COUGAR PRIDE
North Rose-Wolcott Central School District

11631 SALTER-COLVIN ROAD WOLCOTT NEW YORK 14590 PH (315) 594-3141 FAX (315) 594-2352

March 16, 2016

Dear Community Members:

This letter is to inform you that North Rose-Wolcott Central School District has been designated as a Focus District for the 2016-17 school year. This New York State Department of Education designation is the result of state assessment scores on the 2014-15 NYS Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for what the state terms our population "subgroup" of Hispanic students. As a result of this designation, the district is required to conduct a review process and write a District Comprehensive Improvement Plan in order to address our areas of need.

In addition, the Middle School has been designated as a Focus School. This designation is also the result of state assessment scores on the 2014-15 NYS Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for what the state terms our population "subgroup" of Economically Disadvantaged Students. This means that the performance of economically disadvantaged students in grades 3-8 at North Rose-Wolcott is among the lowest 10% of students in the state. As a result of this designation, reviewers from the New York State Education Department will be visiting the Middle School to conduct a comprehensive review on April 26th-28th. The review will include focus group interviews, classroom observations, and document reviews. Based on their observations, they will make recommendations for improvement and the school will have to write a School Comprehensive Education Plan.

The Board of Education places students' academic success as our top priority. We believe that students that are successful in the classroom will ultimately have more opportunities as they transition from our school. We also acknowledge that sub groups of our students have not made adequate academic progress. We do not believe continuing past practices will result in the academic gains that will assist our students in being successful in the future.

During the past year, the district has implemented a number of focused initiatives to improve student results in all areas. The community has been assisting in the development of a Strategic Action Plan that focuses on student academic outcomes. The Board will review their work and consider the plan for adoption during the March 22 meeting. We have implemented a comprehensive administrator/teacher coaching plan which allows for more individual collaboration between principals and teachers. Administrators and teachers are regularly discussing lesson planning, instructional delivery strategies and techniques as well as individual and group academic progress.

The staff has received extensive trainings focusing on the use of student performance data in informing daily instruction. There has also been an emphasis on training staff on how best to meet the needs of our students living in poverty which comprises approximately 66% of our population.

The improvement process is a process of change and takes time to implement. It involves reviewing current practices, building on positive existing programs and abandoning traditional approaches that have not resulted in student success. We are committed to supporting researched based practices that have proven to improve student outcomes.

If you have any questions, or would like to become more involved with the District's efforts, please accept our invitation to participate in meetings. The schedule for all meetings is posted on our website, or you can contact the District Offices 594-3146, for more information.

Sincerely,

North Rose-Wolcott Board of Education

Edward Magin, President	Danny R. Snyder, Vice President
John Boogaard	Andrew Mathes
Lucinda Collier	Izetta Younglove
Linda Eygnor	