



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Middle School • 1445 Center Road • West Seneca, New York 14224-3292

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Dr. Sharon M. Loughran, Ed.D.
Principal

Mr. Ryan J. MacKellar, M.S.Ed.
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Throughout each school year, we regularly monitor, evaluate, and assess student progress in meeting academic benchmarks and desired outcomes for our students. We review this data and collectively work to make any necessary adjustments that will enhance our instructional program and educational opportunities for our students. Not only do we evaluate our school's progress on a local level, but this is also done at the state level through its accountability system, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information related to ESSA and the accountability status for East Middle School under ESSA.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently released new accountability designations for school districts and individual schools across the state to measure school performance as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. There are numerous indicators used to measure school performance, among which are student academic achievement based on the New York State ELA and Math Assessments, student growth and school progress, and student attendance. East Middle has been identified by NYSED as requiring "Targeted Support and Improvement" (TSI) based on scores from the 2018-2019 school year and reflective of a very small segment of our overall student population. It is important to note that any student opt outs of taking the state assessments are counted as a "1" (on a 1-4 scale) when NYSED calculates building results and school standings.

The intent of this designation is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. Although NYS Assessments were canceled last school year (19-20), we maintain our TSI designation and are therefore required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement.

The comprehensive plan will focus on the following areas:

- Curriculum Development and Support
- District Leadership and Capacity
- Family and Community Engagement
- School Leader Practices and Decisions
- Student Social and Emotional Development
- Teacher Practices and Decisions

We look at this as an opportunity to grow as a learning community and look forward to strengthening our partnership with you in order to ensure that we are providing an excellent educational opportunity for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon M. Loughran
Principal