

Lincoln High School
924 West 9th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98363
360.452.9502

September 4, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this letter finds your student enjoying the school year and highly engaged in learning the content of his/her grade level. The purposes of this letter are several. First, I want to notify you that your school, Lincoln High School, is starting their fourth year as a Focus school based on an analysis of student achievement as compared with other schools in our state. This analysis specifically identified that Lincoln High School students have not met our goals or expectations over the past three years for on time graduation. An equally important purpose of this letter is to reaffirm our commitment to the success of ALL students and to inform you that we are still working to improve. Last year we celebrated the class of 2015 with a graduation ceremony for 19 seniors.

To increase learning outcomes for all of our students, we are taking the following action steps over the next few months:

- Participate in a data analysis/needs assessment to identify strengths and challenges in our school; the analysis will assist in making recommendations for improvement.
- Identify next steps we will take to improve learning outcomes for our students, by completing our “Student and School Success Action Plan”; the plan must be submitted to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for review by October 30, 2015.
- Engage parents/guardians and our school community in our improvement efforts.

During the 2015–16 school year, we will implement our plan and examine a variety of data to ensure we are making progress.

Attached are brief descriptions of the basis for the school’s identification as a Focus school, requirements, and supports and services. More details about the movement of our state, district, and school in pursuit of ongoing improvement for all our students can be found at:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/default.aspx>.

We are committed to continued growth as we work together to support our most valuable resource, our children.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us in improving our school system to support your child’s learning. Please feel free to contact your school’s principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Overview

Priority and Focus Schools Identified for 2015–16

Identification of Schools

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), in collaboration with the State Board of Education (SBE), identified a total of 276 schools for accountability and support based on three years of data in either reading/mathematics (combined) or graduation rates. Descriptions for categories of schools follow:

- **Priority Schools:** Bottom 5 percent of schools based on the performance of all of their students in reading/mathematics (combined) or secondary schools based on graduation rates; includes Priority schools continuing forward from 2014–15 into 2015–16.
- **Focus Schools:** Bottom 10 percent of schools based on the performance of their subgroups in reading/mathematics (combined) or graduation rates; includes Focus schools continuing forward from 2014–15 into 2015–16.

Requirements

Districts assure OSPI that their Priority and Focus schools will:

- Engage in a data analysis/needs assessment to identify factors contributing to persistent low achievement.
- Implement research-based practices to turn around low performance; these are referred to as *turnaround principles* in federal guidelines.
- Implement meaningful interventions aligned with unique needs of school and identified subgroups.
- Create “Student and School Success Action Plan;” address findings from data analysis; align plan with *turnaround principles*; submit plan to OSPI for review by October 30, 2015.
- Implement action plan; monitor progress toward intended goals; revise plans as needed.
- Engage with Success Coach assigned to support Principal and Leadership Team as they craft, implement, monitor, and revise the school’s action plan.
- Engage in professional development aligned with the school’s action plan.

Supports and Services

The Office of Student and School Success provides a variety of services to support Priority and Focus school teams to design and implement their action plan. These include:

- Leadership Coach providing technical assistance, monitoring, and coaching support.
- Data packages and analysis process for newly identified Priority and Focus schools.
- OSPI review of the school’s action plan.
- Access to professional development and services offered by OSPI and regional Educational Service Districts.
- Minimal funding to support engagement in professional development and services aligned with the school’s action plan.