



# Middletown Public Schools

Michael J. Frechette, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

---

August 22, 2008

To all professional staff:

Congratulations and thank you. Your support of our students' improved learning this past year, especially your effort to improve reading skills, has resulted in the following:

- a 4.75% district-wide improvement in CMT reading
- a 1.6 % district-wide improvement in CMT math
- a 2.6% district-wide improvement in CMT writing
- significant decreases in achievement gaps between overall and subgroups on both the CMTs and CAPTs

Here are just two highlights (principals will share more information when you return):

- Lawrence Elementary (our demonstration school, cited as needing improvement, 2007-08)) achieved AYP.
- Macdonough Elementary, our most economically challenged school, achieved safe harbor for the second year in a row

The big news, however, is this: The Middletown School District, identified last year as being in year four of needing improvement, has achieved safe harbor. The district reduced the percent of students failing to meet proficiency in math, reading, and writing by over 10%... in one year.

Keep in mind that the proficiency standards for CMT and CAPT increased this year:

- from 74% to 82% in math and from 68% to 79% in reading (CMTs)
- from 69% to 80% in math and 72% to 81% in reading (CAPTs)

It is particularly heartening to look at comparative data; for instance, CMT matched cohorts (the same students over two years) posted a 7% gain in reading and a 4% gain math. Again, you accomplished this in one year.

The 2008-09 year will be a challenging one. The district and many of its schools are still in need of improvement. We know that implementing effective data teams, prioritizing standards, coordinating instructional efforts takes time and work. But we have made substantial progress, and the revised schedules in all schools to support more frequent and focused instructional collaboration will help us continue to support optimal learning and improved achievement for all of our students.

Again, thank you. We look forward to welcoming you back on September 2.

*Superintendent Michael J. Frechette*  
*Director of Pupil Services Ann Perzan*

*Assistant Superintendent Barbara Senges*  
*Assistant Superintendent John Hennelly*