



Deer Hill School

208 Sohier Street,
Cohasset, MA 02025-1999
781-383-6117

Jennifer deChiara, Ph.D.
Principal

October 24, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to attach/enclose our school "report card." It contains information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how our school is performing relative to other schools, and the progress our school is making toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students. The same report card information for the district as a whole is also available via the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education web site that follows:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/school.aspx?linkid=31&orgcode=00650005&>

Part I: Student Enrollment and Teacher Qualifications

The first section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. If your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds (and Deer Hill does), you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Part II: Student Assessment on MCAS and other tests: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.

Part III: Accountability

The third section of the report card contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 1 because our High Needs Subgroup composed of students whose native language is not English, students with disabilities, students with Title I services, etc. surpassed its target for growth and performance.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is **90**. This means that our school is performing higher than **90%** percent of the elementary schools in the state.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information about what we are doing to improve student achievement or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact me at 781-383-6115.

Sincerely,

Jennifer deChiara, Ph.D.

