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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 Priority Schools utilize a comprehensive needs assessment to address the following eight requirements:

1. School leadership;
2. Effective teachers;
3. Financial incentives, flexible working conditions, retaining and placing effective staff;
4. Instructional programs based on student needs identified through data analysis and aligned to standards;
5. Increased learning time;
6. Non-academic factors affecting student achievement: community-oriented services;
7. Non-academic factors affecting student environment;
8. Fiscal resources support.

The definition of Priority Schools is as follows:

- Priority School – Scores in the bottom 5% in subject matter proficiency and academic growth. These schools are expected to select and implement one of the identified school improvement models such as school turnaround, school transformation, or school closing and restarting.

Priority Schools may receive increased levels of support in the following areas: an increased number of English and/or mathematics teaching positions, an RTI specialist, prep-buyouts, credit retrieval programs, Certified Tutors, homework assistance, and general after school tutoring.

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

Goal 1: Increase Grade 3 proficiency rates in reading.

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

Goal 3: Increase staff members' knowledge and skills related to cultural competency that are needed to meet the instructional needs of diverse learners.

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 Priority School.

Innovations International Elementary School is currently addressing the eight priority schools requirements listed on page one. Additional funding has been allocated to train teachers and purchase instructional supplies, technology items, student assessments, and books.

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