

November 8, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires that schools share certain information with Parents and Guardians each year. This includes our teacher qualifications, our “NCLB Report Card”, and our Accountability Status.

First, I am very pleased to report that we have achieved a “Level One” Accountability Status again this year. We announced this a few weeks ago when our MCAS scores were released. Level One is the highest of five levels and reflects significant student achievement as well as significant student growth in the aggregate as well as in identifiable sub-groups. Salem Academy achieved a 90 Progress and Performance Index (PPI) for all students, and 92 PPI for High Needs, 87 for Low Income, 89 for Hispanic students, and 84 for white students.

Our NCLB Report card was released in late October. This report includes extensive details on enrollment and teacher qualifications, MCAS tests, and accountability measures. It is available on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education web site in the category titled “School and District Profiles.”

I am pleased also to report that 100% of Salem Academy Charter School teachers meet or exceed NCLB Highly Qualified standards. In addition to this competency, 66% have advanced degrees, and they have an average of 7.3 years teaching experience. Under the law, parents and guardians may request the following information about the qualifications of their children’s teachers:

- Whether your child’s teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your child’s teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver through which the State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of your child’s teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field or discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Finally, the most comprehensive report on Salem Academy Charter School is our 32 page 2013-2014 Annual Report. This is posted on our school’s web site. It is also available in hard copy at the school’s front desk by request. Our teacher’s profiles are also included on our website.

As we begin our 11th Year, we are proud of the school’s accomplishments over the past several years, and we extend thanks to you for entrusting your children to our care.

Sincerely,

Sean D. O’Neil
Executive Director