

Notice Concerning Adequate Yearly Progress and School Improvement

August, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As you may know, in 2013 all Vermont students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 took a standardized test (the New England Common Assessment Program, or "NECAP") in the areas of mathematics and reading. The test is created and scored by the Vermont Agency of Education, and each school is expected to meet performance targets that are set by the state. Those targets, called "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP), apply to all students. This year every student in all schools throughout Vermont need to meet the standard in both mathematics and reading. This includes students with disabilities who take the NECAP.

While the 2013 test results provided encouragement, they also revealed several areas in which our school did not meet all AYP targets. In particular, we did not meet the target for:

- **Students who received free and reduced lunch**
- **Students with disabilities**

Because of this, we are considered to be a school in need of improvement. This status places certain requirements on the school, but it also provides such resources as additional funding and the opportunity to work with a state School Improvement Consultant. As always, we look forward to using all available resources to continue the important work already underway.

Our school on the New England Common Assessment Program the average for the 2013-2014 in reading was 72% of student meeting the standard, while the supervisory union average was 65%. In mathematics, our NECAP average for 2013-2014 was 72%, while the supervisory union average was 58%.

Our school is also required to provide supplemental education services to any students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, no matter how those students performed on the test. In order to receive these services parents must fill the form out for free/reduced lunch. We can offer up to \$2,179.08 per pupil for these services. There are some requirements, such as the fact that the person or organization providing the service must have been approved by the Vermont Agency of Education. Please contact me if you are interested in these services for your child. **The deadline for applying is the end of the day on Friday ,October 10th,** although there will be another opportunity in January.

Some background information: This year is an unusual year with regard to school identification. As of 2014, under the terms of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) the federal government requires *every* student to test as proficient no matter the student's circumstances or disability;

schools are identified as requiring improvement if even one child falls short on the NECAP. As a result, *not one Vermont school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress this year.* (There is a technical exception for the schools that piloted a new standardized test; they did not take the NECAP and so did not receive an AYP determination at all.) This is an unfortunate way to characterize Vermont education, as our state has many excellent schools that happened to fall short on this one unrealistic measure. Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont's Secretary of Education, issued a press release on this subject. You can read it at http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Letter_to_parents_and_caregivers_AOE_8_8_14.pdf.

However, every school has room to improve, and ours is no exception. We take the learning of all students very seriously, and we continue to take steps to support the learning of all students. Our school uses the AIMSweb system to screen all students in various areas of reading and mathematics.

Last year our school implemented a new schedule that provides additional support for students who need more practice to develop their skills in the areas of mathematics and reading. These groups are facilitated by professionals.

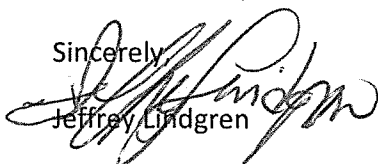
Our school uses the AIMSweb system to screen all students in various areas of reading and math. Students who are not proficient in an area receive extra instruction and support from our teachers. Our school has implemented the Responsive Classroom Model, uses programs **that include Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and Response to Intervention that are supported by the Vermont Agency of Education.**

In addition, steps are being taken by the LNSU administration to further support our schools. Examples include guidance for developing SU-wide curriculum, improving instructional practice and supporting collection and interpretation of student data.

Parents can support their child's academic progress by ensuring their child completes their homework each day, practicing with them on spelling words, math facts and asking questions regarding their school work.

If you would like to know more about this identification process or would like to become involved in our on-going school improvement efforts, please contact me. In the meantime, we continue to be proud of our dedicated staff and the good work they do for children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Lindgren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Principal