



Marshfield Public Schools

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September 19, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of Martinson Elementary School Students:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently released preliminary 2008 MCAS data along with information to schools regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). 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.

The preliminary 2008 MCAS data indicated Martinson Elementary School students made AYP in the aggregate, but did not make AYP in the Special Education sub-group for English language arts, even though some of the students' individual progress or improvement increased from prior years. Though the 2008 scores for many of these students reflect an increase when compared with their 2007 scores, their improvement or gain was not at the level established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

As this is the second year in a row that the Martinson Elementary School has not made AYP, and because the school receives Title 1 funding, Martinson Elementary School parents/guardians may request in writing to have their child (ren) attend the South River Elementary School for the 2008-09 school year. Please note that low-income and low-achieving students will be given first priority.

If you would like to learn more about this option, or have a question, please telephone Mr. Thomas Kilduff, Principal. Parents/guardians who wish to exercise this option should send this written request to Principal Kilduff no later than October 1, 2008.

The Marshfield Public Schools is committed to improving our instructional practices to 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,

Yours truly,

Thomas M. Kilduff
Principal, Martinson Elementary School

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

