

October 30, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), districts receiving federal Title I, Part A funds must provide all parents/guardians of enrolled students with the annual accountability information for their child's school. The 2014 accountability information for Gill Elementary School is included below.

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the schools that are meeting their gap-narrowing goals in Level 1 and the lowest performing schools in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 1 because we are meeting gap narrowing goals.
- **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 78. This means that our school is performing higher than 78 percent of the elementary schools in the state. This also represents a 12% increase over last year.
- **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. All districts, schools, and student subgroups receive an annual PPI based on improvement over a two-year period and a cumulative PPI (shown below) between 0 and 100 based on four years of data. 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. The table below provides the cumulative PPI for our students:

Student group	2014 Cumulative PPI
All students	97

We, at Gill Elementary School, are proud of our academic achievement. To continue to improve student achievement in our school, we are focusing this year on improving reading and writing skills. We have adopted a new research based writing program that has students practicing writing every day. In addition, we have adopted a research based phonics intervention program for grades K-2 that will help give our students a strong foundation in reading skills for the grades ahead. We continue to provide professional development to teachers on helping students to improve their reading and writing as well as ways to improve instruction in mathematics. The new district strategic plan emphasizes additional training and support for teachers, the promotion of critical thinking skills, plus the updating and alignment of curriculum maps and assessments with instruction.

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

For more information about what we are doing to foster student achievement, please feel free to contact us at (413) 863-3255, by email via [kathleen.bailer@gmrdsd.org](mailto:kathleen.bailer@gmrdsd.org) or in person any time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bailer, Principal