

August 17, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In January 2002, the U.S. Congress passed a federal education law called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The federal law requires states to set specific student achievement goals that all schools must meet each year. Achievement goals for Connecticut students are based on the Grade 3-8, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the goals increase each year. For an elementary or middle school to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2010-11 school year the law requires:

- 95 percent of students who attend the school in Grade 3-8 take the test;
- 89 percent score proficient or above in reading;
- 91 percent score proficient or above in math

G.H. Robertson School did make AYP in mathematics; in fact our reported percentage of students at or above proficient for the whole school in mathematics was 96.3%. However, we scored a bit below the necessary standard for reading in the following subgroups.

- Whole school (86.7%)
- White (87.3%)
- Economically Disadvantaged (79.3%)

Based on our reading scores, G.H. Robertson School has been identified as a school “in need of improvement”. Please know that the majority of students who did not make the standard of “proficient” in reading were already receiving learning interventions and making progress. We will continue to work with our students who need additional assistance with their learning.

Normally, as a result of this identification, parents/guardians would be able to apply to have their children transferred to another school in the district that serves children in Grades 3-5 and is not identified as “in need of improvement.” Because no other school in our district has the same grade levels, we are directed to consult with surrounding towns. However, currently there are not any surrounding districts that have made their schools available to us. We are now required to develop a waiting list of parents who wish to request a transfer, should this option become available. Please contact me directly if you want to have your child placed on the waiting list.

If you do not transfer your child to another school, your child may be eligible to receive supplemental educational services (SES). SES is free tutoring that is available to **low income** students from schools that are identified as “in need of improvement” under NCLB. These services are offered by state approved providers and occur outside of the regular school day. If

you would like your child to be considered for free tutoring during the 2011-12 school year, please contact me as soon as possible. If you have questions about Public School Choice or SES, please contact me at 860-742-7341 or thopkins@coventryct.org.

Please know that we will continue to work extremely hard to ensure that all students meet the NCLB academic goals in the future. We have developed a rigorous school improvement plan, and we are being provided with high quality training. The Connecticut State Department of Education will support our district's improvement process through a comprehensive professional development program that will involve and engage all faculty and staff at the G. H. Robertson Intermediate School.

We encourage you to provide input as we strive to help all of our students succeed now and in the future. To find out about ways you can get involved with our school, or if you have any questions, please contact me at 860-742-7341.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. It continues to be our privilege working with you and your children.

Sincerely,

Troy Hopkins
Principal