

The School Committees Report

The School Committees are dedicated to supporting the school districts' educational goals for Concord, Carlisle and Boston students 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.

2016 PARCC & MCAS Results: Alcott Honored as a Commended School

The School Committees reviewed the results from the MCAS and PARCC exams that were administered in the spring of 2016 at their last business meetings. The overall results were excellent meeting most performance goals for the Districts and the highlight of the results was Alcott Elementary School achieving the "Commended School" status for high achievement and high progress. Alcott is one of 49 schools in the state to secure this significant honor. In addition, CCHS met the achievement targets for all student subgroups and these results are an important step in the goal for of achieving Level One status.

During the 2015-2016 school year, CCHS students took the MCAS test as opposed to the PARCC pilot administered at CPS. The MCAS results show that CCHS students are achieving at very high levels including 98% of students at advanced/proficient levels in ELA, 94% advanced/proficient in Math and 97% advanced/proficient in Biology and Science/Technology/Engineering.

CPS participated in the PARCC statewide pilot testing in grades three through eight with English Language Arts (ELA) and Math given for all grades and Science, Technology and Engineering given in grades five and eight.

For CPS grade five students, 90% achieved advanced/proficient levels in ELA and Math and 79% in Science. The growth in ELA achievement is on target and the growth in Mathematics is above target with District goals. Given the recent changes in the District's Science curriculum that bring it in line with state standards, the levels of students performance are expected to rise.

Grade level performance for eighth grade students included 81% achieving advanced/proficient levels in ELA, 75% advanced/proficient in Mathematics, and 66% in Science. Student achievement levels in ELA increased by 3% while achievement in Math remained stable.

Looking at long term trends with state standardized testing, the results demonstrate what educators refer to as the cohort value added as they track the improvement of cohorts of same-grade level students who advance through the school systems.

For instance, the results for the cohort of CPS grade four students in 2008 showed that 82% of students were advanced/proficient in ELA and 75% were advanced/proficient in Math. This same cohort of students in Grade 10 saw 97% achieve advanced/proficient in ELA and 95% achieve advanced/proficient in Math.

Further information on the results are available the Districts website www.concordps.org.

Public Participation Opportunities in Superintendent Search

Members of the School Committees are urging residents to participate in the public process associated with the Superintendent search. In order to facilitate public participation, the School Committees designed a process that includes multiple ways for individuals to have their voice heard. Two important opportunities to participate include public forums and the on-line survey.

The public forums schedules are listed below:

November 14th 7:00-8:30pm in the CCHS Auditorium

November 15th 10:00-11:30am in Ripley Conference Room 4

The on-line survey will be available starting on **November 7** and will remain open until **November 30**. It can be accessed at **www.concordps.org**.

The School Committees Contact Information

You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at www.concordps.org. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org. You can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committees through the Your Voice Matters link on the Districts' home page. 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. The district web site (www.concordps.org) contains updated reports, presentations and information on meetings.