

# Western Coventry Elementary School given commended status by RIDE

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COVENTRY — A local elementary school has made the Rhode Island Department of Education's list of 28 commended schools for 2017.

Western Coventry Elementary School (WCES) was recently selected as one of the highest performing schools in the state. According to RIDE, the top 28 schools in the state "represent strong performance across metrics."

RIDE classifies schools by using Composite Index Scores (CIS), which are based on measuring student proficiency in ELA and math as well as performance gaps for the same two subjects. This round of classifications, however, comes while the state awaits approval of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). According to RIDE, the ESSA is expanded to include additional performance and school climate measures such as chronic absenteeism and suspension rates.

WCES scored 24 points out of 30 for growth, 40 out of a possible 40 points for profi-

ciency and 27 points out of 30 for gap closure, leaving them with a composite score of 91 points out of a possible 100 and earning the school "commended" status. The state's elementary schools received a collective 18 points out of 30 for growth, 15 out of 30 for gap closure and 24 out of 40 in proficiency, leading to a total score of 57 out of 100 at the state level. Coventry's elementary schools as a whole received a total 74 out of 100 possible points. The middle school received 63 points and Coventry High School received 80.

The West Warwick School District received 44 out of 100 points at the elementary level, 54 at the middle school level and 75 out of 100 points at the high school level.

WCES Principal Amy Anzalone said she is proud of the school's success and recognition.

"This means that Western is one of the top performing schools in the state," she said. "I am so proud of the students, faculty, staff and families that

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worked together to help achieve this honor.”

Other schools making the list include five in Barrington, a consistently top performer academically, four in Chariho, two from Jamestown and two from East Greenwich, among many others.

“I want to congratulate our 28 commended schools, whose performance, growth and commitment to excellence represent the success we want to replicate in every school, for every student,”

said Ken Wagner, the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education. “We now look ahead to implementation of a new system of school accountability, which I believe will help us to better identify and support struggling schools, and to communicate with families about what performance outcomes and school culture and climate indicators mean for their children and for their communities.”

Coventry Public Schools Superintendent Craig Levis echoed Anzalone’s comments, noting he is proud to represent the district and its positive changes.

“As superintendent, I am

proud of the efforts that all of our staff, administrators and students have put forth over the past year,” said Levis. “We are definitely trending in a positive direction as a district, because of the laser beam focus we are placing on addressing student needs. I am especially proud of this well deserved recognition that has been bestowed upon Western Coventry.”

He added that he expects some of the district’s other schools to receive similar recognition in the near future.

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