



David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools

Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460

Telephone
(617) 559-6100

Fax
(617) 559-6101

August 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing regarding the preliminary 2010 MCAS test scores Newton received this week. These initial results are unofficial and will not be publicly released until mid September, when you will receive your child's scores. As a district, we have a lot to be proud of. The Newton Public Schools earned a "very high" No Child Left Behind (NCLB) performance rating in both Mathematics and English Language Arts. The overwhelming majority of our students achieved performance levels at proficient or advanced levels on both of these MCAS tests. However, the preliminary report also indicates that certain subgroups fell short of their performance targets.

One of the goals of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is for all students to achieve proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics and to make adequate yearly progress toward that goal. The law requires us to measure progress for subgroups of students according to their socioeconomic status, special education status, Limited English Proficient (LEP) status, and race/ethnicity. Because this is the second year some subgroups did not meet improvement targets in mathematics set by the state, the district has been identified with an NCLB status of "Improvement Year 1 – Subgroups." Specifically, at the elementary level, special education, low income, and Hispanic/Latino student subgroups were identified. At the middle school level, special education, LEP, and African American subgroups were identified. At the high school level, special education, low income, and Hispanic/Latino subgroups were identified.

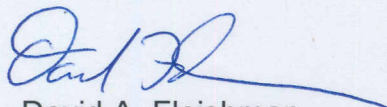
As the new superintendent, I can assure you that we will do everything possible to help students in these subgroups improve their scores and close the achievement gap. I also expect that the system will refine and improve support structures for our students and professional development opportunities for our faculty. We will expand our use of:

- data teams which systematically employ data to improve student achievement
- academic support for students who have not yet achieved a proficient or advanced MCAS score
- new supplemental math materials
- assessment tools which regularly inform classroom instruction
- teacher collaboration focused on student learning
- math coaches, including the introduction of coaches at the middle school level
- professional development in math content for our special educators
- new technologies to enhance and individualize instruction

The MCAS provides us with a great deal of information. As we strive to make a very good school system even better, the testing results highlight areas of strength and weakness, and they help us adjust our teaching and our curriculum in order to boost the achievement of all students.

Involving families as full partners in the education of their children is a focal point of NCLB and a priority of the Newton Public Schools. When schools collaborate and steadily communicate with families, and when families support learning, children are more successful. We encourage your involvement in helping us improve our schools, whether this means attending parent-teacher meetings, serving as a volunteer, or becoming involved in PTO or school council. As the end of summer draws to a close, we look forward to working with you and your children to assure they enjoy a successful school year.

Sincerely,



David A. Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools

DAF/mb

Please call the ELL program office at 617-559-6043 if you need this document translated.

אם ברצונכם לתרגם תופס זה, בבקשה התקשרו למשרד תוכנית ה-LLE טל: 6043-559-617

Пожалуйста, свяжитесь с офисом программы ELL по телефону 617-559-6043, если вам нужен перевод этого документа.

假如你需要這份文件的翻譯本，請打電話給ELL計劃辦公室617-559-6043。

この文書の翻訳が必要な場合はELLプログラム事務局617-559-6043まで電話ください。

이 서류에 대한 번역이 필요하시면 ELL 프로그램 사무실(617-559-6043)로 전화주시기 바랍니다.

Por favor telefone para o escritório do programa ELL no número 617-559-6043 se precisar deste documento traduzido

Si usted desea que este documento sea traducido, por favor llame a la oficina del Programa de aprendices del idioma inglés al número 617-559-6043.