



# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Parent Notification

September 22, 2011

Dear Parents,

In March 2011, the Vermont Department of Education identified the Colchester School District as a district in need of improvement. This was based on student performance on state assessments from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) in **Mathematics** and **Reading** taken in the fall of 2010 under No Child Left Behind. Specially, Colchester School District did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Math and Reading in the subcategory for All Students, Free/Reduced Lunch Students, and Students with Disabilities and White Students.

It is important to note that Malletts Bay School (Year 1-Corrective Action Status) and Colchester Middle School (Year 1-School Improvement Status) were specially identified as not meeting the requirements under the School Accountability System based on student performance. Porters Point School and Union Memorial School consistently meet the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress assessed at the beginning of grade 3. Colchester High School was one of only a few schools in Chittenden County and Vermont to make AYP based on performance levels in grade 11. As the bar for performance levels continue to rise, I expect that more districts will be identified under the requirements for AYP. As a reference only 84 schools made AYP in Vermont for 2011.

As a result of this action, the district is required to provide officials in the Vermont Department of Education with regular reports documenting the performance of students on local assessments related to math and reading. In addition, the district will provide teachers with strategies to address the needs of struggling learners. This may include new programs, remedial instruction, small group instruction and/or other professional development opportunities. While our overall scores are well above the state average and requirements for AYP, we need to address the needs of students who are not achieving the standards. Over the course of this school year the state will provide our district with technical assistance to help support our improvement efforts. Each school is responsible for developing an “action plan” outlining their strategies.

As we begin to plan for the upcoming NECAP’s, please contact your child’s teacher and/or principal to determine ways you can support your child’s efforts and learning needs. Please look for information in the next several weeks from your child’s teacher outlining their testing schedule and plans. If you have any questions regarding the identification status by the state, please feel free to contact the building principal or me.

Respectfully,

Larry Waters  
Superintendent of Schools