



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The West Seneca Central School District is committed to providing its students with the best educational opportunities possible in order to ensure their growth, achievement, and success both now and in the future. We constantly evaluate the progress that we are making in meeting the outcomes desired for all students and work to make the necessary adjustments in order to enhance the education of our students. Not only do we evaluate our schools' progress on a local level, but this is also done at the state level through its accountability system, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Thus, the purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with information related to ESSA and the accountability status for East Middle and West Middle Schools 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, among which are student academic achievement, student growth and school progress, student attendance and others. East Middle and West Middle have both been identified by NYSED as "Targeted Support and Improvement" (TSI) schools based on the NYS 3-8 ELA and Math assessment data relating to subgroups of students, which are reflective of a small segment of our overall student population. As a result, the district has also been identified as a "Target District." This designation requires that both the 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 East Middle and West Middle's designation as TSI schools, including, but not limited to:

- The District, alongside a NYSED approved Outside Educational Expert, will lead an on-site needs assessment at both schools 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 improvement plan.
- Once each school plan is approved by the District and the district plan is approved by the state, the improvement plan will be implemented. It will include at least one school-wide research-based improvement strategy for each building. Teachers and staff at both schools will take part in professional development to learn how best to implement the strategies. East Middle and West Middle Schools 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.

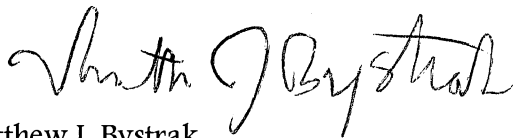
- If the schools do not demonstrate improvement, additional actions will be required, and if low-performance persists, our schools may be placed into Receivership.

We are looking at this designation as a growth opportunity for our schools 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, Mr. David Kean (West Middle), Dr. Sharon Loughran (East Middle), 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 schools.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew J. Bystrak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools