

Schenectady City School District

108 Education Drive
Schenectady, NY 12303-1238



◆ BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Foley, President **Katherine Stephens, Vice President**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, (ESEA) a federal law designed to improve education, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is required to inform parents/guardians about their child's school's performance each year.

The school's performance is based on high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. Each school must improve each year until all students meet these standards.

For the 2018-19 school year, your child's school has been designated by the NYSED as a Focus School. This designation alone does not indicate a failing school, but provides a focus on areas for school improvement by principals, teachers, and parents. Identified schools then become eligible for additional support from the District and State as they work to improve teaching and learning, attendance, graduation, or participation in testing.

Under the ESEA, when a school is designated as Focus School by the State, parents have the option of:

- Remaining at the school and actively participating in the school improvement process; or
- Seeking school choice in a school not identified-All our schools in the district are identified, school choice is not an option.

As a Focus School, your child's school must:

- Develop a Comprehensive Improvement Plan for school improvement; and
- Consult with parents and school staff when developing the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plan.

We have worked very hard to improve the academic achievement of all of our students. Through your school's Comprehensive Education Plan, we will be initiating a variety of changes at the district and school levels to support academic achievement. We have demonstrated that the classroom is the most important place in our district, and we are working hard to support our families, teachers, and principals as they improve teaching and learning for all children.

◆ OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Laurence T. Spring
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OFFICE OF PLANNING & ACCOUNTABILITY

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How can parents help their school improve?

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and district to support improvements:

- Assist in the development of the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plan.
- Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available at the following websites: www.emsc.nysed.gov- The NYS Education Department
- www.ed.gov- The US Government of Education
- Talk with school and district staff about the Improvement Plan to help students in meeting the State standards in reading and mathematics
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.

If you have any questions, please call Aaron Bochniak, District Director of Planning & Accountability, at 518-881-3405.