



CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
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Ms. Carol Stehm, Principal
Merton Williams Middle School
200 School Lane
Hilton, NY 14468

February 1, 2010

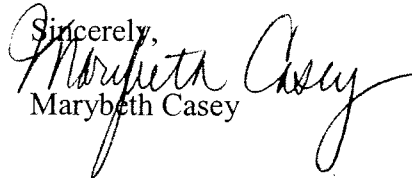
Re: Essential Elements School to Watch Designation

Dear Ms. Stehm:

On behalf of the New York State Department of Education and the Essential Elements Schools to Watch leadership team, I wish to congratulate you on the designation of Merton Williams Middle School as a 2010 Essential Elements School to Watch (EE-STW). Merton Williams joins 17 other schools in New York honored with this designation. As you are aware State designation brings with it recognition at the National level. Merton Williams will join just over 200 schools nationwide in its designation as a National School to Watch and will be honored at the annual Schools to Watch conference in Washington DC this coming June. Through the efforts of your entire school community, Merton Williams is among an elite group of recognized schools across the nation. Your middle school is truly a model on both the state and national levels, and you are to be commended for the fine work you do to educate the students in your district.

Becoming a School to Watch carries with it not only the honor of the designation but also a great responsibility. As the recognition indicates, Merton Williams can now be held up as an example for other school and district leaders in the State. Through a rigorous application process, you have demonstrated excellence in academic programming, developmental responsiveness, social equity and structural organization, as well as dedication to the *Regents Policy Statement on Middle Level Education* and the *Essential Elements of a Standards Focused Middle School*. Merton Williams will be referred to as an example of those characteristics when other schools are looking for guidance to improve their middle level programs. It is clear you have much to be proud of, and it is our hope that you will share your expertise with other schools in the state.

In the near future I will forward you a packet of information regarding the National Award Ceremony in Washington which will be held on June 24, 2010. On behalf of the New York State Education Department, and the EE-STW leadership team, please accept our congratulations once again as well as our thanks for the dedication your school community has demonstrated in the development and education of young adolescents.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Casey

cc: David Payton, NYSMSA
Linda Ruest