



WILLIAM J. JOHNSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

360 Norwich Avenue ♦ Colchester, CT 06415
www.colchesterct.org



Christopher Bennett, Principal
Janet P. Lachmann, Asst. Principal

Phone: 860-537-2313
Fax: 860-537-6258

September 8th, 2009

Dear WJJMS parents/guardians:

In January 2002, the U.S. Congress passed a federal education law called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This federal law requires states to set specific student achievement goals that all schools must meet each year. Achievement goals for Connecticut students are based on the Grade 3-8 Connecticut Mastery Test. For a middle school to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2008-09 school year the law requires:

- 95 percent of students who attend the school in Grades 3-8 take the test;
- 79 percent score proficient or above in reading;
- 82 percent score proficient or above in math; and
- 70 percent score basic or above in writing or percentage at/ above basic improves from previous year.

Schools must meet these goals both as a “whole school” and also within all school “subgroups”, but many schools do not have enough students to constitute a subgroup and are therefore exempt from this standard. WJJMS currently has three subgroups. If a school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is identified as “in need of improvement”. WJJMS as a “whole school” exceeded all of the above AYP targets, with 95% of our students scoring proficient and above in math and 90% in reading, however, we have been identified as “in need of improvement” Year 2 because:

- fewer than 79 percent of our special education “subgroup” scored proficient or above in reading; and
- fewer than 82 percent of our special education “subgroup” scored proficient or above in math.

Our NCLB School Report, which you will receive at a later date, will show how we compare to other schools in our state.

Since WJJMS has been identified as “in need of improvement” under NCLB, we are required to offer Public School Choice. If available, Public School Choice would give you the option to have your child transfer to another school in the district that is not identified as “in need of improvement.” As you know, we do not have another school in our district that serves grades 6-8. For further information regarding Public School Choice, please visit <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/nclb/sip/index.htm>.

Your child may also be eligible to receive supplemental educational services (SES). In accordance with Federal Law, SES is free tutoring that is only available to low income students from schools that are identified as “in need of improvement” under NCLB. These services are offered by state approved providers and occur outside of the regular school day. If your child receives free/reduced lunch, an application for SES is enclosed. If you feel you would meet the qualifications, but have not enrolled for free/reduced lunch, please call us and we will send you an application.

We want you to know that the outstanding staff of WJJMS is working hard to ensure that all of our students meet the state academic goals. To that end, we have developed a rigorous school improvement plan and our teachers and staff are being provided with high quality professional development to help meet our goals. We also have many programs already in place designed to support us in these efforts, including homework clubs, Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI), remediation during workshops, and after school teacher help to name a few.

We encourage you to provide us with input as we strive to help all of our students succeed now and in the future. If you have questions about Public School Choice, SES, or to find out about ways you can get involved with our school, please contact us at (860)537-2313 or cbennett@colchesterct.org. We truly believe parent and community involvement is critical to our success.

Sincerely,
Chris Bennett

Janet P. Lachmann