
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Blandford Chester Huntington Middlefield Montgomery Russell

November 2021

Dear Gateway Families,

I am writing to share Gateway Regional School District's "report card" issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). All public districts have this information posted publicly on DESE's website. It contains information about school and district accountability, achievement, our students and teachers, and other important measures of school performance.

The comprehensive report card can be found online at:

<https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/DistrictReportcard/06720000>

Or by going to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website and searching for the district or school report card.

Some information from the report card for Gateway Regional includes:

- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Typically, DESE assigns each school an accountability rating based on MCAS scores and participation. Due to COVID, these assignments were not complete. However, the middle school is identified as needing targeted support, particularly based on math scores.
- **ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES:** Students at Gateway have more access to arts courses than their peers across the state. An area of potential growth could be engaging high school students in advanced courses that students take--the district is lower than the state average on this measure. There is also room for growth around supporting our 9th grade students in their first year of high school.
- **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE:** Students at Gateway have lower absenteeism and suspension rates, which is likely attributed to the different learning model due to COVID. The district will work to keep these numbers low and ensure students are engaged post-pandemic.

To continue to offer strong programming, support student performance, and improve our areas of growth at Gateway, administration and school staff are:

- Implementing a new math curriculum in grades K-8 that is aligned to the standards and increases student engagement,
- Using the MA educator and administrator evaluation system with specific focus elements around rigorous instruction and student engagement as a part of the process to set high expectations for all,
- Using professional development time to review the state standards and align these expectations to our own practice in the classroom,
- Purposefully creating and reviewing Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention strategies to support students who require assistance,
- Working in partnership with DESE to conduct learning walk throughs,
- Discussing school-wide goals and data during School Council meetings with teachers, families, and community members,
- Reviewing our Program of Studies and working to evaluate and develop programs and course pathways so students have rigorous, engaging and relevant required and elective courses at all levels, and

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- Engaging in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in grades K-12 to provide a framework to improve student outcomes.

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

- Encouraging your child's learning at home including creating a quiet environment for homework completion and talking with them about their learning and assignments,
- Asking classroom teachers if you have questions about the instruction. All teachers have an email address that is their first initial, their last name followed by @grsd.org,
- Attending school-related functions and encourage your child's participation in school events,
- Joining the PTO, Booster Club, School Council, or attend a SEPAC meeting,
- Attending a school committee meeting to check in on what is going on in the school community,
- Talking to other families about the awesome things that are going on at Gateway Regional!

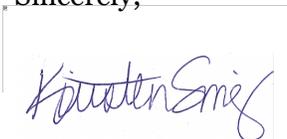
Finally, because Gateway Regional receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- 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 paraeducators and, if so, their qualifications.

Families are invited to contact principals or me to set up an appointment to discuss the contents of this letter and our school report card by calling 413-685-1101 or by emailing [sstewart@grsd.org](mailto:ssewart@grsd.org).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Kristen Smidy, Superintendent