

September 1, 2017

Dear Agora Parent/Guardian,

The attached notice provides information about the Federal designation of “Focus Schools,” how Agora received this designation, and our interventions to address achievement for all students.

As you read the attached I hope you will agree with me that there is a lot of pride in the Agora school community that does not appear in test scores or the graduation rate. To share a few and I’m sure you could add more, we have:

- ★ Graduates who may have never graduated from their local high school.
- ★ Special needs students who find comfort in our online model and have many more opportunities to be included in a least restrictive environment with their peers.
- ★ Students who have had unfortunate experiences with severe bullying have been able to begin to thrive with the safe environment that our school provides.
- ★ Individualized Learning Plans that target the specific needs of every student.
- ★ Students who come to Agora behind have the opportunity to catch up while advanced students can soar at their own pace.
- ★ Targeted attention, based on entrance benchmark assessments and diagnostic exams, provides students the opportunity to realize their true potential.
- ★ Valid data that shows that the longer students remain with our school, the stronger the results.

Agora’s focus on academic achievement is supported by a team of professionals:

- |                                        |                                   |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ General & Special Education Teachers | ✓ Event Coordinators              |
| ✓ Academic Coaches and Principals      | ✓ Family Coaches                  |
| ✓ Math and Reading Specialists         | ✓ Orientation Advisors            |
| ✓ School Counselors                    | ✓ Truancy Prevention Coordinators |
| ✓ School Nursing Department            | ✓ Parent Engagement Advisors      |
| ✓ School Psychologists                 | ✓ Family Assistance Coordinator   |
| ✓ Social Workers                       |                                   |

As part of the Focus designation, over the next few months we will be preparing a three year plan which will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This Plan will document our continued efforts to meet our goal that every student will achieve academic growth. If you are interested in participating in this planning process, please contact Rich Jensen at [rjensen@agora.org](mailto:rjensen@agora.org) or (267) 332-3020.

FOCUS SCHOOLS  
ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER PARENT NOTIFICATION –  
FOCUS SCHOOL DESIGNATION

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On Aug. 20, 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001. However, ESEA/NCLB still requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school's academic achievement as well as the school's designation under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Pennsylvania's ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, PDE will no longer use Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's designation. Instead, in accordance with the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, PDE will use four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate the Title I school as Reward – High Achievement, Reward – High Progress, Priority, or Focus schools. The four AMOs include: measuring test participation rate; graduation/attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for the historically underperforming students. In addition, all public schools in the state will receive a School Performance Profile score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score, and while not the criteria for determination of Reward, Priority or Focus status, it details student performance through scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The School Performance Profile also includes supports to permit schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Despite the progress made by our students, Agora Cyber Charter School has been designated as a Focus School for the 2013-2014 school year. This designation was based on test data from the 2012-13 school year and our school will keep this designation for three years.

Focus Schools are 10 percent of the lowest Title I schools based on the highest achievement gap for the Historically Low Performing students' AMO. The aggregate achievement gap is determined by the combined Mathematics/Reading PSSA scores and/or the Algebra 1/Literature Keystone Exam scores. They can also be a Title I high school with a graduation rate less than 60 percent; or have a test participation rate below 95 percent and are not identified as a Priority School.

Agora is designated a Focus School based on our graduation rate of less than 50% and the PSSA and Keystone scores of our student population including the subgroups identified as eligible for Special Education and Economically Disadvantaged. Though we did not meet proficiency levels in each subgroup we did identify areas of growth especially in Math, grades 3 through 8.

As a Focus School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community and our school district office to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our low-performing student subgroups.

An important part of the success plan for Agora Cyber Charter School is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that, as a parent/guardian, you will become involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. ***If you are interested in participating in developing our school improvement initiatives, contact Tasliym Goodman, Federal Programs Coordinator at (610) 230-0765 or [tgoodman@agora.org](mailto:tgoodman@agora.org).***

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Conti", with a small flourish at the end.

Dr. Michael Conti  
CEO