



Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Suzanne Scallion
Superintendent of Schools

2014 SCHOOL & DISTRICT REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION

November 14, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires districts to annually prepare and distribute district and school report cards to the parents/guardians of all children enrolled in district schools. These report cards (not to be confused with student report cards) are important tools for communicating information about teacher quality, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students. The target for narrowing the gap is raised annually making year to year comparisons challenging.

The 2014 Report Cards are available on the Westfield Public School's Website at <http://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/>. Click on the "**District**" heading then the "**Accountability**" link. The District has been assigned a 2014 Accountability and Assistance Level Status of Level 3 – Needs Technical Assistance (NTA) as indicated in the chart below:

District/Status	Student Group	Cumulative Progress and Performance Index: 1-100 On Target = 75 or Higher	Schools Progress Towards Narrowing Proficiency Gap
Westfield Public School District Level 3	All Students	59	Did Not Meet Target
	High Needs	53	Did Not Meet Target

We are also attaching the 2014 Report Card for your child's school that contains important information about student achievement on Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests, and the progress the school is making toward helping all students become proficient in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

In this report you will find the following information:

- **Student Enrollment and Teacher Quality:** This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in the school as compared to the district and state. If your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request information about the qualifications of your child's teacher(s). The District is committed to providing quality instruction for all students and does so by employing the most qualified individuals to teach and support each student in the classroom.
- **Student Achievement:** This section of the report shows how students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.
- **Accountability Data:** This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:
 - **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** School and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and the lowest performing in Level 5. Westfield is a Level 3 at this time.

- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of a school compared to other schools that serve the same or similar grades.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates school progress toward narrowing the proficiency gap and helping all students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years of 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making progress toward narrowing the proficiency gap, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

Information found on the report cards are an important part of your right to know how well our school district is helping all students to reach proficiency goals set by the State. Our schools are committed to the improvement of academic performance in all areas and have taken many steps towards these goals. We are very excited about some of the work we have underway including:

- Implementation of core literacy and math programs at all elementary schools.
- Implementation of new Math programs for grades 6-9.
- Implementation of district benchmark assessments to more efficiently monitor progress during the year.
- Continuing our partnership with BSRI (Bay State Reading Institute) to work with elementary teachers and schools implementing consistent CORE Reading Strategies across the elementary schools.
- Imagine Learning (Literacy) at all elementary schools for Kindergarten and 1st grade students.
- Read 180 at Paper Mill, Franklin Avenue, South Middle, North Middle and WVTHS.
- Extended Day Intervention at all schools to provide targeted assistance for math, literacy and science.
- Department Heads and Coaches are providing instructional leadership.
- PreK-12 teachers are receiving high quality professional development through Early Release Staff Development.

In closing, involving families as full partners in the education of their children is a cornerstone of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). When families support learning, children are more successful in school that in turn helps children become successful adults. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve the schools in our district. Some of the ways you can become involved are as follows:

- Encourage your child's learning at home through supporting homework, reading and monitoring the use of electronics.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings and other special school meetings.
- Serve as a volunteer in the schools or district.
- Encourage other parents to become involved.

More detailed information regarding district and school report cards can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu> located under the "**School/District Profiles**" link. For specific information about the performance of your child's school or the qualifications of your child's teacher(s), please contact the building principal.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Scallion, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,



Denise Ruzala
Director of Assessment & Accountability

If you need assistance understanding this information, please contact your building principal to arrange translation services.

Если Вы нуждаетесь в переводе, пожалуйста, сообщите директору школы, и школа обеспечит вас переводчиком.

Якщо Вам необхідний переклад даної інформації, будь ласка, повідомте директору школи, і школа забезпечить вас перекладачем.

Si Ud. necesita ayuda para entender esta información, favor de comunicarse con el Principal para los servicios de traducción.

إذا تحتاج مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات، الرجاء الاتصال بمدير المدرسة لتقديم خدمات الترجمة