

September 11, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Alder Grove Charter School,

NOTICE OF SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT: YEAR 2

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Alder Grove Charter School continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Alder Grove has advanced to Year 2 of Program Improvement.

What Is PI?

Our charter school receives funding from many sources, one of which is Title I, Part A, a grant from the federal government. As a condition for receiving these funds, NCLB requires all states to create academic standards that identify what a child should know and be able to do in kindergarten through grade twelve in English-language arts and mathematics. California already has highly regarded content standards in place in our schools. Schools must then test students each year to determine if they are proficient in these subjects. Each school is reviewed annually, using a system approved by the California State Board of Education, to determine if students at that school are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is based upon several factors including:

- California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)
- The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- For high schools, the graduation rate

When reviewing the progress of schools in the district, the state looks at the school as a whole and subgroups¹ of students. In order to make AYP, each school must test at least 95 percent of its students and 95 percent of students in significant subgroups. Targets are set for the percent of students scoring proficient, and that target increases each year with the expectation that all students will score proficient by the year 2014. Every school and subgroup is also expected to increase its API and graduation rate each year.

¹ A subgroup is numerically significant and included in the AYP report if there are 100 students or more with valid test results or 50 or more students with test results who make up at least 15 percent of the total valid scores. There are ten subgroups that are used in the AYP: African-American or Black, American Indian, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic or Latino, Pacific Islander, White (not of Hispanic origin), socioeconomically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities.

The California Department of Education (CDE) must annually publish the data necessary to determine if each school has or has not made AYP. Alder Grove Charter School did make AYP for 2012. *If we make AYP this spring, we will be removed from PI.* Each PI school must take certain steps to give parents choices concerning their students' education and to improve the school's performance.

A report of the PI status of all schools is available on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp>. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact Jenni Allen-SanGiovanni and ask her to provide this information to you.

Why Is Our School PI?

Alder Grove Charter School was identified for PI based on testing during the 2012-2013 school year. Using information from the tests given in 2012-2013, Alder Grove Charter School was identified as PI for the following reasons:

- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in English-language arts.
- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in mathematics.

Your Right to Request a Transfer

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school; you have the right to request a transfer of your children to a non-PI school. Students enrolled in direct-funded charter schools have the option of returning to their "home" public school. If the home public school is a PI school, the student may request a school transfer to a non-PI school in the home district, with paid transportation, by contacting the district.

The home district will pay for transportation costs. The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school **without** paid transportation.

If you are interested in transferring your child to a non-PI school in your home district, please contact Jenni Allen-SanGiovanni. The district will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools.

What Are the School District and School Doing to Improve Student Achievement?

Alder Grove Charter School is continuing to work on improving curriculum, instruction, and student performance at the school. Listed here are some of the steps that have been taken.

- Students most in need of help participate in our Academic Support Program utilizing the Step up to Writing Program, the Accelerated Math program and the Read Naturally reading program. Each of these components of the program are taught by trained and highly qualified instructors.

How Can Parents Help to Improve Student Achievement?

Although it often is difficult to find the time, you can help to improve student achievement at your child's school by becoming involved. Here are some things you can do:

- Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:

The California Department of Education,
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp> and
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titlelpf.asp>

The U.S. Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov> and
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=fp> 

- Make sure your student has a quiet place to work and spends an adequate amount of time on schoolwork, especially math and reading. Please talk to your teacher if you have questions about this.

Sincerely,

Jenni Allen-SanGiovanni

Director