



Sodus Central School District
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“Committed to Excellence and Dedicated to Success”

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March 18, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of Sodus Intermediate School Students:

The purpose for this letter is to inform you that Sodus Intermediate School has been designated as a Focus School by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

What is a Focus School?

As New York State officials analyze test data for New York schools using revised procedures, certain indicators help to determine which schools will receive priority for helping all students to perform at standard. The Focus School designation requires that we follow a specific set of procedures for addressing achievement levels of students at Sodus Intermediate School.

How was Sodus Intermediate School identified as a Focus School?

Sodus Intermediate School was identified as a Focus School for the performance of the African American/Black students on the combined 2013-14 and 2014-15 New York State ELA and mathematics assessments.

What does this mean for you?

We will continue to create new opportunities for all Sodus Intermediate School parents to be engaged as partners in supporting student learning.

On April 20, 2016, a parent focus group is scheduled from 1:15-2:00 in the Board of Education Conference Room. Child care and a translator will be available as needed. Please contact Dr. Lloyd at 483-5242 or elloyd@soduscsd.org if you are able to attend this opportunity.

The purpose of this meeting is to interview families to learn families' perceptions of how they are received, included and encouraged to partner with the school community for the betterment of their children's development, learning, and achievement. Schools that are identified for specific subgroups should ensure representation of that subgroup participate in the meeting.

Again, please contact Dr. Lloyd if you are able to attend this focus group.

What are the next steps?

New York State requires the District to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Improvement.

This planning will involve the following:

- Analysis of test data
- Strategies for addressing gaps in achievement
- Training for teachers in the area of teaching of reading, writing, math skills, and addressing the needs of all learners

I would like to assure you that the Sodus Intermediate School staff and administrators are working to support our students' learning in order to meet requirements for graduation. Sodus Intermediate School is an outstanding place for students to learn and grow, and I am confident that we will see improvement in New York State assessment scores.

Throughout the year, the teaching staff and administration will be sharing information with you on ways that you can support your child's school performance. If you have any questions, please call me at (315) 483-5201.

Respectfully,

Martin Cox
Superintendent of Schools

Nurtured by the influence of a diverse community, our district is committed to the success of every student. We will support our students in developing the skills and strategies needed to achieve academic excellence and to become respectful, responsible, kind citizens of a global society. We are dedicated to sustaining an environment that fosters a joy for life and continued learning.

