

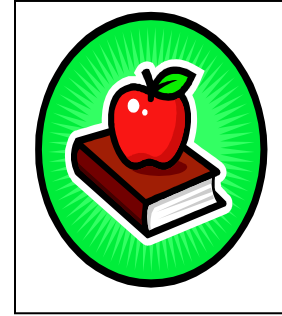


*East Side Union High School District
Special Services Department*

Parent Newsletter

Special Edition

Volume 1, Number 2, Feb. 6, 2006



A Message from the Superintendent

The ESUHSD was identified as a Program Improvement (PI) district in the spring 2005. The administration immediately began activities designed to correct this situation over a two-year period, including a review of the district's current LEAP, development of a LEAP addendum, and implementation of a district-wide action plan. I call upon each of you to join with us as we undertake the important work of improving the education for all of our students through the implementation of the action plan. Details are contained within this special edition of the **Parent Newsletter** devoted entirely to the topic of Program Improvement (PI) and additional information is available by contacting the Instructional Services staff at the district office. Together we can make a difference!

*Bob Nunez
Interim Superintendent*

What is a Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP)?

The approval of a **Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP)** is a requirement for receiving federal funds for NCLB programs. The LEAP includes descriptions and assurances required in NCLB and outlines the steps the district will undertake to ensure that we meet all program requirements. The LEAP also summarizes the assessment data, goals, and activities included in the **Single Plan for Student Achievement** for each of the district's twelve (12) schools. Copies of these important documents are available at your local school and the ESUHSD district office.

What is a LEAP Addendum?

In response to being identified as a Program Improvement (PI) district, the ESUHSD Board of Trustees approved an addendum to the current LEAP on June 16,

2005. The addendum was developed by a district-wide task force representing stakeholder groups. A copy of this important document is available at your local school and the ESUHSD district office.

How is a LEAP Related to California's Responsibility to NCLB Mandates?

In May 2002, the State Board of Education demonstrated California's commitment to the development of a state-wide accountability system to achieve the goals of NCLB by adopting five (5) performance goals. These performance goals are addressed in the LEAP.

- All students will reach high standards of proficiency in reading and math by 2013-14.
- All students will be taught by highly qualified staff by the end of 2005-06.
- All students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug-free and conducive to learning.
- All limited-English-proficient students will become proficient and reach high academic standards in reading and math.
- All students will graduate from high school.

For more information about NCLB contact:

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov/NCLB
Drury@cde.ca.gov

Why is ESUHSD a PI District?

Under the federal accountability standards, Special Education students enrolled in ESUHSD did not make the required Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English/Language and Mathematics. Only 11.9% of our students were proficient or above when compared to the federal targets of 22.3% in English/Language Arts and 20.9% in Mathematics. These targets increase beginning with the 2006-07 school year and annually thereafter.

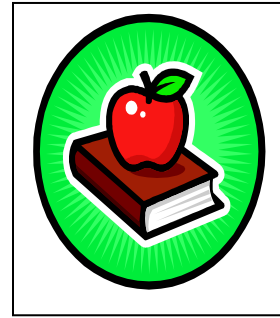
Board of Trustees
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What are the PI Requirements?

ESUHSD is required to take the following actions during the 1st year of PI (2005-06).

- Notify parents of PI status.
- Contract with an external entity.
- Develop a LEAP addendum plan.
- Implement the LEAP addendum plan.
- Reserve 10% Title 1 Part A funds for professional development.

ESUHSD is required to take the following actions during the 2nd year of PI (2006-07).

- Continue to receive technical assistance.
- Continue to implement LEAP addendum plan.

ESUHSD's external entity is the Santa Clara County Office of Education. They provide the district with technical assistance and monitor the implementation of the LEAP addendum plan.

For more information about the external entity responsibilities and activities contact:

**Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131**

www.sccoe.org

What is the LEAP Addendum Action Plan?

The LEAP Addendum Action Plan includes five (5) major goals.

- Incorporate the use of scientific-based research strategies.
- Plan, pace and deliver rigorous and relevant core curriculum.
- Interpret and use data to inform instruction.
- Promote effective parental involvement.
- Ensure successful implementation of the LEAP Addendum action plan.

How is the LEAP Addendum Action Plan Monitored for Success?

The LEAP addendum plan is to be implemented at all ESUHSD schools under the general coordination and supervision of the Principal and his/her school leadership team. Evidence of implementation of the plan will be collected and reviewed at the school and then forwarded to the District Office for review by a district-wide task force. This evidence will be shared with the Santa Clara County Office of Education staff because they are ESUHSD's external entity.

For more information about LEAP contact:

**California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

www.cde.ca.gov

A Final Comment from the Director

I am frequently asked "So what is the bottom-line for our students now that ESUHSD is a Program Improvement (PI) district?" If the LEAP Addendum action plan is fully and faithfully implemented, there should be an identified district-wide systemic change that translates into affective classroom instruction, improved student achievement, and increased parental involvement. The bottom-line is a win-win situation for students, staff and parents. Together we can make a difference!

*Joseph "Jay" Totter, PhD
Director of Special Services*

In order to keep ESUHSD staff, parents/guardians, and community members informed, the Special Services Department publishes the Parent Newsletter bi-annually and Staff Notes & News bi-monthly on the district's website.

**Board of Trustees
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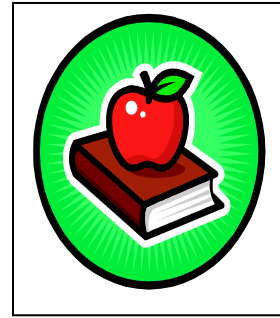


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