

October, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In this section of our website you will find our efforts to comply with Section 1 of Subpart F of Chapter 56 of the laws of 2014. All districts are required to post a memorandum from NYSED titled Assessment Administration in Conjunction with Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR's). This memo describes what districts can and cannot use to derive the APPR scores for our teachers. This law was enacted to minimize the amount of standardized testing we give our students specifically related to APPR. In short, the law states that school district cannot use more than 1% of the instructional time to administer tests that are specifically targeted for APPR purposes. Assessments that we use for diagnostic purposes, progress monitoring purposes, final exams, Regents Exams, performance based assessments (ie., playing a piece of music for a score, running the mile in P.E., etc.) and NYSED Assessments Grades 3-8 are not counted in these minutes.

For example, all students in grades K-6 are given the AIMSweb assessments at least twice per year. These assessments help teachers and principals monitor the progress of students as we move through our curriculum. However, they were also allowed to be used for APPR purposes when these laws were first enacted in 2012. So we use the results to help formulate the composite scores of some teachers. The Oneida City School District had been using this assessment tool for several years before APPR came into existence in the form it is currently in. This same principle holds true with Final Exams that MS and HS students have taken for many, many years. Teachers use these assessments, among other classroom assessments, to monitor a child's progress. Regents Exams and the NYSED Assessment program for Grades 3-8 fall under these guidelines as well.

The Oneida City School District has worked very hard to ensure that your child is not over tested with assessments that are not used for educational purposes. You will find a chart detailing the classes and assessments involved for APPR for the classes in this district. The overwhelming majority of assessments your child takes in school are helpful to parents, teachers, principals, and other administrators to deliver a quality program for all of the children of this school district. If you have any questions regarding the assessments that your child is being given do not hesitate to contact his/her teacher or principal. If you have any questions regarding APPR, or the Oneida City School District's APPR Plan, please contact Mr. Kavanagh, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, at 363-2550.

Sincerely,



Ronald Spadafora
Superintendent of Schools