

# Understanding Program Improvement

## Under the Federal Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

As part of the federal requirements under Title 1 Program, Rocklin Unified School District will remain designated as a Program Improvement school district, Year I. However, given Rocklin's high achievement, this might seem confusing on the surface to parents and community members.

Here is some information to put PI status in context:

As part of receiving federal dollars, districts are required to show adequate yearly progress on test scores.

Under this federal legislation, all schools must show academic improvement each year in English-language arts and mathematics as measured by the state achievement tests – the current target is 100% of our students must be proficient. Not only must the overall school demonstrate growth, but every “subgroup” that makes up the school must meet this proficiency rate. These subgroups include but are not limited to socially/economically disadvantaged, students receiving special education and students acquiring English as a second language.

On March 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education approved California's testing waiver for certain statutory and regulatory requirements of Title 1, Part A of the ESEA. A one-year waiver was granted that allows flexibility in making AYP determinations and for schools and LEAs participating in the Smarter Balanced Field Test. As a result RUSD remains in year 1 Program Improvement.

How can parent/guardians help their school and LEA improve?

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

1. Learn more about the ESEA requirements and become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:
  - a. The California Department of Education Title 1, Part A Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp> and
  - b. The California Department of Education Program Improvement Status Determinations Web Page at <http://www.cde.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
  - c. The U.S. Department of Education Web site at <http://www.ed.gov> and <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
2. Visit your child's school. You may also participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.

### **What does PI mean for our school district?**

It means that we must ensure that every student is performing to their potential by directing federal appropriate resources toward underperforming students.

### **Meeting the challenge of a new assessment system**

Measuring how well our students are performing is an essential element of a quality educational program. In Rocklin, we use multiple measures to give us indicators of success and diagnostic tools to shape a top notch academic program for each child. When we do test our students with the new state achievement tests this spring, we will have new assessment results that will help us prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and to ensure they are college and career ready.