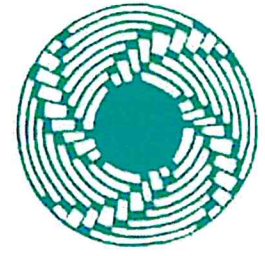# BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"Quality Education Begins Here"

School Improvement (SI) Parent Option Letter

September 2, 2014

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:
You are receiving this letter due to requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly known as No Child Left Behind. The purpose of ESEA is to improve educational opportunities for all children attending a Title I school. This federally funded program provides assistance to schools serving students who are at risk for academic failure. This legislation supports the school district's efforts to provide a strong standards-based educational program for students along with accountability for student achievement. Some low-performing schools will also receive a federal label of either Focus or Priority. Either of these labels allow parents to apply for Public School Choice Transportation. Additionally, Arizona law has its own accountability system that designates schools with a letter grade from A through F. This will help parents better understand how our schools are performing academically.

1. Our school's <u>state</u> label is: <u>D</u>
2. Our school's <u>federal</u> label is: <u>D</u>

This is due to low performance on AIMS in grade 4, especially in math results.

The following chart provides a comparison of our school to other elementary or secondary schools in our district and in the state as required by the ESEA Flexibility Request:

Grade	Our School	Our District	Arizona Schools	Our School	Our District	Arizona Schools
	% Proficient in Math, based on 2013 AIMS	% Proficient in Math, based on 2013 AIMS	% Proficient in Math, based on 2013 AIMS	% Proficient in Reading, based on 2013 AIMS	% Proficient in Reading, based on 2013 AIMS	% Proficient in Reading, based on 2013 AIMS
3	48	48	68	63	63	75
4	21	21	64	50	50	77
5	40	40	63	74	74	79
6			63			80
7			65			85
8			58			72
2015 high school cohort			62			83

Since Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh 3-5 Charter operates a Title I program and has a federal **(Priority)** status, you have the option of Public School Choice with free transportation to another school in our district not identified as either Focus or Priority. However, several of the local schools in Coolidge and Imagine Charter also received D labels. The Board of Trustees is hopeful that you will keep your child enrolled at Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh 3-5 Charter as it

3652 E. Blackwater School Road, Coolidge AZ. 85128
Tel.(520)215-5859   Fax. (520)215-5862
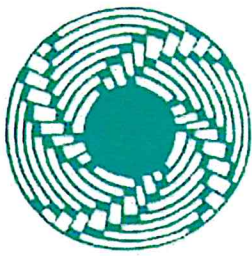
staff continues to provide innovative programs to raise the letter grade in SY 2014/2015. Plus, Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh 3-5 is a single school charter and has no other district schools.

Parents choosing to transfer their child have the following choice of schools:

None	or	None

Please note that families who previously used Public School Choice Transportation but are no longer eligible for transportation because their home school is not identified as Priority or Focus may choose to remain at the Choice school, however, no transportation will be provided by the district. This does not apply to Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh 3-5 Charter School.

School Improvement Plan

We have been working with the district and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to revise the Continuous Improvement Plan for Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh 3-5 Charter In order to address the indicators that led to our **Priority status**, the district and ADE are assisting this school in:

- Providing support in developing/revising an Continuous Improvement Plan (i.e., leadership mentoring, high-quality ongoing professional development, facilities, adopting research-based interventions, logistics, and instructional time);
- Coordinating resources (i.e., instructional and non-instructional staff, state and federal funding).
- Additional/Extended learning opportunities with after school, intersession and summer school programs.
- Reading and Math Pride programs to provide intensive interventions for all students scoring below grade level in these two core content areas based on Galileo and DIBELS assessment
- Additional push in support with highly qualified paraprofessional staff
- Culture and Language program to foster pride in each child's heritage
- A menu of enrichment options that include Girl Scouts, Color Guard, Spirit Line, and Student Council to build leadership and self-esteem
- School wide Olweus Program for anti-Bullying
- Instructional Coaches to provide daily support to teachers on curriculum, data, assessment, small group instruction, guided reading, and student goals
- Inclusion of technology in all classrooms that includes laptops, smart boards, and approved internet research options
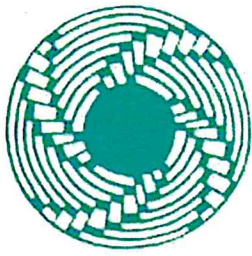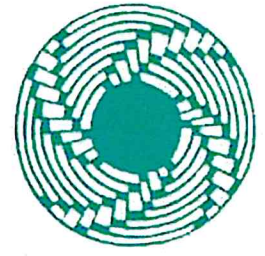
- Expanded Library/Media program to support student research and performance measures tied to the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards (Common Core)
- Teacher/Principal Evaluation Framework required under Race to the Top
- Mentoring program for Instructional Coaches and teachers
- Data driven bi-weekly meetings at grade level with Instructional Coaches to determine effective interventions under a RTI model of interventions
- Targeted support for all students with IEPs
- Additional financial resources under a Federal School Improvement Grant that targets 7 transformational principles of reform; and.
- Monitoring by Arizona Department of Education Specialist for School Reform under the School Improvement Grant

We encourage all parents/ guardians to become involved by participating in the development of the Continuous Improvement Plan. Please contact Jagdish Sharma, Acting Superintendent (Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter 3-5) at (520)215-5859 if you are interested in being part of a committee or would like more information on our school. As a reminder, our Title I annual meeting will be held on September 4, 2014 5:30 p.m.at school cafeteria, and our instructional staff will be available to answer questions.

Educationally yours,

Jagdish Sharma

(Acting Superintendent)

Jacquelyn Power

(Federal Programs Coordinator)

Enclosures: None