

# PALERMO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

7390 Bulldog Way  
Palermo, CA 95968-9700  
(530) 533-4842  
Fax (530) 532-1047

Superintendent  
Samuel G. Chimento

Board of Trustees  
Walter Hancock  
Marie L. Thomas  
Thomas Robertson  
Susan Short  
Terry Taylor

Helen Wilcox School  
5737 Autrey Lane  
Oroville, CA 95966  
(530) 533-7626  
Fax (530) 533-6949  
Heather Scott, Principal

Honcut School  
68 School Street  
Oroville, CA 95966  
(530) 742-5284  
Fax (530) 742-2955  
Heather Scott, Principal

Palermo School  
7350 Bulldog Way  
Palermo, CA 95968  
(530) 533-4708  
Fax (530) 532-7801  
Kathleen Andoe, Principal

Golden Hills School  
2400 Via Canela  
Oroville, CA 95966  
(530) 532-6000  
Fax (530) 534-7982  
Carol Brown, Principal



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To the Parents/Guardians of students at Helen Wilcox

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

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 three measures for K-8 districts:

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

California’s own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

## **Why is our school identified as PI?**

The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2009-10. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are English-language arts and mathematics.

## **Public school choice:**

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school.

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, low-income students.

If you are interested in transferring your child to Honcut School (K-2), a non-PI school in the district, your preference of a non-PI school will be taken into consideration. For more information about the non-PI school, please contact the district at 533-4842 or go to the district’s Web site at [www.palermoschools.org](http://www.palermoschools.org) To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please contact the district office.

## **Supplemental educational services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?**

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free SES. These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible students who apply for the SES program exceeds the financial resources available, the lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first.

**What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?**

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

- 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
- Professional development for school staff that will lead to removing the school from PI status
- Strategies to promote effective parental involvement in the school

**What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI?**

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. Schools in PI Year 5 must implement the restructuring plan for alternative governance written during the previous year. The implementation of the restructuring plan will be monitored by the local district.

**How can parents become involved?**

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

Parental involvement policies  
School-parent compact

Advisory committee/school site council meetings  
Parent volunteer opportunities

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.

Please review the attached list of providers willing to serve the district. If you need assistance in making a selection of an SES provider(s) for your child(ren), please contact the school at 533-7626. Please check below to indicate your interest in SES and return this letter to the school office.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in SES.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I am not interested in SES.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name/Grade

Sincerely,

Heather Scott, Principal  
Helen Wilcox School