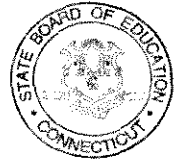


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 31, 2007



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Your child's public school district has many dedicated staff committed to teaching the challenging academic content and interpersonal skills that help students develop into productive citizens.

In January 2002, the U.S. Congress passed a new federal education law called the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. This law requires states to set specific academic achievement targets for all students and six subgroups of students (black, Hispanic, white, students with disabilities, English language learners and economically disadvantaged students). Districts must meet these targets for all students and all subgroups each year in order to achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP) under the terms of NCLB.

Connecticut student achievement targets are based on the Grade 10 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) and the Grades 3-8 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). The achievement targets for the Grade 10 CAPT are:

- 95 percent of students who attend the school in Grade 10 take the CAPT;
- 72 percent of students score proficient or above in reading;
- 69 percent of students score proficient or above in math; and
- 70 percent graduation rate or improvement over the previous school year.

The achievement targets for the Grades 3-8 CMT are:

- 95 percent of students who attend the school in Grades 3-8 take the CMT;
- 68 percent of students score proficient or above in reading;
- 74 percent of students score proficient or above in math; and
- 70 percent of students score basic or above in writing or improvement over the previous year.

Meeting these performance levels for the whole school and for each of the six subgroups, and having at least 95 percent of all students in the district take the test, determines whether a district is identified as not making AYP under NCLB. A district that does not make AYP for two consecutive years is identified as being "in need of improvement."

Meriden has been identified as being "in need of improvement" because:

- Overall, your students did not meet the proficiency rate in reading and math.
- One or more subgroups did not meet the proficiency rate in reading and math.

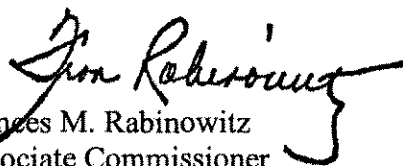
As a result of this identification, the district must develop or revise an improvement plan within the next 3 months. If you are interested in helping to develop this plan, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school.

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The CSDE will support the district improvement process through a comprehensive professional training program. The CSDE will also provide support through telephone technical assistance, periodic site visits and guidance in the development of improvement plans. We are working hard to ensure that all students meet the academic achievement targets in the future. Creating and maintaining a high-quality school district is a job for the entire community and we need your help in reaching our goals. We encourage you to provide your thoughts and advice as we strive to help all of our students succeed now and in the future.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. It is our privilege to continue working with you and your child.

Sincerely,



Frances M. Rabinowitz
Associate Commissioner
Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership

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