2015-16 Criteria for Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School (Grades 7-9)

As you are aware, students in grades three through eight were administered the New York State Common Core English Language Arts and Mathematics Exams in April. Parent reports were mailed home in October for the students who took these exams. At the junior/senior high school level, we had a 72% participation rate in the state exams in April 2015.

In the course of the school year, teachers are provided the opportunity to explore data from these exams and use it to inform their instruction as we prepare our students for the rigors of high school. The NYS Department of Education released fifty percent of the 2015 Grades 3-8 ELA and math test questions along with the answer keys, the standards measured by each question, and the statewide percentage of students who answered the question correctly. This data combined with individual student data help teachers evaluate our programs and instruction.

State assessment results also tell educators and families how individual students are performing in specific skill areas and where they may benefit from extra academic support. In accordance with the Board of Regents (memorandum from Charles A. Szuberia, Jr. dated August 28, 2015), districts are required to provide Academic Intervention Services (AIS) to students scoring below the following scale scores on the 2015 Grade 3-8 assessments:

Grade 6 ELA, scale score of 297 Grade 6 Math, scale score of 289
Grade 7 ELA, scale score of 301 Grade 7 Math, scale score of 290
Grade 8 ELA, scale score of 302 Grade 8 Math, scale score of 293

At the junior high level, remediation is provided through "LC", learning centers where content area teachers work on building skills that are the foundation for academic success in high school. At the high school level, students are assigned to Academic Intervention Services (AIS) for academic support specific to their content area.

The NYS Education Department recommends that schools monitor ALL students that score below a level three but perform above the cut scores listed above. In addition, our district uses STAR data to monitor student progress. STAR is a computer based assessment system that identifies each student's strengths and weaknesses in math and ELA, and is a predictor of student performance on NYS assessments. STAR provides comparative data in relation to the national performance of students at the same grade level.

If your child did not take the NYS Common Core exams last April, the district relies on solely on STAR testing data to determine whether or not a student is assigned to remediation. Students who score below the twenty-fifth percentile on periodic STAR assessments are assigned to LC/AIS if they are not already receiving academic support through a special education program.

The district has specified exit criteria to determine whether or not a student should remain in LC/AIS throughout the school year. In conjunction with periodic STAR assessments, teachers may provide documentation of student performance in the classroom to recommend whether or not a student should continue to receive LC/AISA. A student must perform above the fortieth percentile on STAR to be exited from LC/AIS.

We will continue to monitor the performance of our students to ensure that the needs of our students are met on an individual basis using the resources we have available to us.