

WAPPINGERS

Central School District



Tri-State
Consortium

Member

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MARCO POCHINTESTA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Middle States Association
of Colleges and Schools

Member

March 21, 2014

Dear Parents,

A number of questions and concerns have been raised and shared with our offices related to various topics that are important to our District, such as the budget, Common Core State Standards, a potential school closing, as well as the potential re-zoning of schools.

The issue of a potential school closing and rezoning of schools is associated with the [report presented](#) to the Board of Education at their meeting of March 10, 2014. In addition to the report the District Facilities Advisory Committee made several recommendations regarding a school closing and re-zoning. [The full report can be found on our homepage](#). The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on March 31, 2014 to allow the community to share their views and comment on the recommendations and report.

A question has arisen regarding the relationship between student participation in assessments and the continued implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). There is a mistaken understanding that when ten percent or more of the students in a district refuse the CCSS tests in grades 3-8 that district will no longer have to implement or be adherent to the CCSS. As has been pointed out before there are consequences for the District for a less than 95% participation rate in state assessments. That consequence is not the removal of CCSS. Rather it is an accountability issue for the District with the New York State Education Department.

Another question asked about the implementation of the CCSS has to do with its impact on the rights of special education students. The answer is that the CCSS cannot infringe upon the rights of students with disabilities to have the appropriate supports needed to access the curriculum as required by federal and state law.

A final question encountered this week is whether or not CCSS implementation prevents a district from offering challenging courses in mathematics that go beyond the level of Algebra. The answer is that the CCSS does not prohibit or impede school districts from offering challenging courses in mathematics or in any other areas of the curriculum.

Lastly, the District will continue to take up the important discussion of the budget in the weeks ahead. We anticipate having an accurate accounting of our District's state aid allocation by April 1, 2014. This information is critically important to our process of budget development. Our parents and school community members are encouraged to attend meetings of the board of education. Please check our homepage to see current budget information.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta