



# SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS

Keane Administrative Offices  
1252 Albany Street, Schenectady, New York 12304  
Phone (518) 881-3405 • Fax (518) 881-3409

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine A. Lewis, President  
Ronald C. Lindsay, Vice President

Andrew T. Chestnut  
Gary A. Farkas  
Diane Herrmann  
Cheryl Nechamen  
Ann M. Reilly

## *Over 150 Years of Excellence in Education*

## Office of Planning & Accountability

Lori McKenna, District Director  
Linda Lombardi, Assistant Director  
Karen Swain, Supervisor  
Suzanne DeWald, Development Officer  
David Hoag, Compliance Officer

October 5, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students at Hamilton Elementary School:

According to The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, a federal law designed to improve education, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is required to inform parents/guardians about the school's performance each year.

This afternoon, the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department released a list of New York Schools that have been identified as Schools in Need of Improvement. For the 2011-12 school year, your child's school has been designated by the NYSED as a School in Need of Improvement for English-Language Arts.

The school's performance is based on high academic standards for what a child should know and be able to do for all grades in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. Each school must improve each year until all students meet these standards. The goal of NCLB is to have every student performing at grade level by 2014.

This designation alone does not indicate a failing school, but provides a focus on areas for school improvement by principals, teachers, and parents. Identified schools then become eligible for additional support from the District and State as they work to improve teaching and learning, attendance, graduation, or participation in testing.

As a School in Need of Improvement, the school must:

- Offer after-school tutoring to students who qualify. If your child qualifies, a packet will be mailed home this week.
- Consult with parents and school staff when developing the School Improvement Plan.

We have worked very hard to improve the academic achievement of all of our students, and are initiating a variety of changes at the district and school level to support academic achievement.

We have demonstrated that the classroom is the most important place in our district, and we are working hard to support our families, teachers, and principals as they improve teaching and learning for all children.

If you need assistance or have questions, please call me, the District Director for Planning and Accountability @ 518-881-3405 or your child's principal, Mrs. VanDerLinden, @ 518- 881-3720.

Sincerely,

Lori A. McKenna  
District Director for Planning and Accountability