



February 2, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to attach an overview of our school's "report card" to this message. 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. Please note that BART is the only school in our district, so you will see the same data for school and district.

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

Student enrollment and teacher quality: This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. You also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach;
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver;
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Assessment results: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the MCAS and PARCC 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:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 2.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is 57. This means that our school is performing higher than 57 percent of the middle / high schools in the state.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

To improve student achievement in our school, we continue to develop and refine programs to support students at all levels, such as our math workshops, reading supports and special education programs. We are also continuing to develop and refine our programs that support the whole child, as we believe that students who feel safe and happy in their school environment will learn more academically. Our specific initiatives to address the whole child include our restorative practices /

BART

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advisory curriculum; collegiate skills courses; positive behavior interventions systems (PBIS); and extra-curricular activities.

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

- Encouraging your child's learning at home;
- Attending your child's student-led conferences, portfolio presentations, and other events important in your child's school career;
- Serving as a volunteer in our school;
- 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 me at 413-743-7311 x120 or julia.bowen@bartcharter.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julia Bowen
Executive Director