and Learning

Greg Swartz
Director of Special Services

Travis Hanson
Superintendent