



# Carlisle Public Schools

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 into law. The law calls for sweeping changes in public education. Among these is a new federal requirement that all states and school districts in receipt of Title I assistance must issue annual report cards to parents. The purpose of the report card is to give parents information about their child's school in terms of academic achievement and the professional qualifications of its teachers. By making this information available each year, parents will learn how their school is doing, what its goals are, and what they can do to work more effectively with their teachers and administrators. In addition to sharing good news, the report card helps parents make informed decisions about what to do in the event that their school is determined to be "in need of improvement" based on annual test results, such as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Achievement System (MCAS).

Our school's report card is posted on the Carlisle Public School website, <http://www.carlisle.mec.edu>. The information it contains is divided into three parts.

- Part I: Enrollment Data and Teacher Qualifications
- Part II: School Achievement in Mathematics and Reading
- Part III: School Performance Ratings

Part I provides general enrollment data and information about the qualifications of the teachers on our faculty. The information is divided into two parts: (1) the percentage of teachers who are certified or licensed to teach in Massachusetts and (2) the percentage of classes taught by teachers who are highly qualified in core academic areas such as mathematics, science, reading, history, English language arts, etc. Both pieces of information are intended to help you understand the backgrounds and preparation of the teachers who are working with your child. As you will see, all of the teachers in our school are certified and most are highly qualified. If you would like additional information regarding the professional qualifications of your children's classroom teachers, please contact either principal.

No Child Left Behind requires that test results for reading and mathematics be reported annually. The information contained in Part II summarizes how we performed on the last round of MCAS examinations. The data is broken down by grade level, subject area, and the performances of different subgroups, or learning populations in the school, such as limited English proficiency of students or students with disabilities. This information is similar to what you received about your child's most recent MCAS scores. Now these

data have been combined to provide a snapshot of how the students in our school have performed as a whole.

Part III provides information about how well our school is faring relative to its performance in past years. The “Proficiency Index” (PI) scores for Mathematics and English Language Arts are part of Massachusetts’ School Performance Rating system. This system has been set up to comply with the accountability provisions of No Child Left Behind which require, among other things, that each school make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting a national goal of all students being proficient in mathematics and English by the year 2013-2014. The Proficiency scores and AYP ratings in the student achievement data are meant to signal whether or not our school is on target to meet this goal or whether it has fallen behind and is “in need of improvement.”

The information describing our school’s performance shows that we have made Adequate Yearly Progress for all subjects/grades for 2007. We are, of course, addressing the needs of those students who fell into the “needs improvement” and “warning/failing” categories, and are providing additional assistance. We are not designated “in need of improvement”.

As suggested earlier, the information provided in our report card is designed to give you an update on how well we are doing as we move toward meeting the state and national achievement goals and qualification standards for teachers. But it is also designed to alert you that you have certain choices available in the event that the school is “in need of improvement.” If our school were in need of improvement for three consecutive years, you would be eligible to request additional or supplemental educational services. Such services would allow your child to be tutored after school or participate in classes aimed at boosting academic achievement in mathematics, reading, and language arts. This report card is intended to make certain you are informed of your rights within the new federal law. Under federal law, you would be able to enroll your child in another school within our district; clearly, that is not an option in Carlisle, nor is it an issue, since we have been able to sustain excellent MCAS scores.

In closing, please know that we are prepared to help you further should you have more questions about what this report card means and how you can use it to help you and your child grow stronger academically. Please feel free to call an administrator if we can be of additional assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Marie H. Doyle  
Superintendent