

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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Dear Families,

In mid-January, we received a letter from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), explaining that one of our schools, Webutuck Elementary School, has been designated as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school. This means that according to State criteria, our school has not performed as well as other schools in New York State on the New York State examinations in ELA and Math.

In this letter, we want to make sure that you have basic information about the State designation and that you hear directly from us as school leaders about the action steps being taken.

Why is WES on the list?

The list was compiled by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) based on the performance of the "All Students" subgroup for the State examinations in ELA and Math, in terms of Composite Performance Index.


A factor that we have asked NYS to consider is that at WES there is only one grade level (3rd grade) that takes the NYS assessments. With a 3rd grade class size of 46 students, of which only 34 of those students actually were administered the assessments, it is our belief that basing an accountability status for an entire building on a number that low is not an accurate assessment of our school.

The State examinations in ELA and Math assess proficiency on grade level standards. As a diverse school, WES is committed to serving all types of learners at all levels. The State has indicated that two of our subgroup populations (Economically Disadvantaged students and English Language Learner students) are populations that are not performing at the level that the State has identified as acceptable performance.

What happens now that we're on the list?

The District has received additional funds this year, called Title I School Improvement Grant. We have also been contacted by NYS Department of Education Support Office who have informed us that they will send representation from their department to conduct an onsite needs assessment and give us direction on "next steps." Once that occurs, the District will form a committee consisting of teachers, administrators, and parents from across the District to design and implement a plan to address the needs of our students. If you have any questions, please feel free to call any of us at (845)373-4100.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Hengen
Director of Student Services
Principal, WES


Erik Lynch
Principal, EBIS


Raymond Castellani
Superintendent of Schools