

## December 2008

### Our School

- K1 Early Childhood program
- Math game nights to involve parents with math
- Seven hour instructional day
- Pilot elementary site for Read 180 program
- Updated playground with math graphics
- Sheltered English Instruction Program
- Birdstreet Afterschool Program
- First in Math

Uniform Policy: Voluntary - School uniform colors are navy blue and white, e.g. navy blue trousers or dress/skirt and white shirt.

### Our Partners

- Boston College - Step up I initiative
- Boston Partners in Education
- Children Discovering Justice
- Community Music of Boston
- EarthWorks
- Edgerly Foundation
- Emmanuel and Wheelock College interns
- Foothill Capital
- Suffolk University

### Awards, Honors and Distinctions

- New Computer Lab, BPS OIIT, 2005
- Updated Schoolyard, Boston Schoolyard Initiative, 2005
- Achievement Support Initiative Grant, Harvard University, 2007

- Superintendent School, Boston Public Schools, 2007

### Our Students (SY 2007-2008)

Total enrollment:	362 students		
Black	26.2%	Regular Education	61.6%
Hispanic	56.9%	Special Education	17.9%
White	4.7%	Bilingual Education	20.4%
Asian	9.1%		
Other	3.0%		

Average daily student attendance:	94.4%
Students promoted to next grade:	96.4%
Student mobility rate:	16.8%
Annual student dropout rate:	N/A
Students suspended:	7

### Our Staff (SY 2007-2008)

Total staff:	40	Black	15.0%
Staff-to-student ratio:	1:12	Hispanic	22.5%
Average daily staff attendance:	96.8%	White	62.5%
		Asian	0.0%
		Native American	0.0%

Number of teachers:	29
"Highly qualified" teachers:	93.1%
Teachers licensed in Mass.:	100.0%
Core academic courses taught by "highly qualified" teachers:	99.3%

## 2008 "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Is our school making AYP in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for all students and subgroups?

	All Students (Aggregate)	Limited English Proficient	Special Education	Free/Reduced Priced Lunch	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White
ELA	No	No	NA	No	Yes	NA	No	NA
Math	No	No	NA	No	No	NA	No	NA

Our school is in the following NCLB category for **ELA**:

No Status	Needs Improvement	Corrective Action	Restructuring
✓			

Our school is in the following NCLB category for **Mathematics**:

No Status	Needs Improvement	Corrective Action	Restructuring
✓			

### **What Makes Our School Special?**

The guiding principles of the Russell School are learning, collaboration and results. Students in the EarthWorks project learn to connect Science to their daily lives while studying the environment. They are responsible for cultivating and maintaining grade level garden plots while cultivating their own sense of responsibility towards other things and becoming aware of various life cycles. During the literacy block students are able to go outside and gain valuable first hand experiences from direct observation and interaction with the school gardens which enriches and develops their writing skills.

In addition, this school year our K0 and K1 classrooms are full-time. Their classrooms are newly renovated with new bulletin boards and rugs. Our new schoolyard includes a learning laboratory with instructional math graphics, basketball, volleyball and two play structures.

### **What Kinds of Parent Support and Resources Does Our School Provide?**

We offer a Parent Council sponsored evening math workshop and parents are welcome to make classroom visits. Parents borrow math books matched to their child's math curriculum in first through fifth grade. We also conduct a 10-week math workshop at the school for parents who want to learn more about their child's math coursework. Through Tech Goes Home, parents can buy a computer with a no interest loan and learn computer skills with their child. In conjunction with Boston College, the Russell holds parent workshops on cooking healthy. Boston College provides workshops to our parents on financial aid and saving for college. Parents often volunteer to work in our classrooms. We hold "Movie Nights", a monthly coffee hour, to accommodate parents who are unable to attend Parent Site Council meetings. We also are involved in helping our families with GED and ESL classes.

### **How are We Preparing Our Students for Educational Success?**

Our students will be life-long learners who read and write

well, solve mathematical problems and think critically. Grade level teams meet weekly with the principal to look at student work and design curriculum that is aligned with the state's standards so that we move toward our goals. Walking through the Russell, you will see students reading, writing, and working on math problems independently and in pairs or small groups. Teachers conduct one-on one conferences with students.

Our literacy coach helps to train teachers and work with students in the classroom setting. Our Reading Recovery/Title I teacher supports at risk students. The fourth grade "Read 180" program teaches struggling readers through small group instruction, independent reading and computer-assisted instruction. English as a Second Language and Resource Room are available when needed. Also, employees from local businesses frequently conduct read-alouds to our students.

Our math coach works with classroom teachers, who are all implementing the Investigations curriculum that focuses on mathematical reasoning and problem solving. In addition to the time spent in the classroom our coach also facilitates Collaborative Coaching and Learning sessions (CCL-Ms) with teachers. The math coach also is helping to implement a Harvard designed math program called SmartTALK. SmartTALK is a centers based program that will further develop our students' abilities to talk mathematically.

We have an up to date computer lab, Internet connections in all classrooms and a mini lab in our Library/Media Center. Children receive instruction in hands-on science, computer education, art, and physical education during the school day.

#### **Directions to the School**

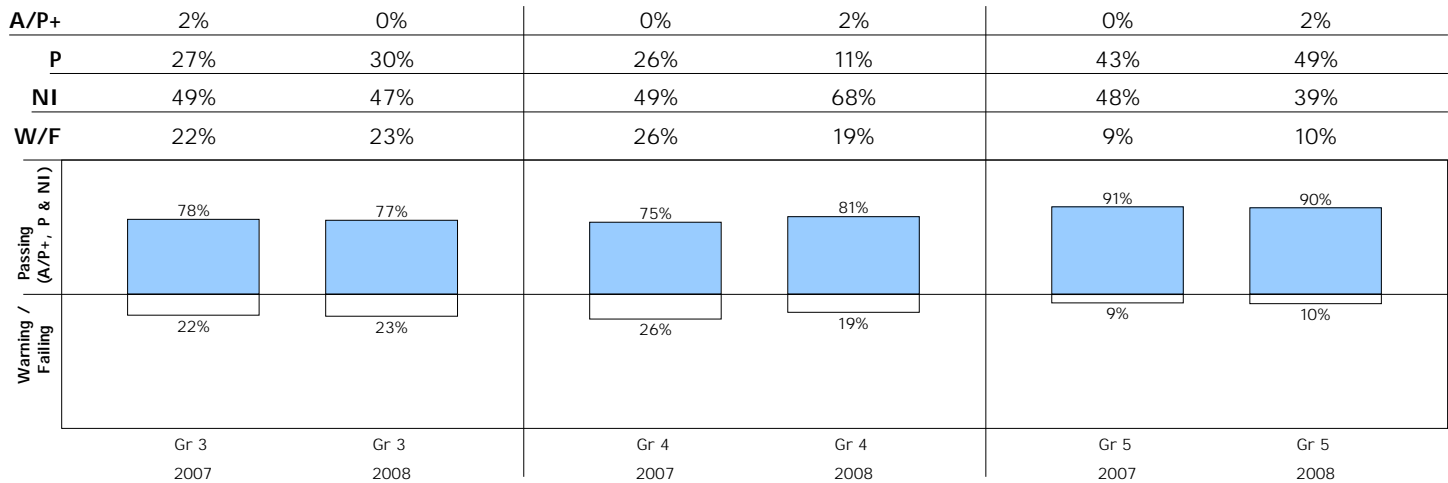
From Andrew Station take Fields Corner bus (Rte. 17) or Franklin Park bus (Rte. 16) to the corner of Boston Street and Columbia Road. Walk around the corner to 750 Columbia Road. From Park Street or Ashmont Stations take Red Line train to JFK/UMASS. The school is a short walk heading west on Columbia Road.

# Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Results: 2-Year Trends

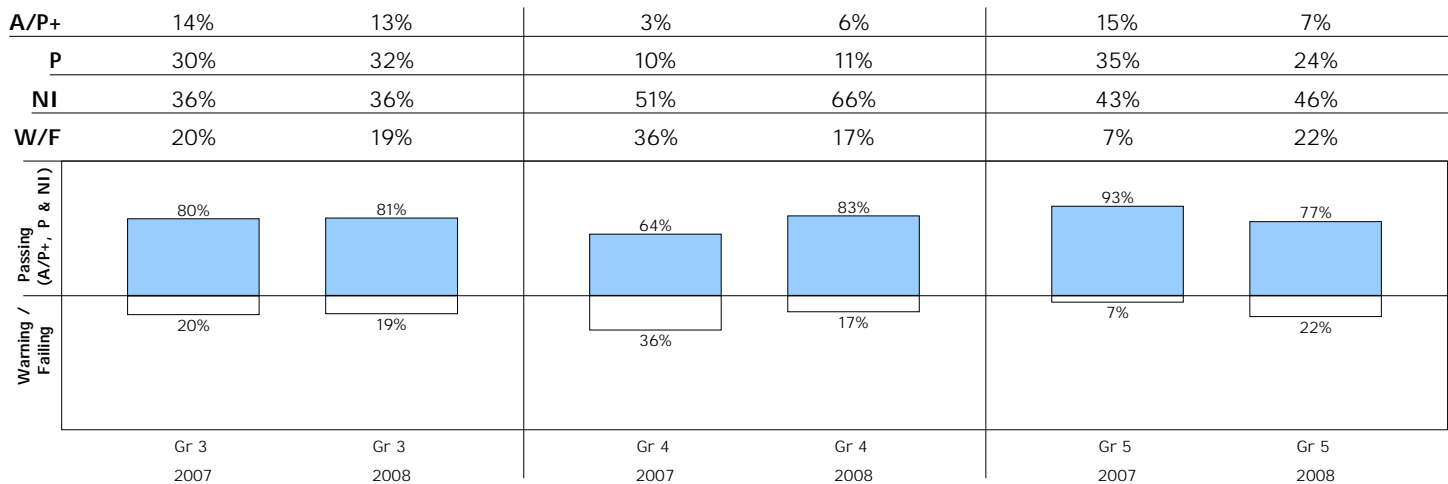
The graphics below show our MCAS results in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science from the past two school years, with the percentages of students scoring at each of the four performance levels. NOTE: Grade 10 Science and Technology/Engineering results represent the highest performance level attained by class of 2010 students in grades 9 or 10 in any of the four subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, and Technology/Engineering). In addition, only students enrolled in the same school since October 2006 are included in school-level results.

A/P+ = Advanced/Above Proficient    P=Proficient    NI = Needs Improvement    W/F = Warning/Failing

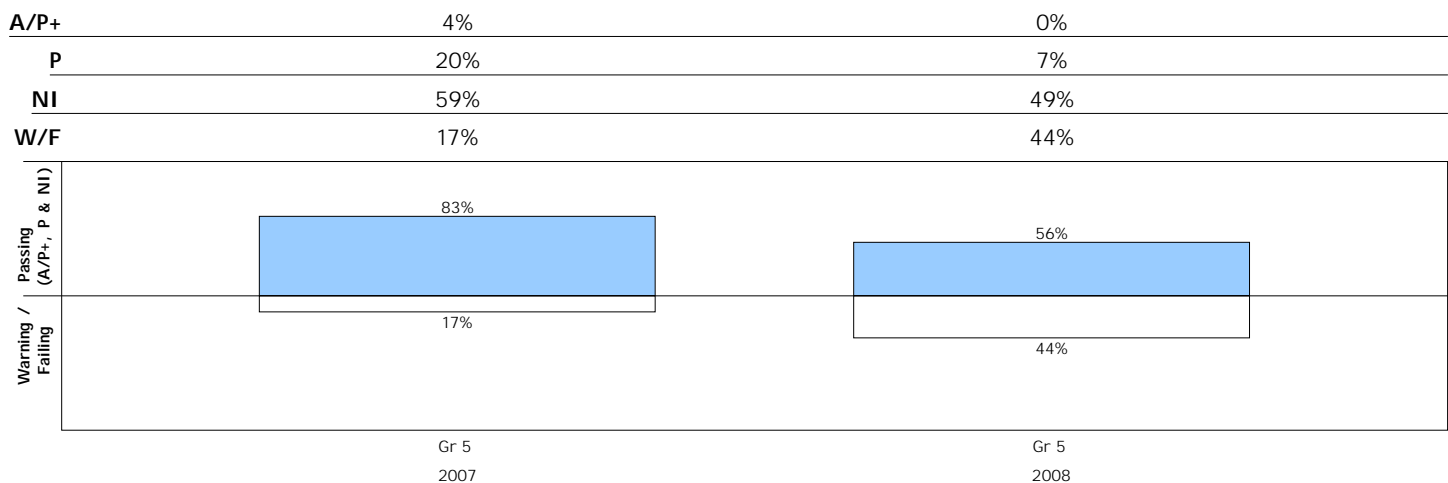
## English Language Arts



## Mathematics



## Science



Performance of Various Student Groups on MCAS Spring 2008: School, District and State

The charts below show Spring 2008 MCAS results in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science for each grade level tested, compared with district and state averages. Results at the school level include percentages of students (by program, race and income level) scoring at each of the four performance levels:

**A/P+** = Advanced/Above Proficient **P** = Proficient **NI** = Needs Improvement **W/F** = Warning/Failing

ELA	Grade 03					Grade 04					Grade 05				
	Students	% By Perf. Lvl.				Students	% By Perf. Lvl.				Students	% By Perf. Lvl.			
	#	A/P+	P	NI	W/F	#	A	P	NI	W/F	#	A	P	NI	W/F
STUDENT STATUS															
W/ Disabilities	10	0	10	30	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ELL	19	0	16	47	37	14	0	7	71	21	10	0	0	60	40
RACE/ETHNICITY															
Afr.Am./Black	14	0	43	43	14	19	0	21	53	26	12	0	67	33	0
Asian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hispanic	26	0	12	54	35	18	0	6	78	17	25	0	36	48	16
Nat. Am.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
F/RP LUNCH	37	0	24	49	27	44	2	11	68	18	39	3	49	38	10
SCHOOL	47	0	30	47	23	47	2	11	68	19	41	2	49	39	10
DISTRICT	3935	6	23	45	26	3925	2	23	48	27	3520	6	31	43	20
STATE	70284	15	41	33	11	71162	8	41	39	13	70644	13	48	30	8

NA: Fewer than 10 students

Mathematics	Grade 03					Grade 04					Grade 05				
	Students	% By Perf. Lvl.				Students	% By Perf. Lvl.				Students	% By Perf. Lvl.			
	#	A/P+	P	NI	W/F	#	A	P	NI	W/F	#	A	P	NI	W/F
STUDENT STATUS															
W/ Disabilities	10	0	20	20	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ELL	19	11	21	42	26	14	0	7	64	29	10	0	10	40	50
RACE/ETHNICITY															
Afr.Am./Black	14	14	29	43	14	19	11	5	74	11	12	17	25	33	25
Asian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hispanic	26	0	31	42	27	18	0	22	56	22	25	4	20	52	24
Nat. Am.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
F/RP LUNCH	37	8	35	35	22	44	7	11	68	14	39	8	26	44	23
SCHOOL	47	13	32	36	19	47	6	11	66	17	41	7	24	46	22
DISTRICT	3939	10	26	32	32	3943	9	21	47	23	3528	11	22	34	34
STATE	70393	25	36	25	14	71450	20	29	38	13	70748	22	30	30	17

NA: Fewer than 10 students

Science	Grade 05				
	Students	% By Perf. Lvl.			
	#	A	P	NI	W/F
STUDENT STATUS					
W/ Disabilities	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ELL	10	0	0	20	80
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Afr.Am./Black	12	0	8	58	33
Asian	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
White	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hispanic	25	0	8	36	56
Nat. Am.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
F/RP LUNCH	39	0	8	49	44
SCHOOL	41	0	7	49	44
DI STRICT	3525	3	14	46	37
STATE	70689	17	33	38	12

NA: Fewer than 10 students

Additional Performance Indicators

Individual Student Success Plans (ISSP) Spring 2008

Students eligible for ISSP: 71 74.0% of school  
Students receiving ISSP: 5 7.0% of eligible students

Special Education services and programs (Spring 2008) should be recommended within the least restrictive environment:  
Our school has met this district goal.