



# ZILLAH SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 205

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<http://www.zillahschools.org/>

“Educational Excellence for Everyone”

## Supplemental Educational Services and Public School Choice Letter (Step 2-5 Schools)

August 4, 2014

Dear Zillah Intermediate School Parents/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a school in Step 4 of School Improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

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.

The reason our school continues in school improvement is because we did not achieve AYP in 2013-14. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Reading/English-language Arts
- Mathematics

The school's 2013-14 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?**

All parents/guardians of students attending a school that has been identified in a step of improvement Step 4 have the right to request a transfer for their child(ren) to another school within the district (referred to as a “choice school”) that has not been identified as a school in a step of improvement.

Currently there are no schools within the Zillah School District or neighboring districts that have met AYP.

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

Students from low-income families who attend a Title I, Part A school identified in Step 2, 3, or 4, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free 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.

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There are many benefits to your child(ren) receiving free tutoring.

- He/she receives specific help in reading/English-language arts, mathematic, and or science.
- The tutoring is provided beyond the regular school day.
- The tutoring is delivered in a one-to-one setting or in small groups.
- A student learning plan will address his/her specific academic needs.
- You, as the parent/guardian, will be consulted in developing your child's learning plan.

If you are interested in SES, please review the attached 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 can also be found on our Web site at [provide school link]. Please, complete and return the attached SES application form to the district by [date]. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Kevin McKay at 829-5911.

**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 Step 2-3-4 (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 identified in Step 2, 3, or 4 of improvement. Schools identified in Step 2, 3, or 4 of improvement 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

**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.

Sincerely,

Kevin McKay, Superintendent

Paula Dasso, Principal