



November 17, 2014

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Dear Emerson-Gridley Elementary School Families:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) this month released School Performance Profile (SPP) data for all 3,200 traditional, charter, cyber and technical schools in the state. The School Performance Profile provides schools and communities with an important tool to help inform goal setting, planning and resource allocation to improve student achievement.

Emerson-Gridley's School Performance Profile is available on our school website: <http://www.eriesd.org/gridley>

The School Performance Profile utilizes many data points to measure our school's academic strengths and weaknesses. While we receive an overall score, the data also allows us to both acknowledge our strengths and use the profile as a tool for continuous improvement.

I want to first of all congratulate our students, families and staff as Emerson-Gridley's SPP score increased 25% over last year — from a 50.6 to a 63.5. While 15 schools in the City posted gains, our school's increase was the most significant.

PDE uses four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate Title I schools as either *Reward – High Achievement*, *Reward – High Progress*, *Focus* or *Priority*. The four objectives include test participation rate; attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for historically underperforming students.

Our School's Title I Designation: Focus

Despite our performance increase, based on the achievement levels of our students back in the 2012-2013 school year, Emerson-Gridley was designated as a *Focus* school and will keep this designation for the next three years. We are now in year two (2) of that designation. *Focus* schools are among the lowest 10% of Title I schools across Pennsylvania, based on the AMOs outlined above.

Our School's Success Plan

As a *Focus* school, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community, state education experts and the district's academic support teams to develop a school improvement plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of improving the performance of our students. This work also aligns with our district's goal of continuous improvement of teaching and learning.

Our school success plan will focus on seven key areas:

- *Strengthening and supporting school leadership;*
- *Ensuring teachers are effective and able to improve instruction;*

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- *Optimizing the school day to maximize time for student learning and teacher collaboration;*
- *Strengthening the school's instructional program based on student needs and ensuring that the instructional program is research-based, rigorous and aligned with state academic content standards;*
- *Using data to inform classroom instruction and for continuous improvement, including providing time for collaboration on the use of data;*
- *Establishing a school environment that improves school safety and discipline and addresses other non-academic factors that impact student achievement, such as students' social, emotional and health needs; and*
- *Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.*

How You Can Help

An important part of the success plan for our school is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope that your family will commit to becoming even more involved in our school improvement initiatives as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations for our students.

If you are interested in helping us shape our school success initiatives, please contact me at 814-874-6450 or fmir@eriesd.org

Thank you for all that you do to support Emerson-Gridley.

Sincerely,

Fabienne Mir
Principal