

Dr. Karen L. List, Superintendent of Schools

50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107 Phone: (860) 561-6600



October 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The West Hartford Public School District is tremendously proud of the achievements of your children in the academics, the arts, athletics and the strong commitment of your children to building good character and giving back to the community. Our schools send over 90% of their graduates on to higher education. We have excellent test scores, excellent teachers and a comprehensive curriculum that fosters the highest level of academic achievement from all students. We have award winning programs in the fine and performing arts, a large percentage of students successfully competing at the highest levels of interscholastic sports, and many students involved in a wide range of community service projects. We are truly a high performing school district.

Notwithstanding the above, the tightly prescriptive methodology in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act has identified us as a district in need of improvement, year 5. Our district did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a consequence of the performance of subgroups of students on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). While our overall scores were excellent and met the NCLB standards, the scores of some subgroups of our students were not high enough to meet the NCLB standards.

In response to NCLB results, we have developed a District Improvement Plan (DIP) <http://www.whps.org/board/agenda-documents/20080318/DIP%20WHPS%202007-10%202%2015%2008.pdf> through a collaborative effort with administrators, teachers, and parents. The DIP identifies the core strategies that the district is currently using to raise the performance of our subgroups. I encourage you to read the DIP which is located on the district website. During the course of the year we will be reconvening the DIP Committee, a formal group of administrators, teachers, and parents, to update the plan. We will be glad to share any comments, concerns or questions you may have with the committee. Please direct your thoughts to Donna Nestler-Rusack, Administrator for District Improvement Planning (561-6630).

This letter supplements the attached formal NCLB parental notice from the State that we are a district “in need of improvement.” We have a dedicated and highly qualified staff that is focused on continuous improvement in student performance and are confident that our efforts to improve the performance of the subgroups will succeed in the coming years. We thank you for your continued support of West Hartford Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen L. List".

Karen L. List
Superintendent