

Gateway Regional School District

Blandford-Chester-Huntington-Middlefield Montgomery-Russell

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March 26, 2019

Dear Families:

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our district's report card is available at <http://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2018/DistrictReportcard/06720000> and the district and all school report cards can be found on the district's website at <http://www.grsd.org/Content2/148>.

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more. Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

You will notice on our report card that we are partially meeting targets and not requiring intervention. To improve student performance in our school, 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 support 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 improving our schools. 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 strategic plan and offer assistance in increasing student performance.

Should you have specific questions about Gateway schools, please don't hesitate to contact your child's principal or me. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Finally, 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, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. David B. Hopson

Superintendent of Schools

---District Vision Statement---

The Gateway Regional School District will provide an exemplary education that challenges all students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs.