
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Blandford Chester Huntington Middlefield Montgomery Russell

TO: Parents of all students
FROM: Dr. Hopson
SUBJECT: School Accountability Status Under NCLB
DATE: January 18, 2018
CC: Leadership Team

Under the auspices of the “No Child Left Behind Act” (NCLB) the district is required to inform you of the accountability status of schools in the district. Official “School & District” report cards can be found at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=38&orgcode=06720000&fycode=2017&orgtypecode=5&>. Hard copies of the district, and school report cards, should be included with this letter. Should you wish additional copies, please contact your child’s school.

The school and district report cards contain much information including:

Part I: Student Enrollment and Teacher Qualifications

The first section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. If your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child’s classroom teachers:

- Whether your child’s teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach
- Whether your child’s teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver
- The college degree and major of your child’s teacher
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Part II: Accountability

The third section of the report card contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our district has been placed into Level 2 because the High School is designated a Level 2 School (the other schools are not rated at this time as they took the “new” MCAS test.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school’s progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, 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 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

Part III: Student Achievement

The second section of the report card shows how Massachusetts students are performing on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a test that allows you to compare the performance of Massachusetts students to students across the nation or in other states. You can also see how our school performed on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.

You can view the specifics of the District’s performance level at the DESE website using the following link: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/district.aspx?linkid=30&orgcode=06720000&>. For the 2017 school year, Gateway has a “Level 2” rating because the High School is a Level 2 schools and the district has the overall rating

of its worst school in terms of the state's ratings (Level 1 to Level 5 with Level 1 being the best and Level 5 being the worst).

Chester Elementary	No Level
Littleville Elementary	No Level (was a DESE "Commended School" in 2016)
Junior/Middle High School	No Level
High School	Level 2

A level 2 designation does not indicate a failing school. It highlights areas where more work is needed by principals, teachers and parents to ensure that all students are successful. Schools identified under NCLB become eligible for additional support from the school district and the state as they work together to improve teaching and learning, especially in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Continuing in the 2017-2018 school year, Gateway will no longer offer NCLB school choice or SES. Instead, we will use federal funds to improve teaching and learning for our neediest students. This includes identifying students through the Massachusetts Tiered Support System (MTSS), providing appropriate interventions, and offering district supplied tutoring.

Knowing the need to improve student performance across the district, the district continues to evaluate curriculum in each school, continues working with MTSS to identify academic needs and get assistance to students throughout the year, continues to modify administrative responsibilities, is maintaining single grade classes in the elementary school, is using rubrics to address the core student performance indicators for the district, and is exploring ways to provide additional supports for teachers including academic coaches, enhanced professional development, and collaborative planning time.

Involving families as full partners in the education of their children is a cornerstone of NCLB. When families support learning, children are more successful in school and school success helps children become successful adults. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district (including serving on school councils)
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

The district will be working with the staff in all schools to revise the school's improvement plan and offer assistance in increasing student performance. For further information on NCLB you may visit www.ed.gov/nclb/overview/intro/parents/parentfacts.html. Should you have specific questions about Gateway schools, please don't hesitate to contact your child's principal or me.