



## Westbury Union Free School District

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CONSTANCE R. CLARK, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Community Resident:

Good news is always a pleasure to share.

I am writing to you today to let you know that continuing our upward trend of academic achievement and improvement, three of Westbury's Public Schools have been recognized by the New York State Education Department (SED) as *high performing or rapidly improving*.

Powell's Lane School and Westbury High School were named High Performing Schools by the SED, while Drexel Avenue made the list of Rapidly Improving Schools.

We are extremely proud of our students, who continue to outperform and are being recognized for their academic accomplishments. This distinction is significant not just for our students, who are to be commended, but also for the dedication of the teaching and administrative staff who work so hard to make sure our children are learning, and learning well.

Two other schools in our district, Park Avenue and Dryden Street, are not included in the classification for such recognition because they serve younger children, pre-kindergarten through second grade, and are not subject to state testing. The high quality educational programs at those schools are preparing children to become good learners with an emphasis on language arts, and key development paths in cognitive, ethical, psychological, social and physical learning.

While Westbury is a district in "good academic standing," and all schools meeting the state's academic requirements, Westbury Middle School, recognized by the University at Albany as a "Best Practices" school, continues to show vast improvements in English Language Arts and math scores. We have set aggressive goals for the school to continue its academic progress and pledge to provide the students and staff with the tools needed to be included on the list of rapidly improving or high performing schools next time. We are confident that in a very short period of time Westbury Middle School will also be on the list and we remain committed to ensuring that our middle school students will accomplish that.

The recent SED announcement is consistent with the increased academic strides we continue to make each day, which include marked improvements in test scores in English Language Arts and mathematics across all grades. The district's graduation rate of 84 percent is well above the state average with 90 percent of graduates continuing their education at two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Please join me in congratulating all of our students for this wonderful accomplishment, which not only proves they can succeed given the chance, but for also making our community stand out as one that provides the best possible educational opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

Constance R. Clark, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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