



Capistrano Unified School District

Excellence in Education

33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Telephone (949) 234-9200/FAX 493-8729

September 23, 2010

Dear CUSD Employee,

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This letter provides an opportunity to acknowledge the important work you do with students in the Capistrano Unified School District. Test data for the 2009-2010 school year identifies CUSD as one of the state's highest performing school systems. Our Academic Performance Index score of 862 surpasses the state target of 800. In addition, 73% of tested students were proficient or advanced in English-language arts (ELA) and 71% were proficient or advanced in math, surpassing the state targets of 56% in ELA and 56.4% in math.

Our data also shows a need to enhance instruction for two subgroups of students. Our students with disabilities, and students who are English learners, have not met academic proficiency targets for two consecutive years. This means that CUSD enters its first year as a Program Improvement district, requiring:

- Revisions to District plans on how to support students with disabilities and English learners, including methods of budgeting Title I funds to improve student achievement.
- A reserve of ten percent of the District's annual Title I allocation for professional development of teachers and administrators.
- Targeted assistance to schools that have been identified for program improvement.

As you know, we work in a successful school district with excellent teachers, dedicated staff, and smart, capable students. We will emerge from program improvement by championing excellent teaching and focusing our work on classroom instruction.

Instructional leaders from the schools and the District will address our program improvement designation by gathering information, analyzing prevailing practices, and mapping out classroom-based responses that we can all support. By working together on this important task, we will ensure that the academic success enjoyed by the majority of our students is extended to all.

School principals and/or department heads can answer any questions you may have concerning the District's program improvement status.

Thanks, again, for everything you do for our students.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Farley, Ed. D.
Superintendent

JMF:cs