

Monthly Memo from the Superintendent

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Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

Superintendent
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MCAS Results 2018

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released results from the next generation MCAS testing conducted in the spring of 2018. While the results are indicative of the excellence in teaching and academic performance of students and teachers at CPS and CCHS, a highlight of the results was the Willard School being categorized as a School of Recognition.

The new MCAS system includes additional accountability indicators to provide educators with information about school performance and student opportunities beyond test scores. There are normative and criterion-referenced components with accountability percentiles and references to progress towards targets. The system focuses on raising the performance of each school's lowest performing students in addition to the performance of the school as a whole.

Under the next generation MCAS, Massachusetts accountability indicators for grades 3-8 include achievement, student growth, English language proficiency and additional indicators such as chronic absenteeism. For high schools, the accountability indicators are very similar with the addition of high school completion as an element.

For more information on the MCAS reports and to see a copy of the presentation made to the School Committees, interested individuals are encouraged to visit the District's web site;

<http://www.concordps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CPSCCHS-MCAS-reporting-2018.pdf>.

School Improvement Plans

The Principals from CPS and CCHS presented the School Improvement plans for each school site in CPS and at CCHS at the most recent meeting of the School Committees. The plans reflect input from teachers, students, staff and residents and are aligned with the Districts' strategic plan.

Each of the plans is available on the District web site under the School Committee key; <http://www.concordps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Jt.-10.23.18-with-attachments-1.pdf>.

Virtual School Days

We continue to discuss the possibility of having virtual options in lieu of traditional make up days when the weather impacts the ability to have school. The discussion includes developmentally appropriate plans for activities that would not be due immediately upon the return to school. The draft plans is on the agenda for the Joint School Committees on November 13. The recommendation includes no more than two virtual days as part of the pilot.

Cultural Competency

The districts' work related to cultural competency continues via ongoing opportunities for professional development for the staff. METCO Director Andrew Nyamekye leads via his in-house expertise by supporting and training the faculties. Our work includes a focus on ensuring that we include, respect and welcome all students in our learning environments. Among the examples are the flag displays at the elementary schools where flags from countries around the world connect to our students. Upcoming activities include a review of the recent holiday accommodation policy and our approach to ensuring the schools are welcoming to everyone during the month of December.

Budget Process FY20

The process to develop the 2019-2020 budget reflected a new approach of zero-based budgeting where, rather than carrying funds forward, all funds are supported through itemized needs. Similarly, the leadership team continues to review all areas of spending for efficiencies and effectiveness. The reorganization and reallocations result in cost effective means of maintaining high quality. We look forward to discussions with the Joint School Committees when the complete budget is presented on November 13.

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