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Bellows Free Academy
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August 20, 2014

Dear Parents:

This month the VT Agency of Education released the 2014 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results based on student performance on the NECAP Assessment (New England Common Assessment Program) taken in the fall of 2013 by all junior students. We are required by law to inform our families that BFA did meet the AYP targets set forth by the state in the area of mathematics, but did not meet the AYP targets set by the state in reading for students who receive free and reduced lunch and for white students. As a result, we have been identified in year two of corrective action in reading, year two for school improvement in mathematics, and year one of Improvement.

The Supervisory Union has a plan to improve student-learning outcomes in all FCSU schools by creating a K-12 curriculum framework and common assessments. BFA has established a School Improvement Team to write and implement a School Improvement Plan that will address the areas of identification noted above. By working with both a Supervisory Union Improvement Team comprised of other principals, a state School Effectiveness Coordinator, and a School Improvement Team of BFA teachers and administrators, the areas cited for improvement under AYP will be addressed.

BFA has already begun to address the areas of concern by partnering with the Vermont Reads Institute to audit our literacy instruction. This is to help develop strategies and interventions to improve reading and writing outcomes across all content areas. The math department is offering a Math Seminar with targeted instruction for students who need additional support in fundamental math skills. Lastly, departments have been writing and implementing common assessments to ensure that all students are receiving a guaranteed and viable curriculum. All of these efforts will continue and become part of the School Improvement Plan, which will be overseen and monitored by our School Effectiveness Coordinator from the Agency of Education.

The VT Agency of Education has asked us to show how BFA performs in comparison to other Franklin County schools in terms of academic achievement. The chart attached illustrates how BFA students performed on the NECAPS in reading, math and writing assessments during the fall of 2013 compared to area schools and the dtate. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding BFA's School Improvement process please, contact Chris Mosca, Principal at 527-6402.

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Fax # 524-1540

Principal's Office
Fax #527-6465

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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Although BFA has been identified as a school in corrective action under the formulas outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) we continue to serve as a “school of choice” high school in the state of Vermont.

Thank you supporting our students, which is essential in making academic progress.

Sincerely,

Chris Mosca
Principal

COMPARING BFA ST. ALBANS WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS:
AND THE STATE
NECAP SCORES

GRADE 11, 2013 -2014

School	Reading	Math	Writing
MVU	67%	20%	65%
Enosburg	70%	23%	53%
BFA Fairfax	69%	45%	45%
Richford	65%	11%	30%
BFA St. Albans	85%	45%	74%
STATE	74%	35%	54%

Scoring proficient or above.