



# Hosmer Elementary School

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Enclosed you will find your child's MCAS scores from last spring. The MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) is a series of standardized tests designed to measure important skills and knowledge in selected academic subjects: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The MCAS has two purposes: the first is to measure individual student performance and make sure that every child has adequate knowledge and skills by the time they graduate from high school; the second is to assess and publicly release school and district performance ratings, holding school systems accountable for student achievement.

There is a lot of information on your test results, including your child's performance level (advanced, proficient, needs improvement, or warning), his or her scaled scores (200 – 280), and a comparison of your child's scores with the average scores of other students in the school, district, and state. This year's scores for current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are also accompanied by a growth score, which represents the state's best early efforts to identify how much student scores have improved over time. If you have questions about your child's MCAS results, please call your child's guidance counselor. You can also go online to the district web site and click on "District Assessment" on the right-hand column for information around your child's scores.

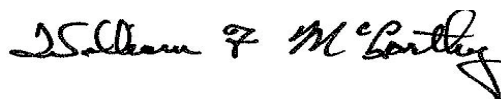
We are pleased to report that our 4<sup>th</sup> grade student growth percentiles have consistently improved over the past 3 years in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. In 2010, 56% of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students scored proficient in English Language Arts compared to 38% in 2008. This indicates an 18% increase in proficiency over 3 years. In Mathematics, 48% of the students reached proficiency in 2010 compared to 36% in 2008. Historically, 4<sup>th</sup> grade scores have dipped at the school, district and state level. We are encouraged to see notable improvement in proficiency at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level for Hosmer students..

Adequate Yearly Progress is an accountability measure under the *No Child Left Behind Act* to determine progress in meeting the national goal for all students to be proficient in Mathematics and English Language Arts by the year 2014. We did not reach our AYP goals in English Language Arts and Mathematics this year. These goals are difficult to attain, get higher each year and we will work hard to meet our AYP goals for all students and all subgroups, in all subjects.

We continue to examine curriculum, teaching practices, student services and enrichment resources to determine how to best educate your children and inspire them toward greatness. MCAS scores are not the sole measure of a student's or a school's achievement level. Yet they are helpful indicators for schools and families alike, highlighting points of strength and need. We look forward to working together with you to ensure that all our children are successful in school.

Sincerely,

  
Anne M. Hardiman

  
William F. McCarthy