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Dear parent,

As you know, Rainshadow Community Charter High School and the Washoe County School District are dedicated to ensuring that our students succeed. While we have always held high expectations for students, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has set high standards for all students to meet.

This summer, the Nevada Department of Education released a report on the progress Nevada schools are making toward achieving proficiency for 100% of our students as required by NCLB. The report identifies whether schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – a simple yes or no determination based upon a complex set of calculations. To make AYP, each school must achieve as many as 45 targets measured across 11 disaggregated groups in categories such as ethnicity, language proficiency, and special needs. In addition, schools must meet attendance and/or graduation rate targets. If a school fails to meet just one of those targets, the entire school does not make AYP. Failing to make AYP for 2 years in a row or more results in the schools being designated “In Need of Improvement”.

Of the 109 schools reported in Washoe County, including charter schools, 44 schools have been designated as “In Need of Improvement”. In nearly all cases, schools in need of improvement failed to meet only a very small number of the possible AYP targets. **Rainshadow has been labeled as “In Need of Improvement” for the 2010 - 2011 school year. The school achieved 20 AYP targets and did not meet 3 AYP targets.**

We recognize that our school, like our students, must continually improve. Rainshadow has outstanding teachers and support staff, who regularly update their skills and participate in training to help them meet the needs of all of our students. You are welcome to come and meet with us at any time to find out for yourself. I also encourage you to examine the results contained in the schools accountability report, which can be accessed via the Internet at [www.nevadareportcard.com](http://www.nevadareportcard.com).

I welcome your comments, suggestions, and involvement in our school and in the challenges our students face.

Sincerely,

Steven J. West, Ph.D.  
Principal