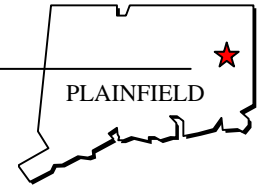




# PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Superintendent of Schools

## **A Message From The Superintendent** **March is State Testing Month**

All schools throughout the state are entering into the State Testing season. During the month of March, students in Grades 3-8 and in Grade 10, are tested in Mathematics, English/Language Arts and Reading and at specific grade levels students are tested in Science. Schools throughout the State as is Plainfield are reviewed for performance based on student achievement on this State testing. The State sets an annual Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goal for schools by grade levels. This target establishes the expectation for schools to provide the quality of instruction so that students can meet proficiency on the state test.

So, what does this mean for parents, teachers, staff and students in Plainfield Public Schools?

To begin with, students in Plainfield schools perform on average with their peers throughout the State. This suggests that the curriculum expectations – what teachers teach – is appropriately aligned to the State expectations. However, student success on State testing, ranges from 70% at certain grade levels to as high as 90% in others. And, more importantly, certain subgroups of students such as those students with economic challenges or with special needs perform lower than the general population. These are the targets for Plainfield schools! We are working to ensure that all students perform with success on State Testing. Each school has a plan to improve student performance on State Testing. These plans were recently reviewed by the Board of Education at its February 8<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Teachers and staff in each school have reviewed student performance on prior State tests and where appropriate are providing extra help and support to these students through reading or math labs, remedial instruction or additional classroom support. In addition, the district as a whole has focused its professional development days on literacy skills and addressing diverse learners. We have reviewed our instructional practices; we have reviewed student achievement; and we have increased our instruction in the areas that are addressed in State Testing.

But the success of our students requires more than better instruction. Students need to feel confident that they can perform on State testing in the same way they perform on regular school testing. And so, I am asking for parent help in reassuring your child that a State test is only one measure of student learning. The more attention we bring to State testing, the more anxious students become when taking the test. Parents and staff need to join to reassure students that when students try their best, the school will present its best. In addition, parents are asked to support their child by providing a good breakfast and a good night sleep each school day.

I am encouraged by both the overall performance of students and the efforts of our staff to improve student success. As superintendent, I am hopeful to help move Plainfield Public Schools from an average performing district to one that leads the State in student achievement.