



# HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 15, 2009

To the Parents/Guardians of students at Westminster High School,

Westminster High School is proud of our many accomplishments. Since the 1999/2000 school year, the Academic Performance Index (API) has increased by more than 181 points, and over the past two years, more than 75% of our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students have passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on their first attempt. Several of our graduates have received prestigious college scholarships from renowned educational organizations such as the Gates Millennium Foundation. Beyond the classroom, the academic environment of the WHS campus has been dramatically improved with over \$54 million spent on renovations and over \$8 million spent on refurbishing our athletic stadium. With the completion of the modernization on our campus our students, parents, and staff members exhibit an enormous amount of pride towards our beautiful, new facilities and landscaping. With a staff that is dedicated to continuous improvement, we have implemented new and innovative programs that meet the needs of the diversity of students on our campus. We believe in a strong and caring school community that provides a safe environment to foster student success and achievement. Although we have worked hard on behalf of our students, Westminster High School has been identified as a Year 1 Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

### What is PI?

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP by considering the following four measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the “proficient” or “advanced” level on the 10th grade administration of CAHSEE in English Language Arts and Mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- The graduation rate for high schools
- California’s own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

### Why is our school identified as PI?

Our school is in PI because our sophomore Hispanic/Latino students and English Learner students did not score the required proficiency level in English Language Arts on the CAHSEE for two consecutive years (2007-08 and 2008-09).

The school’s 2007-08 and 2008-09 Accountability Progress Reports may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay>.

### What will Westminster High School do to address the problem of low achievement?

We are working closely with the district staff to revise our school plan to include:

- Continuing to implement 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 targets
- Increasing teacher collaboration on quality curriculum
- Expanding high quality professional development for school staff that will lead to exiting WHS from PI status
- Broadening strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

### What are the district and state doing to support schools in Year 1 (School Improvement)?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. The CDE provides information, special help, and access to resources for PI schools. PI schools will receive district and/or state technical assistance in:

- Analyzing various data reports for revising the school plan
- Strengthening core academic instruction
- Collaborating with parents to increase student academic achievement
- Curriculum support for effective instruction

*Our mission is to ensure all students learn and achieve to their maximum potential in a supportive and innovative environment that develops creative, responsible and productive individuals prepared to meet the challenges of the future.*

### How can parents become involved?

We encourage you to stress the importance of your 10<sup>th</sup> grade student scoring a minimum of 380 on the CAHSEE during the March administration of the test. Also encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of the many free opportunities offered at WHS to prepare students to attain the proficiency level on the CAHSEE. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact Dr. Jackie Perez at (714) 893-1381 ext 4403 for additional information regarding:

- Parental involvement policies
- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Parent volunteer opportunities

### What rights do parents have?

All 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. However, if your son/daughter is a varsity athlete he/she will lose one year of athletic eligibility due to CIF eligibility rules.

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving.

If you are interested in transferring your child or children to a non-PI school in the district for the 2009-10 school year, please select from the following schools. Your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration.

	API Scores *	English-language arts Percent Proficient or above (State target 44.5%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above State target (43.5%)
Our School	747/800	Hispanic/Latino 41.8% English Learners 32.1%	Hispanic/Latino 40.1% English Learners 43.1%
Marina High School	821/800	Hispanic/Latino 55.2% English Learners 38.7%	Hispanic/Latino 59.4% English Learners 59.7%
Edison High School	833/800	Hispanic/Latino 67.7% English Learners 42.3%	Hispanic/Latino 63.1% English Learners 57.7%
Huntington Beach High School	835/800	Hispanic/Latino 55.7% English Learners 29.8%	Hispanic/Latino 57.3% English Learners 42.6%

\*800 on the API = Meeting the state proficiency target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the district at (714) 903-7000. You may also go to the district's Web site at [www.hbuhsd.org](http://www.hbuhsd.org).

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please complete the enclosed application form and return it by September 30, 2009, no later than 4:00 p.m. Please attend an important information meeting with the site and district personnel regarding school choice on September 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Westminster High School. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Shirley Vaughn, WHS principal at (714) 893-1381.

We are confident that the steps being taken to address the identified areas of concern will prove to be highly effective. We invite you to collaborate with us in moving Westminster High School to even greater success. 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,

Shirley Vaughn, Principal  
Westminster High School