

# NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of Curriculum & Instruction

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Dear North Tonawanda City School District Parents/Guardians:

Enclosed are your child's spring 2013 results for the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Assessments. Please take the time to review the information within these reports. However, please be aware that the 2013 assessments were based on the new Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and are reflective of the rigor that New York State has adopted in their new standards.

Prior to the recent release of the scores, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) forewarned all districts in New York State (NYS) that the scores for content proficiency (levels 3 and 4) would drop approximately 30%. The drop in scores has established a new foundational benchmark of achievement. Districts' results across New York State in 2013 are significantly lower than results in previous years. The following chart compares the change in student achievement between 2011 – 2012 and 2012 – 2013.

<b>New York State Assessments Grades 3 – 8 Overview of North Tonawanda Results</b>					
<b>Results are Proficiency Percentages for the District (Students scoring 3 &amp; 4)</b>					
<b>ELA</b>	<b>2011 – 2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Grade 3	49.42	22.85	Grade 3	63.53	27.35
Grade 4	60.61	27.93	Grade 4	68.92	39.37
Grade 5	55.56	30.13	Grade 5	69.47	35.58
Grade 6	58.6	24.63	Grade 6	68.29	31.23
Grade 7	43.77	23.6	Grade 7	67.52	21.24
Grade 8	50.37	31.1	Grade 8	51.47	15.4

The change in performance is due to the higher expectations demanded by the CCLS. In addition, a more rigorous rubric was used to score which focused on measuring whether students are on track for college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school. The “raising of the bar” has required all member of our school community to quickly adapt to the rigors of common core.

Throughout the process of implementation of the CCLS, the teachers and administration have worked tirelessly to align units of study, and create assessments which are rigorous and uphold the integrity of the standards set now by NYS. For the past several years, our priority has been aligning work, creating assessments, and focusing on data to drive instruction and readjust instructional planning as needed. The State Assessment results are just one data point used to measure the growth a child makes throughout a year. Additional data is collected and reflected on regularly.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal/teacher. You may also visit [engageny.org](http://engageny.org) to learn more about the CCLS, assessment questions, and changes demanded by NYS.