

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dr. Thomas P. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools

September 16, 2013

Dear School Community Member,

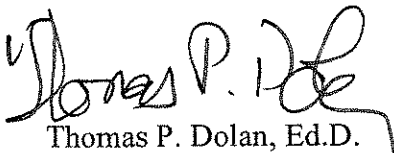
I write to you today with two important messages, both related to the state testing regimen to which we are all subject.

The first item is related to how parents will learn of their child's performance on last year's New York State assessments. Each year, since the inception of these assessments, we have advised parents about their child's performance by way of a letter that has been prepared for mailing by BOCES based on data received from the state. Normally, these letters are delivered to parents within the first few days of school, but issues beyond our control have delayed their release. We have been informed that your child's individual letter will be mailed within two weeks. In light of this delay, access to spring 2013 state assessment scale scores (for children now in grades 4 - 9) will be available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal on Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

The second topic that I would like to address is the New York State designated accountability status of the John F. Kennedy School, one of our District's elementary schools. Let me start by assuring everyone that the John F. Kennedy School is a school in good standing according to the state. In fact, the school, its staff and administration appear to have done very well on the spring 2013 assessments. However, the state has determined that due to the performance of a small sub-group of students at the school on the ELA assessments administered in April 2012 (not last year, but the year before), the school has been asked to develop a plan to assist those students. This plan is called a Local Assistance Plan and we are obligated to prepare it this year. We were aware the performance of this small sub-group in the fall of 2012 and we believe we have already remedied the situation to a large degree. As everyone at JFK knows, considerable resources were provided to these students (and all students, in fact) at JFK last year, and our efforts were well received by that school community. We will comply with the state's requirement for a Local Assistance Plan to memorialize our efforts, but please know that school is in good standing, as is the District. I am very proud of our achievements.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our students.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Dolan, Ed.D.
TPD:kk