



MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

15600 CONCORD CIRCLE • MORGAN HILL, CA 95037 • (408) 201-6023

Parental Notification Letter Regarding Alternative Supports and Public School Choice for the 2016–17 School Year

September 15, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Morgan Hill Unified School District:

This letter is to inform you that your child may be eligible to receive alternative supports during the 2016–17 school year.

Background

President Barack Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015. ESSA replaces the previous Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

Under the ESSA, California is required to implement the same interventions in the 2016–17 school year for schools that were previously identified for program improvement (PI) in the 2015–16 school year; with the exception of the provision of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Choice.

Transition Plan for the 2016–17 School Year

As allowed by the ESSA, California is developing a new accountability system for the 2017–18 school year. The 2016–17 school year is considered a “transition” year, designed to effect an orderly transition to the new law and accountability system. California has developed a transition plan that describes various alternative supports and services that are to be provided to eligible students.

Alternative Supports

During the 2016–17 school year, under the ESSA, California has elected to eliminate the requirement for LEAs to provide SES. Instead, LEAs with schools identified for PI Year 2 and beyond will be required to provide eligible students with alternative supports. Alternative supports are supplemental activities designed to increase the academic achievement of students.

Socioeconomically disadvantaged students attending a Title I school that is in PI Year 2 and beyond are eligible to receive alternative supports for the 2016–17 school year. The schools that are eligible for alternative supports at Morgan Hill Unified School Districts are: Barret Elementary, P.A. Walsh STEAM Academy, El Toro Elementary, San Martin Gwinn Environmental Science Academy and Central High School.

Morgan Hill Unified School District will offer academic school interventions before school, after school or times when school is not in session as alternative supports for students.

Please note that if there are insufficient funds to serve all eligible students, priority will be given to the lowest-achieving, previously identified PI school(s).

Choice

Under the new law, California has also elected to allow LEAs to determine whether or not to offer Choice to new students. Choice allows students attending a PI school the option to transfer to another public school, including a public charter school, that is within the LEA and that was not identified for PI.

Under the ESSA, Morgan Hill Unified School District has elected not to provide Choice to new students for the 2016–17 school year.

(Please Note: If your child participated in Choice during the 2015–16 school year; he/she is permitted to remain in that school until they complete the highest grade in that school.)

Contact Information

If you are interested in learning more about the alternative supports and/or Choice options offered for your child, please contact your site principal for additional information.

Sincerely,



Steve Betando
Superintendent