

Program Improvement Mandates Potential Restructuring

**CAROLINE REN
ANGELA YANG**
Editors in Chief

Under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), all states must conduct annual tests and measure results based on subgroups. Should a school funded by Title I fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two years in a row, it will be put under Program Improvement (PI) status.

Alhambra High School (AHS) is currently a Year 3 PI status school, waiting for the 2014-2015 report that will display statistics from the 2013-2014 school year. According to the California Department of Education, as of the 2013 AYP report, AHS has met 16 out of 22 requirements. If AHS can meet those remaining 6 requirements for two consecutive years, it will move out of PI status. In comparison, Blair High School (BHS) in Pasadena, the school students have the option of transferring to, met 11 out of 22 requirements in the 2013 report. BHS is a non-PI school.

"In 2013-14 and beyond, the AYP target for schools to meet is [that] 100 percent of the students score at the proficiency level, 380 on the CAHSEE in both ELA and math, regardless of language proficiency

or learning challenges. This is an admirable goal for the federal government to set for all students nationwide, but as anyone can see, meeting these goals is not an easy task," AUSD Superintendent

staff members, contract outside establishments, allow the state to take over governance of the school or otherwise implement another form of major restructuring. However, some remain unintimidated by

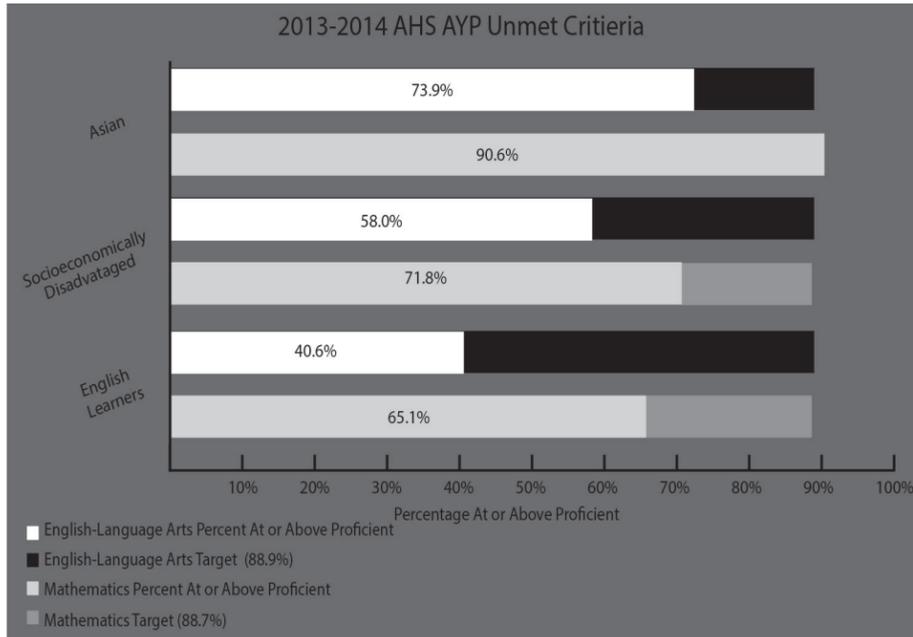
strict level team will be working with the school to create an improvement plan. Parents and staff will have an opportunity to comment on the plan before it is implemented. If the school enters Year 5 status in 2015-16, the school is required to implement that improvement plan in 15-16."

Others believe that students should play a larger role in meeting AYP.

"We also have the responsibility to help our school meet the state requirement. It really [is not] fair if the teachers are trying their hardest while we do nothing about it," junior Mario Wuchen said.

There are also those who would rather look on the bright side of things, rather than let the current PI status affect AHS negatively.

"I think that we pretty much have met a majority of our goals. I think in many ways we're known and respected through the San Gabriel Valley but [our current PI status] doesn't adequately reflect our growth. This is only one indication of things that may appear to be disappointing, but if you look at the overall strides of our school, there should be no reservations for students or parents at AHS," English teacher Nancy Padilla said.



Laura Tellez-Gagliano said.

If AHS becomes a Year 4 PI status school, it will have to either become a charter school, replace the majority of

this news.

"Should AHS become a PI Year 4 school this year, 2014-15 will be a planning year," Tellez-Gagliano said. "A dis-

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

ASB SPOTLIGHTS

ADVISER



SALLY YOO

1. What do you think you need most as an adviser?

I'll need a lot of help from people and their patience as I continue to learn about this new role.

2. What prompted you to lead ASB?

I believe high school can be one of the best experiences of a student's life. They can look back and remember it as a place where they made fun memories and lasting friendships. I want to be a part of a team that creates that kind of belonging for [our] students.

3. How did you feel about working with the ASB members during summer and the first weeks of school?

It's been absolutely amazing! The heart of these students, always willing and ready to serve, has made it completely enjoyable for me to work with them. I am so thankful for this group of amazing students.

4. How positive is your outlook toward the new year?

I'm definitely looking forward to a great year. There may be a lot of hiccups along the road, but with the support that I've already been receiving, I'm looking forward to what's ahead.

ADVISER



LEAH CHRISTIAN

1. What do you think you need most as an adviser?

We want to see everyone participate and take pride in our school. [It's] also important to have the support and presence of the faculty at big events.

2. What prompted you to lead ASB and Freshmen Leadership?

I took on many different leadership roles when I was in high school, so I wanted to bring that same energy and enthusiasm to AHS. I also wanted to help the freshmen get more involved and feel included at the beginning of the year.

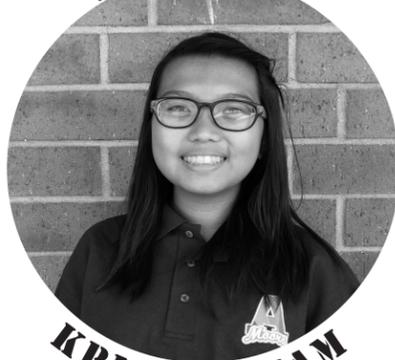
3. How did you feel about working with the ASB members during summer and the first weeks of school?

Working in the summer with ASB has given me a new appreciation for everything the students do and how hard they work to make our school environment positive and uplifting. The start of the school year can be challenging and overwhelming for many students, but I think that ASB did a great job welcoming our new and returning students.

4. How positive is your outlook toward the new year?

I have high expectations for this year, and look forward to all the exciting things ASB has planned. It is going to be a great year.

PRESIDENT



KRISTIE SHAM

1. What experiences/lifetime lessons/etc. do you think you can learn from ASB?

I think every officer gains a sense of perspective — the effort and determination it takes to hold a successful event, the importance of representing all groups on campus and the pride of being able to give other students a better high school experience.

2. What new ideas do you plan to introduce this year?

We plan to set firm deadlines to make sure school events run smoothly [and] to connect more with students so that a lack of communication or awareness is never the reason why they do not come enjoy campus life.

3. Are any specific goals that you want to pursue this year as President?

There are a few brand new special events throughout the year that I would like to introduce, hopefully as annual events. While some are still in the planning stages, I can say that we hope to make Homecoming an event to remember! I also want to help promote both faculty and student involvement. I want the Freshmen to feel welcome at AHS [and] I want to be approachable to all students. Most of all, I want to help our organizations to plan ahead, to lay a solid foundation for continuous success and opportunities.

Interviews by DENISE TIEU AND CINDY LUO
NEWS EDITORS

VICE PRESIDENT



ALLEN CHEN

1. How positive is your outlook toward the new year?

In my eyes, change is good. We have a new adviser, a brand new crop of student leaders and more ideas. I think we'll do great things this year.

2. What experiences/lifetime lessons/etc. do you think you can learn from ASB?

ASB events like organizing assemblies or helping out during registration naturally forces us to learn to work with adults and with other students. I want to [gain a greater sense of] responsibility and a driven work ethic.

3. What new ideas do you plan to introduce this year?

We've been playing around with events that involve the entire school. They will thrive if we can get clubs involved and excited, like with ICC Field Day. Our visions include the majority of the students.

4. Are any specific goals that you want to pursue this year as Vice President?

As Vice President, my purpose is to oversee the ASB team with Kristie, but my personal duty is to plan assemblies. I want to make assemblies the highlight of someone's day.

MOOR photos by YIBEI LIU
MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN