

January 4, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Odem Junior High Parents:

In 1995 the Texas Legislature created the Public Education Grant (PEG) program (TEC Sec. 29.201 – 12.205). This program permits parents of a student enrolled in a school on the PEG list to request that their student transfer to a school in another district or to a school within the district that is not on the PEG list.

Campuses with passing rates on **STAAR®** that are less than or equal to 50% in any two of the preceding three years on one or more STAAR tests OR the school was rated *Improvement Required* in either 2013 or 2014, is subject to the PEG List . Odem Junior High School received the passing rating in 2015-2016 of "Met the Standard," but did have less than 50% of our students not pass grade 8 STAAR Social Studies in both 2014 and 2016.

The Texas Education Agency released the list of PEG designated schools in December. Odem Junior High is on the PEG list due to **STAAR®** passing rates in *8th Grade Social Studies* **only** for the school years 2014 and 2016 **only**. Odem Junior High is required to provide this letter based on the passing rates in grade 8 Social Studies for 2014 and 2016.

However, we are glad to report and share that Odem Junior High in July 2016 *received* two **ACADEMIC DESIGNATION DISTINCTIONS** from the state, for Academic Achievement in Science and in Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps, along with meeting of "Met the Standard," for 2016. Great progress is being made to improve our Social Studies Grade 8 STAAR performance since 2015-2016. In 2015, Odem Junior High out of 8,600 campuses in Texas was one of only 158 campuses in the state to earn **all SEVEN ACADEMIC DESIGNATION DISTINCTIONS** including one for Grade 8 Social Studies. Our campus relies heavily on individual student data to make progress and that strategy will continue as we set the bar high to improve our STAAR Social Studies performance this spring.

The following strategies, initiatives, and actions were taken and will continue by the campus to improve scores in **STAAR Grade 8 Social Studies**:

- Teachers will attend STAAR training
- Social Studies coach will work with all social studies teachers at the junior high
- Teachers will be trained to disaggregate assessment data in order to use data effectively for instructional purposes
- Teachers will be provided full day planning with ESC Social Studies Consultant several times throughout the year

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a PEG designated campus, you have the option to request a transfer of your student to a campus in another school district for the 2016-2017 school year. You must contact the chosen school district to obtain a transfer application and you must apply in writing. This letter will provide adequate justification for the transfer request. The chosen school district is entitled to accept or reject the application for the student to attend school in that district but may not use criteria that discriminate on the basis of a student's race, ethnicity, academic achievement, athletic abilities, language proficient, sex, or socioeconomic status. The home school district is not responsible for transportation costs to and from the chosen school.

It is **important to note** that student eligibility for transfer expires upon any of the following three conditions:

- Completion of all grades on the campus upon which eligibility was originally based (6-8)
- Removal of the campus from the PEG list;
- Assignment of the student to a campus that is not on the PEG list as a result of redrawn attendance boundaries

More information is available on the following website:

[http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Accountability/State_Accountability/Performance_Reporting/Public Education Grant \(PEG\) FAQ/](http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Accountability/State_Accountability/Performance_Reporting/Public_Education_Grant_(PEG)_FAQ/).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Traci Fryar, OJH Principal at 361-368-8121.

Sincerely,



Traci Fryar-Principal, Odem-Junior High School