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September 26, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law. The purpose of this letter is to notify you about important information regarding your child's school and to explain the protocol for measuring the academic performance of Nevada Public Schools.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the State of Nevada will be realigning the Nevada School Performance Framework. As a result, schools will not receive star ratings this year. Schools that were previously identified as a Focus School will still continue to implement interventions. Based on a comprehensive needs analysis, Focus Schools concentrate on one or more of the following interventions:

1. Providing strong leadership;
2. Ensuring teachers are effective;
3. Strengthening the school's instructional program;
4. Using data to inform instruction.

The definition of Focus Schools is as follows:

- Focus School – Achievement gaps are apparent in the following subpopulation groups:
  - FRL – Free or Reduced Lunch
  - ELL – English Language Learners
  - IEP – Students with Disabilities
  - Supergroup – all subpopulation groups combined

Focus schools may receive increased levels of support in the areas of professional development targeted toward academic deficiencies, teacher and administrative coaching and mentoring, and increased technical assistance that is focused on specifically identified areas of needed improvement.

**2016-2017 Goals for Your Child's School:**

Goal 1: Reduce the percentage point gap between proficiency of highest and lowest scoring subgroups in reading.

Goal 2: Reduce the percentage point gap between proficiency of highest and lowest scoring subgroups in math.

Goal 3: Reduce the over-representation of diverse student populations regarding suspensions, behavioral school referrals, and expulsions.

For more information about the progress being made relative to these goals, please review the School Performance Plan on your school's website. Additionally, your school's annual accountability report will be made available in October 2016 via [www.nevadareportcard.com](http://www.nevadareportcard.com). Paper copies of the report are also available at your child's school.

Your child's school has been identified as a Focus School.

Jerome Mack Middle School is using allocated Title I funding to reduce class sizes, hire a data strategist, purchase technology items and a reading program, host family engagement events, and provide students with a certified tutor. Additionally, your child's school is utilizing other funds to strengthen their instructional program by reducing class sizes.

We want to encourage you to become involved in the academic progress of your child's school. The National PTA recommends that parents become involved in the following ways:

- Request dates/times and attend school improvement meetings.
- Investigate ways to advocate for your child(ren).
- Attend parent meetings where data related information and academic progress are discussed.
- Request dates and times of school activities that promote learning at home.
- Request copies of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Ask for a copy of the University of Family Learning Interest Survey to determine workshops of interest, and see your school administrator to schedule one on your campus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Steaffens, Director

Title I Services