

Robert K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School
498 Ryan Road
Florence, MA 01062
413-587-1550

February 22, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am pleased to enclose RKF Ryan Road's "report card" for the 2020-2021 school year, which is based on the most recent data provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students. The full school report card can be found here

<https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/02100029>

Please note that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not issue school, district, or state accountability determinations for the 2019-20 school year due to the cancellation of the state assessments and school closures related to COVID-19. Therefore, the progress towards improvement targets and accountability percentiles represents determinations from 2019.

In this report you will find the following important information about our school:

Student assessment on MCAS and other tests: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.

School and district accountability information: This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

1. **Progress Toward Improvement Targets:** Massachusetts sets annual improvement targets for every district and school. Targets are set for achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Districts and schools with a target percentage of 75% or higher are considered to be meeting or exceeding targets. Our school is at 68% which means that we are making substantial progress toward targets for most accountability measures—but need to continue to improve student achievement.
2. **Accountability Percentiles:** Accountability percentiles (1-99) indicate how a school is performing overall compared to other schools that administer similar MCAS tests. They are calculated by combining information related to achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Schools with higher percentiles are generally higher performing, and schools with lower percentiles are generally lower performing. Our school percentile this year is 63%. This means that overall, our school performs better than 62% of elementary and middle schools statewide.
3. **Overall Classification:** Massachusetts uses information related to progress toward improvement targets, accountability percentiles, graduation rates, and MCAS participation rates to determine each district and school's overall classification. Most districts and schools are

placed into two categories: those that require assistance or intervention from the state, and those that do not require assistance or intervention. Our school has been placed in the “not requiring assistance or intervention” because we have made substantial progress toward our targets.

Our work is not done and the goal for Ryan Road and for all public schools is student growth.

To improve student achievement in our school, we have undertaken several initiatives and strategies:

- We embrace Responsive Classroom school wide emphasizing academic, social and emotional growth consistently, which has resulted in fewer major disciplinary episodes and office referrals and created a respectful learning community
- Created an Instructional Leadership/Data team to schedule students’ screenings and analyze student data to drive and refine instructional practices.
- Adopted the district’s R.T.I. (intervention) model and utilized the data to pinpoint student need and allocate resources
- Increased our collection of anti-bias literature and are discussing ways to better integrate these resources into our school community.
- Developed a new Social Studies Curriculum around the State History and Social Science Framework recently published by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Provided quality professional development to faculty and staff
- Increased access to technology for students and training in its use for teachers
- Streamlined our Student Service Team to better serve students and teachers

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can are:

- Encouraging and supporting your child’s learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special school events
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Becoming a part of the PTO or School Council
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information about our school’s report card or to request information about the qualifications of your child’s classroom teachers, please feel free to contact the school’s office if you have questions. Also, you may consult the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu>.

Sincerely,

Sarah Madden, Principal