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**Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

March 2026

Dear Members of the Wheatland- Chili Central School District Community,

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District is committed to providing students with the best educational opportunities possible in order to ensure their growth, achievement and success both now and in the future. We constantly evaluate the progress that we are making in meeting the outcomes desired for all students and work to make the necessary adjustments in order to enhance the education of our students. Not only do we evaluate our schools' progress on a local level, but this is also done at the state level through its accountability system, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

In February of 2025, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) released new accountability designations for school districts and individual schools across the state that measure school performance as part of ESSA. There are a number of indicators used to measure school performance, among which are student academic achievement, student growth and school progress, student attendance, graduation results, and other measures. During the 2024-25 school year, Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School was identified by NYSED as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school based on its NYS 3-8 ELA and math assessment results of the state identified subgroup of black students in grades 6-8. The designation required that both NYSED and the District provide focused attention and direct resources to help our schools improve the results of the identified subgroup.

Several steps that were taken as a result of the MS/HS' designation as a TSI school, including, but not limited to:

- The District completed an on-site needs assessment at the school to determine what is working well and what needs improvement. Various stakeholders will have the opportunity to take part in this review to develop a school improvement plan.
- In June of the 2025-26 school year, a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP), was submitted and approved by the District and the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) was approved by the State. During the 2025-26 school year, the improvement plan was implemented. The plan included at least one schoolwide research-based improvement strategy for the building. Throughout the 2025-26 school year, teachers and staff participated in professional development to learn how best to implement the strategies. The MS/HS used state provided funds to support the implementation of the improvement strategies.
- As part of the 2025-26 SCEP plan, parents and students completed surveys and focus groups that gave voice to students and parents.

Although the District experienced significant growth in the achievement of all of our subgroups in the 2025-26 school year, NYSED's accountability rules only allow schools who are eligible to exit their respective support models in the second school year after initial identification or any school year thereafter. As a result, the Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School remains a NYSED as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school for the 2026-27 school year. This means that the District must update the 2025-26 School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP), that it submitted last year. The District's SCEP Team will reconvene to systematically review the District's SCEP Plan and make updates that will directly support student learning and continued growth.

The demographics of our District continue to evolve, as is demonstrated by the substantial increase in numbers of economically disadvantaged students that we educate. We continue to look at this designation as a growth opportunity for our schools and our District, and we are confident that we will see both the progress that we desire and that which is required by this process. It will take the collective and cooperative work of everyone.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Kenny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen J. Kenny, Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Wheatland-Chili Central School District