



BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools
MaryLou Sallee, Assistant Superintendent

97 McMahon Road
Bedford, MA 01730
Tel: 781-275-7588
Fax: 781-275-0885
www.bedford.k12.ma.us

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Every year at this time, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) publishes the state mandated test results from the previous spring and publicizes schools' and districts' accountability ratings. This year's information includes: MCAS results for 10th graders (English Language Arts and Math) and 5th, 8th and 9th graders (Science); and PARCC exam results for grades 3-8 in ELA and Math.

Bedford has much to be proud of regarding its 2016 MCAS scores. Once again, Bedford High School ranks at very high end of the state's 358 public and charter high schools, with 98% of its students scoring Advanced or Proficient in English Language Arts, 91% scoring Proficient or Advanced in Math, and 87% scoring Proficient or Advanced in Science.

Our 3rd - 8th grade students took the PARCC exam instead of the MCAS exam. Based upon the Cumulative Progress and Performance Index, Lane School's 3rd - 5th graders as a whole met the prescribed target, but two of our subgroups (African-Americans and Students with Disabilities) did not. These same subgroups at our John Glenn Middle School, while not reaching target, responded well to a number of interventions that the school implemented last year and made significant progress compared with the previous year's scores. Our middle school scores as a whole also improved as compared to last year, but they did not meet the state prescribed target.

While the application of the DESE's test-to-test crosswalk shows that a significant number of our middle school students, who did not meet proficiency according to PARCC standards, actually met proficiency according to MCAS standards, the District is not satisfied with our overall performance. Accordingly, plans are in place to identify the students who did not meet proficiency and to implement interventions to address their needs. We will also conduct an analysis of their performance on the District's own assessments to determine whether that data aligns with the PARCC results, and whether curricular and/or instructional adjustments are required. Please note that the DESE has decided not to continue with the PARCC assessments moving forward but will include a number of PARCC questions in this coming year's MCAS 2.0 assessments.

Accountability ratings, which use MCAS and PARCC scores, follow a complex formula that combines level of achievement with growth and rate of achievement gap closing for identified subgroups. Schools are rated 1-5, with 1 being the highest. Because Bedford High School exceeded its targets for annual progress of all students, including those with high needs, it is designated as level 1. Lane and JGMS approached but did not meet these targets, so are rated at level 2. If a district has one or more schools rated at a level 2, the whole district is so rated. Accordingly, Bedford was assigned a level 2 accountability rating.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Sills

