



West Seneca Central School District

Mr. Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

March 27, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The West Seneca Central School District is committed to providing its students with the best educational opportunities possible to ensure growth, achievement, and success both now and in the future. Along with our continuous evaluation of how our students work to meet the standards through our programming on a local level, the state evaluates students through its accountability system, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with information related to ESSA and the accountability status for Northwood Elementary School under ESSA.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently released new accountability designations for school districts and individual schools across the state that measure school performance as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. There are a number of indicators used to measure school performance, such as student academic achievement, student growth and school progress, and student attendance, among other criteria. Northwood Elementary School has been identified by NYSED as a "Targeted Support and Improvement" (TSI) school based on the NYS 3-8 ELA and Math assessment data relating to subgroups of students. As a result, the district has also been identified as a "Target District." This designation requires that both NYSED and the District provide focused attention and direct resources to help our schools improve.

There are several steps that will be taken as a result of Northwood Elementary's designation as TSI school, including, but not limited to:

- The District will lead an on-site needs assessment to determine what works well and what needs improvement. Various stakeholders will have the opportunity to take part in this review in order to develop a school comprehensive education plan.
- Once an improvement plan is implemented, it will include at least one school-wide research-based improvement strategy for each building. Teachers and staff from Northwood will take part in professional development to learn how best to implement the strategie(s). Northwood Elementary School will be eligible for funds to support the implementation of the improvement strategies.
- Parents and students will have opportunities to engage in activities that give voice to students and parents.


If the school does not demonstrate improvement, additional actions will be required, and if low-performance persists, our school may be designated as one needing Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), which would involve direct oversight from the New York State Education Department.

We are looking at this designation as a growth opportunity for our school and our district and we are confident that we will see both the progress that we desire and that which is required by this process. It will take the collective and cooperative work of everyone!

We invite you to strengthen your partnership with us in order to ensure that we are providing an excellent education for all students. Please contact the building principal, Mrs. Angela Ferri, or Mrs. Carmelina Persico, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations, should you have any questions or need further information regarding the contents of this letter. Please know that we will continue to keep you informed of our work aimed at improving our school and district.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support of our schools and our students. Together, we are sure to grow and achieve!

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Bystrak