

# Rollinsford Grade School

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Dear Rollinsford Grade School Parent:

Rollinsford Grade School has made great improvements since being identified as a district in need of improvement. Last year our whole school reading score went up by 3%. Our special education group went up 20% in reading. These are significant increases that we are very proud of. These increases helped us meet the state goal required for reading. However RGS needs one more year of improvements in our reading scores to no longer be deemed a district in need of improvement.

RGS will also be facing a new challenge. RGS has been identified as a single school district in need of improvement in the area of math. State and federal school and district accountability laws<sup>1</sup> require the New Hampshire Department of Education to identify for improvement districts not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years in the same content area. For the past two years RGS has not made AYP in math and now must develop a plan for improvement. This will be a challenging as well as exciting time for all of us. Together we will improve our school, community, and better meet the needs of our students. It is never pleasant to be told you need to improve, however this is an opportunity to reflect on and improve our instruction which will make this great school even better.

AYP is a measure that all states use to determine if schools and districts are meeting the high expectations for student performance set forth in state and federal accountability laws. Areas in which AYP is calculated include the rate of student participation in the annual state assessment, the extent to which students in general and students in specific groups are meeting the state performance targets for reading and mathematics, and the district's attendance and graduation rates.

The district's AYP report measures student performance for all students in the grades tested as a group, as well as subgroups of students (i.e. racial and ethnic groups, English language learners, students with educational disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students). If even one of these groups does not meet this goal, or performance target, then the district will not have made AYP.

Based on a review of the district's performance data in the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years, our district was identified for improvement. The district's current AYP status is district in need of

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<sup>1</sup> Section 6316 (c) of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110) and New Hampshire RSA 193-H

improvement. The district's AYP reports are available on the New Hampshire Department of Education website at [www.ed.state.nh.us](http://www.ed.state.nh.us).

As a district identified for improvement, our district must develop an Improvement Plan in consultation with school staff and parents. Over the summer a team made up of teachers, staff, parents, and administration met to identify areas to focus our improvement goals and strategies to address the needs of our students. This is an opportunity to reassess where we are at as a school and community. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue the great work that is happening at RGS and identify areas on which to focus our improvement efforts.

District/School AYP Determination		<b>School</b>
	<b>Met Participation Goal</b>	<b>Yes</b>
	Met Mathematics Goal	<b>No</b>
	Met Reading Goal	<b>Yes</b>
	Met Attendance Rate	<b>Yes</b>
	Met Graduation Rate	<b>Yes</b>
	<b>Made AYP</b>	<b>No</b>

As a parent, you are a critical partner in school and district improvement goals. Please keep informed about all school and district improvement initiatives. Currently, the district is involved in numerous improvement initiatives. These initiatives will promote reading and math in the classroom and at home. We will be reviewing our reading and math curricula and identifying ways to better meet the needs of our students. Our teachers and staff will be participating in many professional development opportunities with a focus of improving instruction. Information about our initiatives is available by contacting the Superintendent/SAU office or on the school website [www.rollinsford.k12.nh.us](http://www.rollinsford.k12.nh.us). To offer your support and get involved please contact RGS to find out what opportunities are available.

As we design and implement our improvement strategies, we will collaborate with the New Hampshire Department of Education. We are proud of our ongoing partnerships within our community to improve student achievement. Together, we will work to provide opportunities for success for each student in our district.

Sincerely,

Bill Furbush