



Barrington Public Schools

Empowering All Students to Excel

Barrington Public Schools Perform Well on International Assessment

December 2015

Barrington High School has once again performed as well as, or better than, the world's leading nations in educational performance, according to the results of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Test for Schools administered in February of 2015. The results were presented at the [December 17th meeting of the Barrington School Committee](#), where district officials announced the recognition of Barrington High School's reading performance by leaders of the OECD.

Barrington High School Earns Global Recognition

The OECD has identified BHS as an aspirational school district for its high performance in reading. Principal Joe Hurley and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Paula Dillon were invited to share the district's strategies and findings at an international conference on November 2015 in Washington D.C. Paula Dillon states, "We are looking forward to collaborating with world-class districts as we focus on continuous improvement. The efforts of our students and teachers has received well-deserved recognition."

The test is sponsored by OECD and is aligned to the well-known PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) test, which ranks nations in educational performance. The OECD Test for Schools allows individual schools to compare their performance against that of the PISA-ranked nations. Both tools measure how well randomly selected 15-year-old students perform in reading, mathematics, and science; in addition, both feature a student survey that reveals student insights about student engagement and school culture.

For a second year in a row, a random sampling of BHS students participated in the OECD Test for Schools. Composite results are provided for each school and district; results for individual students are not recorded.

According to Principal Hurley, "Since this was a random sample of 15-year-olds spanning students in grades 9 through 11, the results speak not only to the work of

the high school teachers but of the entire district in preparing students to compete in a global society.”

Results in reading show that BHS scored above the mean in all six of the PISA test’s top-ranked nations (Shanghai-China, Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Singapore, and Canada) and ranked significantly above the United States mean. In mathematics, BHS delivered performance above the mean of the five of the six top-ranked nations (Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Singapore, and Canada) and significantly above the U.S. mean. In science, BHS delivered performance above the mean of the five of the six top-ranked nations (Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Singapore, and Canada) and significantly above the U.S. mean.

Learning engagement and school culture are closely associated with academic performance, and the test includes a survey to gauge students’ perceptions in these areas. Barrington Public Schools administrators are analyzing the achievement metrics and survey data to refine strategies for enhancing the rigor of the instructional program and to increasing students’ engagement in learning.

“[Last year Barrington administered the OECD assessment](#) for the first time. When we were offered a second opportunity by OECD to participate in this assessment we knew that this was a chance to confirm our strong performance against the leading countries in the world. This year’s results continue to show that our educators are delivering a curriculum that prepares our students to compete in a global economy,” indicates Superintendent Messore.

Proficiency Levels

Students can be grouped into six levels of proficiency. Students below Level 1 do not have the skills necessary to enter the labor market. Level 2 is an important threshold, as PISA considers it to be a baseline level of proficiency at which students begin to demonstrate the competencies that will enable them to participate effectively and productively in life as successful students, workers, and citizens. At the upper end of performance, Levels 5 and 6 are the highest levels of proficiency in PISA and are considered to be “world class” and highly competitive.

Reading Results

In reading, the mean performance for students that participated in the OECD Test for Schools was 600, increasing from the previous year’s result of 576. BHS performed above the mean of the top-ranked countries in reading and scored significantly above the mean performance of 498 obtained by students across schools in the United States on PISA 2012.

Mathematics Results

In mathematics, the mean performance for students was 597, increasing from the previous year’s score of 567. BHS scored significantly above the mean performance of 481 obtained by students across schools in the United States on PISA 2012.

Science Results

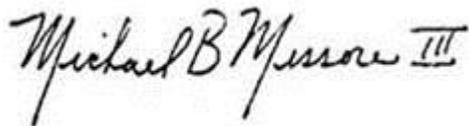
In science, the mean performance for students that participated in the OECD Test for Schools was 592, increasing from the previous score of 570. BHS scored significantly above the mean performance of 492 obtained by students across schools in the United States on PISA 2012.

This well-deserved recognition is a credit to the hard work of our students and teachers throughout the district.

Links:

[OECD Results 2014](#)

[OECD Results 2015](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Messore III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct "III" at the end.

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