



Marshfield Public Schools

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August 14, 2009

Dear Parents of Martinson Elementary School Students:

Adequate Yearly Progress, as designed by the federal education law No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), is a measure of the extent to which a student group demonstrates proficiency in English language arts and mathematics. AYP reports are issued each year to show the progress individual schools and districts are making toward the goal of having all students reach proficiency (as measured by MCAS) by the year 2014.

Following the release of 2008 MCAS data last fall Martinson Elementary School parents were notified that though Martinson Elementary School students made AYP in the aggregate, the school did not make AYP in the Special Education sub-group for English language arts, even though several students' individual progress or improvement increased from prior years. And though the 2008 scores for many of the students showed an increase compared to their 2007 scores, the improvement or gain was not large enough based on the level established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Although the 2009 MCAS data will not be released for several weeks, the federal regulations require Martinson Elementary School parents be notified that they may request in writing to have their child (ren) attend the South River Elementary School for the 2009-10 school year. Please note that federal regulations also provide first priority to low-income and/or low-achieving students.

If you would like to learn more about this option, or have questions, please telephone Mr. Thomas Kilduff, Martinson Elementary School Principal. Parents who wish to exercise this option must send a written request to Principal Kilduff no later than Monday, August 24, 2009.

The Marshfield Public Schools is committed to improving our instructional practices while we continue addressing the needs of students in every sub-group. During the past four school years our school district has worked diligently to develop and implement the following programs and services intended to address the needs of all students. These include:

- Conducting a comprehensive review of our MCAS data.
- Additional math instruction in grades 1 through 5
- Math instruction scheduled for the morning hours
- Reviewing our special education programs and practices to deliver the best services possible to address the needs of those students.
- Including specific goals within the Martinson Elementary School Improvement Plan as well as District Improvement Plan that focus on improving mathematics achievement for all students
- Continuing to provide high quality mathematics professional development for our teachers in technology integration, differentiated instruction, and mathematics instruction.
- Administering frequent assessments which will identify when students are not meeting the standards.

- Implementing student success plans for those students identified in the warning/failure category.
- Continuing to offer a comprehensive induction program for new teachers.

We wish to recognize and commend the Martinson Elementary School teachers and staff for their tireless efforts to address the needs of our students. Their dedication is represented by the progress of our elementary school students, despite the inconsistent message represented by the AYP accountability status.

The Martinson Elementary School is among a growing number of Massachusetts schools that have been identified as in need of improvement. Though we hope the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will review the current AYP standards, I assure you that Marshfield's teachers and staff will continue to meet our responsibility with supporting all students, regardless of their sub-group.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Thomas M. Kilduff
Principal, Martinson Elementary School

Yours truly,

Middleton K. McGoodwin, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools