



October 27, 2015

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****NOTE: Due to Pennsylvania's receipt of a one-year waiver for the federal requirements related to No Child Left Behind, School Performance Profiles for 2014-15 will remain in place for 2015-16. As a result, the information contained in this letter and the status of our district's focus/priority schools will not change during this school year.**

Dear Pfeiffer-Burleigh School Families:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education this month released School Performance Profile (SPP) data for all 3,200 traditional, charter, cyber and technical schools in the state. The School Performance Profile is based on a 100-point scale and provides schools and communities with an important tool to help inform goal setting, planning and resource allocation to improve student achievement.

Pfeiffer-Burleigh's School Performance Profile is available on our school website: <http://www.eriesd.org/pb>

The School Performance Profile utilizes many data points to measure our school's academic strengths and weaknesses. While we receive an overall score, the more important aspect of this resource is that it allows us to acknowledge our strengths and use the profile as a tool for student improvement.

I want to first congratulate our students, families and staff as Pfeiffer-Burleigh's SPP score increased 21% over last year – from a 45.3 to a 54.6. While 15 schools in the City posted gains, our school's increase was one of the most significant.

PDE uses four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate Title I schools as either *Reward – High Achievement*, *Reward – High Progress*, *Focus* or *Priority*. The four objectives include test participation rate; attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for historically underperforming students.

Our School's Title I Designation

Despite our SPP score increase, based on the achievement levels of our students during the 2013-2014 School year, Pfeiffer-Burleigh School was designated as a *Priority* school and will keep this designation for the next three years. *Priority* Schools are Title I schools that are among the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools in the state based on AMOs outlined above or schools designated under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program.

School Improvement Grant (SIG)

This summer, Pfeiffer-Burleigh School was awarded a \$3.6 million federal School Improvement Grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The

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competitive grant was based on the strength of our school improvement plan and will enable us to offer extended learning opportunities, fund additional instructional and student support personnel and upgrade our instructional technology. We will also have the opportunity to implement innovative educational initiatives to better meet the needs of our students and improve academic performance.

Our School's Success Plan

As a *Priority* school, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community, state education experts and the district's academic support teams to develop a school improvement plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our students. This work also aligns with our district's goal of continuous improvement of teaching and learning.

Our school success plan will focus on seven key areas:

- *Strengthening and supporting school leadership;*
- *Ensuring teachers are effective and able to improve instruction;*
- *Optimizing the school day to maximize time for student learning and teacher collaboration;*
- *Strengthening the school's instructional program based on student needs and ensuring that the instructional program is research-based, rigorous and aligned with state academic content standards;*
- *Using data to inform classroom instruction and for continuous improvement, including providing time for collaboration on the use of data;*
- *Establishing a school environment that improves school safety and discipline and addresses other non-academic factors that impact student achievement, such as students' social, emotional and health needs; and*
- *Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.*

How You Can Help

An important part of the success plan for our school is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that your family will commit to becoming even more involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations for our students.

If you are interested in helping us shape our school success initiatives, please contact me at 814-874-6750 or kryan@eriesd.org.

Thank you for all that you do to support Pfeiffer-Burleigh School.

Sincerely,

Karin Ryan
Principal