

# Cairo-Durham Central School District

[www.cairodurham.org](http://www.cairodurham.org)

## DISTRICT OFFICE

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Superintendent of Schools

Jeffrey Miriello  
Business Manager

## HIGH SCHOOL

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Anthony Taibi  
Principal

Matthew Ward  
Assistant Principal

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Nathan Farrell  
Principal

Matthew Ward  
Assistant Principal

## CAIRO-DURHAM INTERMEDIATE

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Thomas Baumgartner  
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## CAIRO-DURHAM ELEMENTARY

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Scott Richards  
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## SPECIAL EDUCATION & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

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Lorraine Colistra  
Director of Pupil Personnel  
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Instruction

## TRANSPORTATION

(518) 622-2236

August 21, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Federal law requires that school districts provide notification to parents regarding the accountability status of our District. This letter will outline for you the system of accountability for New York's schools, Cairo-Durham's status and our plans for the future.

### BACKGROUND

New York State was recently granted a "flexibility waiver" to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (better known as "No Child Left Behind"). The waiver exempts the State from many of the requirements associated with Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) regulations and was needed to help New York State use federal funds more efficiently. The waiver replaces Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO). This means that schools are now identified based on their rank in the State regarding student performance on State assessments. The new system identifies schools in the following categories: **Reward, Good Standing, Focus or Priority** schools. The lowest performing 5% of schools are considered **Priority Schools**. The next category is **Focus Schools**, which either have the lowest achieving students or the lowest graduation rates for a particular student subgroup.

### Cairo-Durham's Status and Plans for the Future

Cairo-Durham has been identified as a **Focus District** due to our subgroups of students with disabilities and those who are economically disadvantaged not achieving proficiency on the grades 3-8 State assessments. Cairo-Durham Elementary, Cairo-Durham Intermediate and the Middle School are designated as Focus schools for the next two years.

Over the next two years our District will continue with many initiatives that have contributed to improvement. We will continue to work diligently to prepare our students to meet the rigorous standards established by New York State. Because of our designation, we will also adhere to a set of requirements established by the State Education Department that focus change initiatives into six areas:

- District Leadership and Capacity
- School Leadership Practices and Decisions
- Curriculum Development and Support
- Teacher Practices and Decisions
- Student Social and Emotional Developmental Health
- Family and Community Engagement

Our goals continue to include: providing strong leadership toward assuring that our graduating students are college or career ready; using assessment data (both State and local) to inform instruction; assuring that our teachers are highly qualified and effective; providing high quality professional development so that our teachers continue to gain new skills and strategies and working closely with parents and the community to strengthen our schools.

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The waiver continues to require designated districts to offer students school choice in some instances. Because Cairo-Durham has only one Middle School and both our elementary and intermediate schools are "Focus Schools" we will not offer school choice.

## **Parent Involvement**

As a parent/guardian, your role is important and your input is valued. There are many ways that you can be involved in helping us to improve student achievement in Cairo-Durham. Your participation in the PTA is welcome and encouraged. We also continue to hold "Stakeholders Meetings" whose purpose is to provide further opportunities for community input. Perhaps you would like to participate on a building improvement team or other District committee. Frequent communication with your child's teachers, checking their grades and homework regularly and attending school events are essential to your child's academic success.

In closing, our administrators, faculty and staff are committed to the success of each one of our students. We are taking intentional and innovative steps to address the strengths and needs of each student. We look forward to the challenges of the coming school year and to working together with you to ensure a bright future for your children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Respectfully,



Mary L. Fassett  
Superintendent of Schools