

October 10, 2024

Dear Michael E. Smith Middle School Families,

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our school's report card is available at [02780305 - South Hadley - Michael E. Smith Middle School](#)

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more. Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

You will notice on our report card that we are making growth on our historically lowest performing students in both Math and English Language Arts. Also, decreased chronic absenteeism across all students and met our goals for high need students and students with disabilities. To improve student performance in our school, we are going to work on close reading strategies that support students across all content areas. The goal is to have students breakdown writing prompts into action steps, use textual evidence gathered through close reading, and use a schoolwide writing template.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support. Finally, if your child attends a school that 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, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact your principal, Mr. Luis Martinez. To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit [reportcards.doe.mass.edu](http://reportcards.doe.mass.edu) and choose South Hadley.

Sincerely,

Luis Martinez  
Principal  
Michael E. Smith Middle School