

Today's Fresh Start Charter School

4514 Crenshaw Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Helping Your Child Be The Best Student
He/She Can Be



**TFSCS INCREASED API BY 22 POINTS ,
FROM 783 API (ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
INDEX) TO 805 API. TFSCS EXCEEDED
THE 5 POINT TARGET STATE REQUIREMENT.**

**Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at
Today's Fresh Start Charter School**

**TFSCS STAR SCORES EXCEEDED STATE OF
CALIFORNIA REQUIREMENTS. TFSCS API
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We want our parents to know that we understand your day to day challenges in raising your children. As we live from day to day, each day brings new challenges, some good and some not so good. Hold on. Keep your composure and be strong. The situation will most likely change for the better. And that is why Today's Fresh Charter School exists, solely for the education of your child so that he/she becomes a life-long learner and a successful, productive citizen in today's society.

Where we need parent help most at Today's Fresh Start is cooperating with us as we take on the tasks of educating your child.

Conflict Resolution Family & Friends Together

At Today's Fresh Start, we work to resolve conflict without anger and violence. We call it "conflict resolution, family & friends together." TFSCS staff work with students and parents to solve problems communicating positive words, rather than angry words and physical violence. We need you to be in agreement with us on this. We are teaching our students to lead "peaceful, productive lives and how to get along." At TFSCS, we are promoting problem solving without anger and using critical thinking. When we start in the early years. problem solving



How Can Parents Help to Improve Student Achievement?

Although it often is difficult to find the time, you can help to improve student achievement at your child's school by becoming involved. Here are some things you can do:

- Attend School meetings to help parent / school communications. The school plan should address the issues that caused the school to be identified for PI.
 - Visit your child's school and volunteer to help in the classroom or office.
 - Participate in activities that encourage parents to get involved at your school. The research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school.
 - You may also participate in voluntary activities to assist your school.
 - Help your child with homework.
 - Read to your child.
 - Turn off the television
 - Be sure your child stays for after-school tutoring
 - Be involved with your child's school.
 - Please be a receptive listener when we share information with you to help your child.
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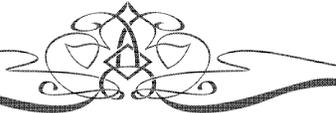
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- **When My Child Misbehaves, I buy him/her a \$100 pair of tennis shoes.**

First of all, TFSCS does not recommend rewarding unacceptable behavior. We believe parents are not sending the right message to our children that they have to have such an expensive pair of tennis shoes? Perhaps, a reward might be a good book or shopping for some great school supplies. A healthy movie is a good reward, too, one that is kid-friendly.

If we can begin to re-focus our children's behavior on values that will advance them to higher goals in life and they become life-long learners.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT: YEAR 2

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that **Today's Fresh Start Charter School** has been identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

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What Is PI?

Our charter school receives funding from many sources, one of which is Title I, Part A, a grant from the federal government. As a condition for receiving these funds, NCLB requires all states to create academic standards that identify what a child should know and be able to do in kindergarten through grade twelve in English-language arts and mathematics. California already has highly regarded content standards in place in our schools. Schools must then test students each year to determine if they are proficient in these subjects. Each school is reviewed annually, using a system approved by the California State Board of Education, to determine if students at that school are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is based upon several factors including:

- California's own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)
- The percentage of students scoring at the "proficient" or "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests

When reviewing the progress of schools in the district, the state looks at the school as a whole and subgroups of students. In order to make AYP, each school must test at least 95 percent of its students and 95 percent of students in significant subgroups.

Targets are set for the percent of students scoring proficient, and that target increases each year with the expectation that all students will score proficient by the year 2014. Every school and subgroup is also expected to increase its API and graduation rate each year.

The California Department of Education (CDE) must annually publish the data necessary to determine if each school has or has not made AYP. *Only schools that receive Title I, Part A, funds and do not make AYP for two years in a row are identified for PI.* Each PI school must take certain steps to give parents choices concerning their students' education and to improve the school's performance.

A report of the PI status of all schools is available on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp>. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact the office at **323-293-9826** and ask her to provide this information to you.

A subgroup is numerically significant and included in the AYP report if there are 100 students or more with valid test results or 50 or more students with test results who make up at least 15 percent of the total valid scores. There are ten subgroups that are used in the AYP: African-American or Black, American Indian, Asian, Filipino, Hispanic or Latino, Pacific Islander, White (not of Hispanic origin), socioeconomically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities.



Why Is Our School PI?

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Using information from the tests given last spring, Today's Fresh Start Charter School was identified as PI for the following reason:

- We need to increase our math achievement proficiency scores, however;
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Your Right to Request a Transfer

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their children to a non-PI school. Students enrolled in direct-funded charter schools have the option of returning to their "home" public school.

The home district will pay for transportation costs. The number of students who can transfer with paid transportation may be limited by the amount of money available to pay for transportation costs. If there is not enough money available, the lowest-achieving students from low-income families will be given priority. However, you can always request a school transfer to a non-PI school **without** paid transportation.



Today's Fresh Start Charter School is working very hard to improve student achievement and is reaching out to our authorizer, Los Angeles County Office of Education to work closely with us toward this end. TFSCS would like our authorizer to work with us on technical assistance, especially in data compilation of student assessments.

Today's Fresh Start Charter School has expanded our staff to include a reading specialist.

- Intervention reading programs have been started, along with data driven Language Arts and Mathematics programs for differentiated instruction.
 - Students most in need of help can receive after-school tutoring in reading and mathematics.
 - We are training our teachers on how to help students who are not at grade level.
 - We are working to help parents become involved at the school and at home.
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What Is the State Doing to Help Our School Improve Student Achievement?

NCLB requires each state to establish a statewide system of support to help LEAs with PI schools. The intent is to ensure that all students enrolled in PI schools meet the state's academic standards so that the schools will no longer be in PI. California provides information, special help, and access to resources for these schools.

Today's Fresh Start Charter School is working with the state and others to improve student performance. Listed here are some of the steps that already are under way or that will be in place by the beginning of the second semester of this school year.

Today's Fresh Start Charter School has received a High Priority School Grant to improve student academic achievement.

Today's Fresh Start Charter School and its School Site Council are working together to involve parents and teachers for improvement of student achievement.

Weekly Professional Development is held for all staff.

The school will ensure the school curriculum, English-language arts and mathematics is aligned with California State Standards and/or Common Core.

For additional information or concerns, or to find out more information about how you can help at your child's school, we encourage you to contact the office at 323-293-9826.



Sincerely,
Today's Fresh Start Charter School

Jeanette Parker, Ph.D.
Superintendent/Administrator

Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. Additional information and resources are available at the following Web sites:

The California Department of Education,
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleparta.asp>
and <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/titleIpf.asp>
The U.S. Department of Education,
<http://www.ed.gov> and
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=fp>

