



# WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 20, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students of Willows Unified School District:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires all states to create their own high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-language Arts and Mathematics. Every school must improve each year until all students meet these standards. This yearly improvement in school performance, which includes the academic standards and other components, is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

ESEA/NCLB also requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually review the performance of each Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives funds under Title I, Part A. An LEA can be a school district or a county office of education. An LEA receiving Title I, Part A, funds is identified for Program Improvement (PI) if it does not meet AYP goals for two consecutive years within specific areas, focused primarily on academic achievement in English-language Arts and Mathematics.

ESEA/NCLB requires the CDE to inform parents/guardians of students about LEA performance. Willows Unified School District has been identified as a PI LEA in Year 3. You can find specific achievement data used to make this decision at [www.willowsunified.org](http://www.willowsunified.org). If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Janet Perez in the district office at 530-934-6600 x6 and a hard copy of the report will be provided.

As a PI LEA, our district must:

- Write an addendum to our LEA Plan. We must consult with parents and school staff when writing the LEA Plan Addendum, which will include information on how we plan to use Title I and other funds to improve student achievement. We will post the approved LEA Plan on our LEA Web site.
- Reserve at least ten percent of our annual Title I allocation to provide professional development for teachers and administrators.
- Continue to provide assistance to Willows High School identified for PI Year 1, Willows Intermediate identified for PI Year 3, and Murdock Elementary identified for PI Year 3.

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and LEA to support improvements:

- Learn more about the ESEA/NCLB requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:

- o The California Department of Education  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp> and  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/tidetermine.asp>

- o The U.S. Department of Education  
<http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>

- Talk with LEA staff about the LEA Plan and the program changes that must be made to help students meet the state standards in ELA and mathematics.

- Visit your child's school. You also may participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.

If you have any questions, please call the district office at 934-6600.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mort Geivett  
Superintendent