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March 24, 2017

Dear Twin Oaks Families:

We have disappointing news to share with the Twin Oaks community. In the 2017-2018 school year, Twin Oaks will no longer be a Title I school. The decision to raise the bar above the Twin Oaks level of Free and Reduced Price Meals (FRM) was an agonizing decision.

Last year we supported schools at 48.52% FRM and higher. Title I supports schools based on density of poverty not on the actual number of students who qualify for FRM. There is a significant body of research about the density of poverty in schools and the impact to student achievement and school climate. The guidelines for Title I come from this body of research and are handed down to us by the US Department of Education. We support schools with Title I based on the percentage of students in poverty. This includes private and charter schools that fall within our school district boundary.

It is rare for a district to serve schools below 50% FRM. This year we determined that we could serve schools at 45% FRM and higher. In making this determination, we must use the December FRM count. Twin Oaks was at 43.56% FRM. Over the past 4 years, our Title I funds for the district have been reduced by over \$400,000. We have continued to support each of our Title I schools with reduced funding over that time. In order to maintain Twin Oaks in the 2017/2018 school year, we would have had to add another school to Title I at a higher rate of FRM than Twin Oaks. This would have significantly diluted Title I funds causing deep cuts to 8 of our title I schools.

We know losing Title I support for Twin Oaks students is difficult and will mean that we need a new solution to support all of our students moving forward. We are lucky to be able to keep our Education Assistant that specializes in reading intervention; this will allow us to still provide services for our students that are most in need. Twin Oaks is a true community school and a hub for neighborhood activity. We are a school where every student is known and receives a first-class education. Please know that our desire to meet the individual needs of each student and provide supports within our learning community will not falter.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lizette Rodgers".

Lizette Rodgers.
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffry Johnson".

Jeffry Johnson.
Federal Programs Administrator