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Underwood School

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to enclose a 3-page overview of our school's 2015 "report card". Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students.

The 2015 complete school report card for Underwood can be accessed at:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=37&orgcode=02070115&fycode=2015&orgtypecode=6&>

In this report, you will find the following important information about our school:

Student enrollment and teacher quality: This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. If your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

At Underwood, 100% of teachers are licensed in their teaching assignments and 100% of core academic classes are taught by highly qualified teachers.

Assessment results: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.

School and district accountability information: This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and the lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 2 because our All Students group and our High Needs Students group did not meet their 2015 targets for narrowing proficiency gaps.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is 72. This means that our school is performing higher than 72 percent of the grades K-5 elementary schools in the state.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

To improve student achievement in our school, we are continuing to focus on our work in collaborative teams. Our increasingly diverse student population has required the staff to refine our practice to best meet the needs of all learners. Our literacy coach and math coach support this work. They meet with teachers regularly to determine essential learning outcomes for each grade level, plan whole group differentiated instruction, and identify interventions for students who are below benchmark. With Title 1 funds, we were able to hire a highly qualified teacher this year to provide additional literacy intervention at all grade levels. We are increasing our ability to use data and have started to implement the Data Wise improvement process to improve teaching and learning at Underwood.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

Newton's district overview and complete report card can be accessed online at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/districtreportcardoverview2015.aspx?linkid=106&orgcode=02070000&fycode=2015&orgtypecode=5&> and <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=38&orgcode=02070000&fycode=2015&orgtypecode=5&>, as well as on the district website. Print copies can be viewed at our school office, the Superintendent's office, Newton City Hall, or the Newton Main Library.

For more information about our school's report card, please feel free to contact us at 617-559-9660.

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen M. Smith
Principal