

## **The School Committees Report**

The School Committees and Superintendent are dedicated to achieving their educational goals while maintaining a transparent public process related to policy decisions. This article is one in a series that is intended to update and inform the residents of Concord and Carlisle about the districts' on-going activities, initiatives and policies.

### **MCAS Results**

The MCAS results from the 2013-2014 academic year were reviewed by the School Committees at the last Joint meeting on October 14. While the MCAS test is just one of many tools to measure student and district performance, the Districts establish goals for the state mandated exam.

For Concord Public Schools, MCAS exams for English language arts (ELA) and math are administered in grades three through eight with science and technology included for grades five and eight.

For grade five, the results showed percentages of students that achieved advanced/proficient levels in the three testing areas; 90% for ELA, 91% for Math and 82% for Science. For grade eight, the percentage of students achieving advanced/proficient were 94% for ELA, 78% for Math and 76% for Science. The District goal for that academic year was for 90% of students to achieve advanced/proficient level in grades five and eight for ELA through continued use of research based literary practices and the implementation of targeted instruction intervention. The District goal for Math was to have 80% of students achieve advanced/proficient through continued use of research based math instructional practices and the implementation of targeted instruction and intervention.

For Concord-Carlisle High School, the test is administered in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade in ELA, Math and Science, with a choice in science of biology, chemistry or physics. The Regional District had goals of 90% of students achieving the advanced/proficient level in ELA and 80% in Math. For grade 10 in 2013-2014 academic year, 97% achieved advanced/proficient in ELA, 95% achieved advanced/proficient in Math and 93% achieved that level in Science.

The Committee also reviewed the historic results for the tenth grade class, which will graduate in 2016. The data from the tests going back to grade four in 2008 demonstrate the value added of the school district for the students over time. It also helps the district examine sub-groups of students such as special education and high needs students. In 2008 in grade four, 75% of students achieved advanced/proficient in Math with 86% of regular education and 35% high needs students achieving that level. For grade ten, those achieving the advanced/proficient level grew to 95% with 100% of regular education students and 77% high needs students achieving the desired level.

The School Committees and Superintendent plan to continue analyzing the MCAS performance, as well as the districts' own common assessments, to identify areas to focus improvement in curriculum, instruction and assessment. They will support areas in need of improvement with professional development activities and support the work of grade level and department teams in designing and implementing effective interventions for students not making benchmarks.

### **The School Committees Contact Information**

The School Committees and Superintendent are committed to on-going public dialogue and to ensuring that residents of Carlisle and Concord are informed. School Committee meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. The meetings are broadcast on CCTV and are available on demand at [www.concordtv.org](http://www.concordtv.org). The district web site ([www.concordpublicschools.net](http://www.concordpublicschools.net)) contains updated information on meetings and interested individuals can contact the Concord School Committee via email at [concordschoolcommittee@colonial.net](mailto:concordschoolcommittee@colonial.net) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at [concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net](mailto:concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net) or the Your Voice Matters link on the District's home page at [www.concordpublicschools.net](http://www.concordpublicschools.net).