



# KIT CARSON

## UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



Superintendent/Principal  
Todd Barlow

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### Parental Notification about School Choice and Program Improvement

August 17, 2012

To the Parents/Guardians of students of Kit Carson School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school has been identified as a Year 1 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

In 2011 we made great strides and attained the highest scores the district has ever seen. However, due to the way the NCLB law was written, we were identified as being in need of improvement.

As we indicated in this year's "Welcome Back" letter, the California STAR testing results for 2012 were delayed. As a result, our school status in regards to program improvement is unpublished as of the writing of this letter. Even though the state has not released testing statistics yet, Kit Carson will operate as a Year One Program Improvement School for 2012-2013.

NCLB requires the state to sanction schools it deems in need of improvement. California determines adequate yearly progress (AYP) by 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 (this includes subgroups based on ethnicity and economic status)*
- 2. The percentage of students participating in those tests*
- 3. California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)*

The reason for this identification is that our school did not achieve AYP for two consecutive years 2010 and 2011. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification is: **mathematics for socio-economically disadvantaged students**. Although the math scores for this group of students did increase by over thirty points in 2011, the increase was not enough to satisfy state requirements.

Our school's past Accountability Progress Reports may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>. The 2012 Report should be available from the same page once the state releases the data.

*"Where students come first"*

Although parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation, Kit Carson is a single-school district with an attached charter home school. Please inquire as to options for attending schools in neighboring districts such as Lakeside and Hanford Elementary. We will facilitate these on a case by case basis.

The staff is working diligently to revise our school plan to include: (1) 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 standards, (2) High quality professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status, (3) Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

Our district is following the lead of the California Department of Education and preparing for new Common Core State Standards which will replace the existing state standards. It is our hope that all schools will receive technical assistance in all needing improvement and that the sanctions of NCLB will give way to programs that will put students first.

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 committees/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 me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Todd Barlow  
Superintendent/Principal  
Kit Carson Union School District