



MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 37
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Karen G. Burkush
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Thomas J. Brennan, Jr., Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Manchester School District Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Manchester School District has been identified as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI) in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. State and federal school accountability laws require the New Hampshire Department of Education to identify for improvement districts not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years in the same content area in each level existing within the district (elementary/middle and High School). In 2009-2010, the Manchester School District will be entering its fifth year as a District In Need of Improvement. The district is presently in Corrective Action, and this status requires the Manchester School District to work more closely with the NH Department of Education to meet the goal of having all students make Adequate Yearly Progress.

AYP is a measure that all states use to determine if schools and districts are meeting the high expectations for student performance set forth in state and federal accountability law. These expectations include the percent of students participating in the annual state assessment, the percent of students meeting the state performance targets for reading and mathematics, as well as performance targets for attendance and graduation rates.

The district's current AYP reports are available on the New Hampshire Department of Education website at www.ed.state.nh.us

	Elementary/Middle	High School
District AYP Determination		
Met Participation Rate	Y	Y
Met Mathematics Performance Goal	Y (*Safe Harbor)	Y
Met Reading Performance Goal	N	Y
Met Attendance Rate	Y	N/A
Met Graduation Rate	N/A	Y
Made AYP	N	N

*(Even though a group did not meet all performance expectations, it improved enough to be within the "Safe Harbor" range.)

Data has been calculated for all students as well as subgroups of students (i.e., racial and ethnic subgroups, English language learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students). If even one of these groups does not meet their participation rate or performance goal, then the district will not have made AYP.

In 2007-2008, the district did not meet the performance goals for reading and mathematics in Elementary/Middle and High School. This past year (2008-2009), we have worked hard to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment more effectively, and although we did not make AYP, the district as a whole did meet the performance goals for mathematics in Elementary/Middle, and reading and mathematics in High School.


We will continue to work on improving student achievement for all students, and as a district identified for improvement, we have developed a District Improvement Plan in consultation with school and district staff, parents and community members, and the NH Department of Education.

As a parent, you are a critical partner in school and district improvement. Please keep informed of all school and district improvement initiatives. Currently, the district is involved in a variety of improvement initiatives, which are outlined in the District Improvement Plan. Information is available by contacting the Superintendent's office or visiting the District website www.mansd.org. (To find the DINI Plan, go to "District Information," and then "Agreements, Plans and Proposals.")

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An update of the DINI plan is listed below. To offer your support and get involved, please speak to your child's principal to find out what opportunities are available.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Brennan, Jr., Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

District In Need of Improvement Plan Update: June 2009

The District In Need of Improvement plan has three main goals:

- Goal 1: District Leadership and governance will provide an effective organizational structure that supports high achievement for all students.
- Goal 2: Each school will improve literacy and numeracy proficiency achievement on NECAP by 10% annually.
- Goal 3: Effective communication processes will increase understanding and develop collective ownership among staff, parents, students, and community to support high achievement for all students.

The DINI plan outlines a number of activities to achieve these goals. Below are just some of this past year's activities regarding the progress of the DINI Plan:

Goal #1 Enhance the Leadership/Governance Structure to support high achievement for all students

- District's Vision was created and communicated to stakeholders (see www.mansd.org)
- Superintendent created a proposal to realign SAU organization to further enhance effectiveness/efficiency of the district
 - Plan was approved, but is presently tabled due to fiscal constraints
- District provided training to all principals (National Institute of School Leadership) to further strengthen the capacity of school administrators
- Focused Monitoring Group provided training to assist schools in closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities
- District continued to secure and align grant funding to support key goals/initiatives

Goal #2 Improve literacy and numeracy proficiency by 10% annually

- Elementary schools began the first year of implementing the Everyday Math program in PreK-5 to help improve student achievement in math
- Middle schools continued to align curriculum to grade-level expectations for core subjects
- High schools completed over 85% of core competencies for classes to assist student learning
- Reading Specialists and Curriculum Integration Specialists assisted teachers in identifying students' needs and using effective instructional practices
- District-wide assessments were implemented to identify students' needs and help teachers target their instruction more effectively
- "Data Teams" and "Professional Learning Communities" analyzed student data and shared best practices to improve student learning
- DINI Teams (Assessment, Curriculum, Professional Development, and Culture/Climate) met and identified ways to further implement the DINI plan

Goal #3 Improve Communication and Collaboration/Ownership to support high achievement for all students

- District offered a number of activities throughout the year to support parents' involvement with their child's education, and many of these activities specifically addressed the needs of diverse cultures
- Schools began developing Professional Learning Communities to improve communication and collaboration among educators to increase student learning
- District implemented a new Professional Development Plan to further align educators' professional development activities with students' needs and district/school goals
- Schools across the district created/revised mission statements to enhance communication
- District worked with UNH to offer diversity training to staff across the district, and met with state and local community members to identify additional ways to meet the diverse needs of the community