



Center School

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to enclose an overview of Center School's 2016 MCAS "report card".

Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students.

In this report you will find the following important information about our school:

Student enrollment and teacher quality: This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. 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
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Assessment results: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test as compared to the district and the state.

School and district accountability information: This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Center School has been placed into Level 2 because our school's performance on MCAS 2016 showed moderate year to year achievement growth. On the ELA MCAS, 86.3% of Center School students demonstrated progress towards proficiency. On the Math MCAS, 78.9% of Center School students demonstrated progress towards proficiency. On Science MCAS, 77.8% of 5th Grade Center School students demonstrated progress towards proficiency.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Center School's percentile is 29%. This means that our school's overall MCAS performance is higher than 29% percent of the elementary schools in the state.

- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

To improve student achievement in our school, we are...

- Offering after school MCAS Tutorial classes during the late winter and early spring 2017.
- Focusing ELA instruction on vocabulary development, close reading skills, comprehension strategies and response to text writing strategies.
- Focusing Math instruction on solving complex problems involving measurement, geometry, fractions, data interpretation and pre-algebraic concepts.
- Continuing a school-wide initiative focused on increasing student writing stamina.
- Encouraging students to put forth sustained effort and perseverance while strategically completing challenging math problem solving tasks.
- Teaching real life math problem solving skills during daily Everyday Calendar Math activities.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Attending parent-teacher meetings and curriculum nights.
- Attending special math, literacy and science related events at Center School.
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district.
- Encouraging other parents to become involved in Center School activities.
- Visiting local museums, historical sites and nature trails.
- Practicing math fact fluency using flash cards and computer-based games.
- Encouraging reading at home and participation in Peabody Institute Library activities.

For more information about our school's report card or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact me at orphanosj@peabody.k12.ma.us or 978-536-5475.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline T. Orphanos
Center School Principal