



# West Seneca Central School District

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Jeffrey R. Rabey, Ph.D.

*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

March 11 , 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians of the West Seneca School Community,

Our 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 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, among which are student academic achievement, student growth and school progress, student attendance and others. Northwood Elementary School has been identified by NYSED as "Targeted Support and Improvement" (TSI) school 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 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 School's designation as a TSI school, including, but not limited to:

- The District, alongside a NYSED approved Outside Educational Expert, will lead an on-site needs assessment at the school to determine what is working 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 the school plan (SCEP) is approved by the District and the District plan (DCIP) is approved by the state, the improvement plan will be implemented. It will include at least one school-wide research-based improvement strategy for the building. Teachers and staff at the school will take part in professional development to learn how best to implement the strategies. 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 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, 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 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Jeffrey Rabey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Jeffrey Rabey  
Interim Superintendent of Schools