



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

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Dear Staff, Families and Lowellians,

It's hard to believe the 2009/2010 school year is coming to a close. We have had another very successful year. Lowell Public Schools is one of the top ranked urban school districts in the Commonwealth for student achievement. There are many artifacts of academic excellence in the areas of literacy and numeracy throughout the district and as of June 2nd, 2010 Lowell Public Schools has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the quality of its special education programming.

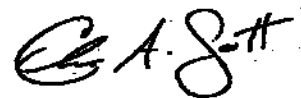
For the past two years the school department has made a concerted effort to address the special education needs of our student body. Twenty-four months ago, a district-wide needs assessment was done to determine how we could improve upon our special education programming in the district. We listened to the concerns of teachers and administrators and with the support of the School Committee members implemented additional special education programs throughout the system. As well, our student achievement goal for the district is

improving the quality of instruction through the establishment of professional learning communities where teachers collaboratively work together to improve their pedagogy. This district goal advances the achievement of all students.

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education these efforts have resulted in Lowell Public Schools progressing from a Level 4 status [needs intervention] in 2008/2009, to Level 2 [meets requirements] in 2009/2010. I would like to thank the School Committee members for taking immediate action on the staff's recommendations as our collective quick action has resulted in real gains for our students. Both our special education and regular education teachers continue to earnestly work on delivering high quality instruction to all students and I thank them for their commitment and dedication. Our students and their families also deserve credit for sincerely working with us as part of the team to ensure all of our students reach their full potential. Ultimately it is family involvement and engagement in our schools that makes the difference. Lastly, I would like to commend Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services Ann Murphy and Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jean Franco, and their staff, for the effective leadership they have provided to ensure our vision of excellence for all students is realized.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming school year. Please feel free to contact me at any time – my door is always open.

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Scott". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.