



Higgins Middle School

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to enclose an overview of the Higgins Middle School's "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. **Our school has been placed into Level 2 because, although we are showing growth, we have not met the goals to narrow the proficiency gap that would bring us to Level 1.**

- 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. Our school percentile is 34. This means that our school is performing higher than 34 percent of the middle 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" remediation for all content areas.
- Emphasizing *Failure Is Not An Option* by focusing on student mastery of concepts.
- Offering a math and ELA lab for struggling students and a writing and math seminar to help our proficient students excel.
- Assessing students continuously throughout the year and using the results to tailor instruction to fit student needs.

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

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Attending special events such as Family Math Night and Family Literacy Night
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

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 us at 978.536.4800.

Sincerely,

Todd Bucey

Todd Bucey
Principal