



DESERT OASIS HIGH SCHOOL

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September 16, 2010

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. As a result of our 2009-2010 STAR information, Desert Oasis High School (DOHS) is now a PI Year 3 school.

What is PI (Program Improvement)?

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 considering the following measures:

- 1) The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests for English language Arts and mathematics
- 2) The percentage of students participating in those tests
- 3) The graduation rate for high schools
- 4) 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 AYP in the 2009-10 school year. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- Percent proficient in English language arts
- Percent proficient in mathematics
- Academic Performance Index

Desert Oasis High School's 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>.

Parent/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation. At DOHS this includes all students who enrolled at Desert Oasis High School on a voluntary status. The school choice option excludes students who have been involuntarily transferred from the comprehensive high school for disciplinary and/or attendance purposes as a result of a District Administrative Hearing Panel or Student Attendance Review Board decision. All parent/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation. For parent who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for students living 2.5 miles or more from the non-PI school, for as long as the Desert Oasis High School continues to be identified as a PI school. If Desert Oasis High School exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

Within the Central Union High School District, Southwest High School is the only non-PI school in for the 2010-11 school year. The following chart presents pertinent AYP data for both Desert Oasis High School and Southwest High School, for your review. The non-PI status for Southwest High School, however, is pending final verification from the California Department of Education.

School	API Scores*	English Language Arts Percent Proficient or Above (Target 55.6%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or Above (Target 54.8%)
Desert Oasis High School (PI Year 3 School)	483 / 800	4.5%	4.2%
Southwest High School (Non PI/ Safe Harbor School Pending)	723 / 800	54.7% **	58.7%

*800 on the API = Meeting the state proficiency target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

**Safe Harbor = The school, LEA, or subgroup met the criteria for safe harbor, which is an alternate method of meeting the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) if a school, an LEA, or subgroup shows progress in moving students from scoring at the below proficient level to the proficient level.

For more information about Southwest High School, please contact the district at (760) 336-4500. You may also go to the district's Web site at <http://www.cuhisd.net>. To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the attached application form and return it by October 1, 2010. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Maria J. Ambriz, DOHS principal, at (760) 336-4555.

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

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, 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 education 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. If you are interested in SES, please review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district. Then complete and return the attached SES application form to the Desert Oasis High School office by Friday, October 8, 2010. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact Maria J. Ambriz, Principal, at (760) 336-4555. See the flyer regarding our SES night to be held on October 7, 2010.

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, 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 our school's exit from PI status
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

What are the district and state doing to support schools in Year 3 (Corrective Action)?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. In addition to choice and SES, the school must revise its plan to include at least one of the following options:

- Replace school staff (may include principal) who are relevant to the school's failure to make AYP
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum
- Decrease management authority at the school level
- Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making AYP
- Extend the school day or year for the school
- Restructure the internal organizational structure of the school

Desert Oasis High School, with the support of the Central Union High School District, has taken the following actions to help increase our academic achievement:

1. Restructured the internal organizational structure of the school: Students are taking direct instruction class in all core subjects (English, Math, Science and Social Studies); student taking self-directed classes are doing so only in elective courses (in the cases where core classes are self directed, it is only in the area of Science and Social Studies).
2. Replaced school staff: While school staff was not replaced, a key position was added to our staff for this school year. An academic coach has been hired part-time to assist teachers with the implementation of learning engagement strategies and to provide DOHS opportunities for collegial feedback based on teacher to teacher observation. The academic coach is a fully credentialed, NCLB-compliant teacher.

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 PI status, please feel free to call 760-336-4555 and speak with *Ms. Ambriz (Principal)*. You may also contact my by email at mambriz@cuhsd.net.

Sincerely,

María J. Ambriz

Principal

TITLE I/SES NIGHT!
Thursday
October 7, 2010
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Room 5 & 6

All parents/guardians are invited to attend our Title 1/SES Provide Night on Thursday, October 7, 2010.

The evening will start with an overview of the Title 1 services provided to students at Desert Oasis High School. Following the Title 1 overview, parents / guardians will have the opportunity to meet with Supplemental Educational Services providers available to Desert Oasis High School students. Supplemental educational services are available to students from low-income families at continuing PI schools whose parents did not select a public school choice option. DOHS students are eligible for FREE supplemental educational services. These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with education 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.

If you are interested in SES, please review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district. In order to better assist you in selecting an SES provider, several providers will be available on October 7th to answer any questions you may have regarding SES. Remember, SES services may be provided either on or off campus, at a site agreed upon between the parent and the SES provider. Once you have selected an SES provider, complete and return the attached SES application form to the Desert Oasis High School office by *Friday, October 8, 2010*. If you have any question(s), please contact Maria J. Ambriz, Principal, at (760) 336-4555.

SES Providers

#1 A+ Student Learning Academy Center

A + Educational Centers

A Tree of Knowledge Educational Services, Inc.

Ace it! Tutoring of California Powered by Sylvan Learning Center

Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.

Babbage Net School

Boyer Learning Center (Boyer Associates, LLC)

Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services, Inc.

CVW Learning

Educate Online

First Nation Community Services Inc., DBA Z & S Tutoring

GET SMART Academy, LLC DBA GET SMART Tutoring Academy

Innovadia

Learning Network Foundation

Professional Tutors of America, Inc.

Reasoning Mind

Spectrum Solutions LLC DBA Mathnasium of San Clemente

Student Nest, Inc. (DBA Studentnest.com)

Swertsen Educational Services, Inc., DBA Tutoring Club

The Community College Foundation

Ware's Education Specialists and Consultants

100 Percent Learning Fun Center

AAA Academics

The Academic Advantage

ACE Tutoring Services, Inc.

ATS Project Success

Brain Hurricane

Carter, Reddy, & Associates, Inc.

CVS Learning

DS Learning

Extreme Learning

Friendly Community Outreach Center (FCOC)

Imagine Learning Inc.

LEAPS Learning Services

Math Think

Reach for Tomorrow, Inc.

Smart Kids Tutoring & Learning Center, Inc.

Sure Prep Learning, LLC.

Teach-n-Tutor

The Learning Curve

VR Learning

Whole Systems Learning