



September, 2011

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents/Guardians of Matthew Thornton Elementary School,

I am writing to inform you that Matthew Thornton Elementary School have been identified by the Department of Education as a "School in Need of Improvement (SINI)", Corrective Action Phase, in the area Special Education Math and Reading (Matthew Thornton, Year 2 Reading, Year 3 Mathematics). This notice will also describe the school choice option that is mandated by the federal government and our plans for improved performance for all children.

In January of 2002, President Bush signed a new education law called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The long range goal of NCLB is that every child will be proficient in reading and mathematics according to a state's academic standards. North, South and Matthew Thornton Elementary School's have not made the state target goal in special education which is why we have been identified as a school in need of improvement – corrective action.

However, in reading, our elementary school index has been higher than 90% (based on 100%) over the last five years and in math our elementary school index has been higher than 85% over the last five years. Where our schools have struggled is under the students with disabilities category. The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires students with disabilities to meet the same target indices as their non-handicapped peers. Our educational disabilities index averaged 73% in reading and 65% in mathematics. These scores are similar to the scores of many of our surrounding schools.

To address these areas of concern, we have, during the last few years, developed a tiered approach to the instruction for our reading and math students. We have also implemented new research based reading and math programs for both regular education students and students with educational disabilities. We have also worked to reduce student/teacher ratio and offer more direct instruction to our struggling students. Matthew Thornton School's Response to Intervention Teams (RTI) actively provides appropriate individualized RTI plans for struggling students. Matthew Thornton Elementary School has developed a SINI plan which has been submitted to the Department of Education and is available on our school web site.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, each Title 1 school identified as a "School in Need of Improvement"- Corrective Action is required to provide public school choice. However, all three of Londonderry's elementary schools are designated as SINI schools thus school choice is not an option.

Our school is working closely with district and NH Department of Education representatives to be able to identify key areas for improvement. As a parent, you are also a critical partner in school improvement. All of us working together will ensure the development of a successful improvement plan and improve the quality of the education we provide to all our students. If you are interested in helping in the improvement process, please contact your child's building principal. I look forward to working with you to provide opportunities for success for each of our students.

Respectfully,

Andrew F. Corey,
Assistant Superintendent of Schools



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Reading

School Name/State	Percent of Students Substantially Below Proficient	Percent of Students Partially Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient with Distinction	AYP Status in 2010-2011
NH (Grades 3-6)	6	14	63	17	
North Elementary	6	14	63	18	Did not make AYP
Matthew Thornton	3	15	65	18	Did not make AYP
South Elementary	4	18	60	18	Did not make AYP

MATHEMATICS

School Name/State	Percent of Students Substantially Below Proficient	Percent of Students Partially Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient	Percent of Students Proficient with Distinction	AYP Status in 2010-2011
NH (Grades 3-6)	8	16	48	28	
North Elementary	11	22	44	23	Made AYP
Matthew Thornton	8	14	47	31	Did not make AYP
South Elementary	10	16	46	28	Did not make AYP