



McClure Elementary School

"Focused on providing superior instruction for every child, every day."

811 West 2nd Street
Grandview, WA 98930
(509) 882-7100

Jose A. Rivera, Principal

September 23, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this letter finds your student enjoying the school year and highly engaged in learning the content of his/her grade level. The purposes of this letter are several. First, I want to notify you that your school, McClure Elementary, was recently identified as a Focus school based on an analysis of student achievement as compared with other schools in our state. This analysis specifically identified that our English language learner and students with disabilities subgroup have not met our goals or expectations over the past three years on state assessments in reading and mathematics. An equally important purpose of this letter is to reaffirm our commitment to the success of ALL students and to inform you that we are still working to improve.

To increase learning outcomes for all of our students, we are taking the following action steps over the next few months:

- Participate in a Needs Assessment to identify strengths and challenges in our school; the assessment will also include recommendations for improvement.
- Identify next steps we will take to improve learning outcomes for our students, by completing our "Student and School Success Action Plan"; the plan must be submitted to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for review and approval by October 30, 2014.
- Engage parents/guardians and our school community in our improvement efforts.

During the 2014–15 school year, we will implement our plan and examine a variety of data to ensure we are making progress.

Attached is a brief description of the basis for the school's identification as a Focus school. More details about the movement of our state, district, and school in pursuit of ongoing improvement for all our students can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/default.aspx>.

We are committed to continued growth as we work together to support our most valuable resource, our children.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us in improving our school system to support your child's learning. Please feel free to contact your school principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jose Rivera, Principal

Overview

Priority and Focus Schools Identified for 2014–15

Identification of Schools

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), in collaboration with the State Board of Education (SBE), identified a total of 288 schools for accountability and support based on three years of data in either reading/mathematics (combined) or graduation rates. Descriptions for categories of schools follow:

- **Priority Schools:** Bottom 5% of schools based on the performance of all of their students in reading/mathematics (combined) or secondary schools based on graduation rates; includes Priority schools continuing forward from 2013–14 into 2014–15.
- **Focus Schools:** Bottom 10% of schools based on the performance of their subgroups in reading/mathematics (combined) or graduation rates; includes Focus schools continuing forward from 2013–14 into 2014–15.

Requirements

Districts assure OSPI that their Priority and Focus schools will:

- Engage in a Needs Assessment to identify factors contributing to persistent low achievement.
- Implement research-based practices to turn around low performance; these are referred to as turnaround principles in federal guidelines.
- Implement meaningful interventions aligned with unique needs of school and identified subgroups.
- Design “Student and School Success Action Plan;” address findings from Needs Assessment; align plan with turnaround principles; submit plan to OSPI for review by October 30, 2014.
- Implement action plan; monitor progress toward intended goals; revise plans as needed.
- Engage in professional development aligned with the action plan.

Supports and Services

The Office of Student and School Success provides a variety of services to support Priority and Focus school leadership teams to design and implement their action plan. These include:

- Leadership Coach providing technical assistance, monitoring, and coaching support.
- Needs Assessment for newly identified Priority and Focus schools.
- Comprehensive data packages with data disaggregated by subgroup.
- OSPI review of the school’s action plan.
- Access to professional development and services offered by OSPI and regional Educational Service Districts.
- Minimal funding to support engagement in professional development and services aligned with the school’s action plan.