

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

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VOLUME 5



Warring achieves 'Good Standing'

NYSED DESIGNATIONS HISTORY

2022-23:
Good Standing

2021-22:
Additional
Target Support
& Improvement

2020-21:
Targeted
Support &
Improvement

2019-20:
Targeted
Support &
Improvement

2018-19:
Targeted
Support &
Improvement

2017-18: Priority

2016-17: Priority

2015-16: Focus

2014-15: Focus

2013-14: Focus

2012-13: Focus

2011-12:
Good Standing

Warring Elementary School is now a school in good standing, according to the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

The improved designation means Warring has demonstrated progress in the areas of student achievement, student growth, chronic absenteeism and English language learners. Under the Every Students Success Act (ESSA), the goal is for all students to receive a quality education. The law requires that state educational agencies hold public schools accountable for how students achieve. NYSED's indicators to measure school

performance include achievement in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies including student growth and school progress, progress of English language learners, chronic absenteeism and for high schools - graduation rates and preparing students for college, career and civic engagement. To learn more about NYSED accountability click [here](#).

This is a huge achievement for the entire Warring Elementary School community as the last time Warring Elementary School received the NYSED designation of "Good Standing" was during the 2011-2012 academic year. Warring Elementary School joins Krieger Elementary School, and Early Learning Center in sharing this designation.

"This is absolutely a result of all constituents rowing in synchronization. Although we come from different walks of life and bring a multitude of strengths, we maintain the same vision - to consistently move our children forward," Principal Nicole Penn said.

"The community ensures that children are in school every day so that they can learn, educators have unwavering high expectations for all, urging students to be comfortably uncomfortable in their skill acquisition and problem solving and everyone has committed to a data driven culture of learning. We are in the beginning stages of greater things to come! I am truly honored, humbled and excited to be a part of this work. Thank you team."

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Greg Mott congratulated the Warring community on its efforts.

"Achieving Local Support & Improvement (LSI) or School in Good Standing status is a result of using data to make decisions and educators who collectively worked together to educate students. The faculty and staff of Warring has adopted a 'Whatever it Takes' approach to ensuring student achievement."

Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, also expressed his gratitude to the entire school community by stating "The Warring community has been extremely dedicated in supporting student success, they are applauded along with the central office teams for supporting the school communities efforts."

Status of other schools

For the 22-23 school year both Poughkeepsie Middle School (PMS) and Poughkeepsie High School (PHS) transitioned from Additional Target Support and Improvement to Comprehensive Support and Improvement.



Warring Elementary students participated in a variety of activities, including planting trees outside the school. Here, they receive strawberry plants to take home after the Tree City USA event in May 2023.

PMS' designation was due to the school not making growth among two subgroups. While PHS has increased its graduation rate by 6 percentage points since 2019 (54 percent to 60 percent), its designation is due to the school not achieving a 67 percent graduation rate. A full presentation of each of the school's accountability designation to the Board of Education and community is scheduled during the Sept. 20, 2023 Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education.

Ceremony honors summer grads

Thirteen PHS students walked across stage Aug. 22, marking their graduation from the school after a summer of hard work.

Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools; Dr. Charles Gallo, assistant superintendent of secondary education; Dr. Phee Simpson, principal of PHS; Robert Parkes, PHS summer school principal; Dr. Janety Encarnacion and Mr. Barrington Atkins, PHS assistant principal, attended the Poughkeepsie High School Summer Graduation Ceremony, which celebrated the 13 students who participated in the ceremony (16 students completed high school graduation requirements this summer).

In June, PCSD had 194 students who graduated. Since our summer graduates did so after July 1, they are counted in the 2023-24 school year.

"We are very proud of our August graduates for their resilience, persistence and motivation. They are unstoppable and we wish them the best of luck on the next part of their journey," Gallo said.

Congratulations to our August 2023 graduates: Yesenia Alvarez-Vasquez, Ariel Barrett, Jahniya Brown, Elisabeth Castaneda-Vivero, Jasir Elliott, Riquiyah Herring-James, Keiara Huggins, Brianna Johnson, James Johnson, Camila Olivarez-Celaya, Alexandra Ordonez, Sheila Pinacho-Cruz, Joshua Slayden, Sierra St. Croix, Jadore Syblis and Sanaa Velasquez.



Students who completed graduation requirements over the summer were honored in a ceremony Aug. 22, 2023.

Kick Off prepares tutors to champion children



Early Learning and Math Corps tutors take the AmeriCorps pledge during the Service Kick Off event Monday, Aug. 28, 2023 at The Academy.

Math Corps - both programs operated by Ampact.

The Service Kick Off was taking place in Poughkeepsie and in other states around the nation. The only requirement for becoming a tutor is that candidates have a high school diploma or equivalent and the

About 21 Early Learning Corps and Math Corps tutors spent Monday at The Academy in Poughkeepsie, learning how they will impact the lives of children in the City of Poughkeepsie and Poughkeepsie City School District.

The tutors will help prepare children to enter kindergarten through the Early Learning Corps. and bolster the math skills of older children through the

ability to make a commitment for the school year. Poughkeepsie is looking to add about 15 more for a second kick off in October. Those interested can apply on the [program's website](#) as well as learn about the benefits including a living stipend and tuition help or student loan reimbursement.

"You will transform lives through service," Katrina Gobins, executive director in Poughkeepsie, told the group, explaining that this year's tutors will help about 50,000 children in 14 states. And, it isn't just about academics. Tutors develop relationships with students and are adults they can trust, she said prior to the start of the program.

After her brief opening remarks, she turned it over to Robert Watson, co-founder of Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet and Lead for Poughkeepsie.

Watson shared that the Ampact program, among others, is using the "power of service to support educational equity in the community." According to local data, only 40 percent of incoming kindergartners are ready for kindergarten. He said when the Ampact tutoring program is followed, it "provides the equivalent of a half or full year of school - that can help get our kids caught up!"

PCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser briefly spoke about his journey and how people like the tutors present "poured support into individuals like myself and others. If it wasn't for vested members of the community investing in little Eric Jay, I would not be standing before you as Superintendent of the Poughkeepsie City Schools today. They made a difference in my life just as you will in the lives of children here".

"Thank you for your commitment to serve those individuals who will be the future of our local

community, the state community, the national community and even the global community. It is imperative that we invest in youth. Our future will be dictated by how well we invest in our children."

That's exactly why Stephanie Vargas joined as an Ampact Early Learning Corps member.

"I have three children in the district and I wanted to see what I can get from Ampact and how it can help my children and others," Vargas said. "I just want to learn everything I can."

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Marc Nelson thanked the tutors and administered the AmeriCorps Pledge, during which each tutor committed to at least a year of service. He spoke about how this is something new for the community and how important it was. He also asked the tutors to think about not only how their service will impact the children, but how it will impact them as well.

Tutors spent the rest of the day meeting the Ampact Poughkeepsie team and each other, getting supplies and receiving training in the materials and framework. Gobins said they will all attend another two days of training within the next two weeks to prepare for the school year.

Montana Smith lives in Poughkeepsie and recently graduated from Bard College with a master's. She was looking for work and does a lot of freelance tutoring so she decided to apply to the program.

"I feel like if a student is not good at math, they don't feel like they are a good student and I thought it would be nice to be instrumental in keeping their academic careers going."

Thank you to all the current and future Early Learning Corps and Math Corps tutors.



Above, Stephanie Vargas, front, and Montana Smith, listen to opening remarks during the Service Kick Off. Below, PCSD Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser; Robert Watson, Lead for Poughkeepsie and Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet co-founder; City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Marc Nelson, at the event.

