

REVISED MARCH 17, 2005

**Page One**

**2004-2005 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools  
Program**

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*U.S. Department of Education*

**Cover Sheet**

Type of School:  Elementary  Middle

High  K-12

Name of Principal Mr. Robert P. Vincze(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name Forest Park Elementary School (As it should appear in the official records)

MailingAddress 50Woodlawn Drive

City North Kingstown

State RI

Zip 02852-1948

County Washington School Code Number\* 23110

Telephone ( 401 ) 541-6381

Fax ( 401 ) 541-6390

Website/URL www.nksd.net

E-mail ride2271@ride.ri.net

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the eligibility requirements on page 2, and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent\* Dr. James Halley

District Name North Kingstown School District Tel. ( 401 ) 268-6400

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the eligibility requirements on page 2, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Superintendent's Signature)

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements on page 2, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

Name of School Board Mr. Donald DeFedele

President/Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School Board President's/Chairperson's Signature)

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### **PART I - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION**

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The signatures on the first page of this application certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) requirements is true and correct.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades K-12. (Schools with one principal, even K-12 schools, must apply as an entire school.)
2. The school has not been in school improvement status or been identified by the state as "persistently dangerous" within the last two years. To meet final eligibility, the school must meet the state's adequate yearly progress requirement in the 2004-2005 school year.
3. If the school includes grades 7 or higher, it has foreign language as a part of its core curriculum.
4. The school has been in existence for five full years, that is, from at least September 1999 and has not received the 2003 or 2004 *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools Award*.
5. The nominated school or district is not refusing the OCR access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district-wide compliance review.
6. The OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school or the district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if the OCR has accepted a corrective action plan from the district to remedy the violation.
7. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the nominated school, or the school district as a whole, has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
8. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the school or school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.





- 1   Deafness
- 2   Deaf-Blindness
- 3   Emotional Disturbance
- 2   Hearing Impairment
- 3   Mental Retardation
- Multiple Disabilities
- Other Health Impaired
- 20  Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment Including Blindness

11. Indicate number of full-time and part-time staff members in each of the categories below:

	<b>Number of Staff</b>	
	<b><u>Full-time</u></b>	<b><u>Part-Time</u></b>
Administrator(s)	<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u>
Classroom teachers	<u> 11 </u>	<u>      </u>
Special resource teachers/specialists	<u>  5 </u>	<u>  5 </u>
Paraprofessionals	<u>  8 </u>	<u>      </u>
Support staff	<u>  4 </u>	<u>      </u>
Total number	<u> 29 </u>	<u>  5 </u>

12. Average school student-“classroom teacher” ratio:  21:1 

13. Show the attendance patterns of teachers and students as a percentage. The student dropout rate is defined by the state. The student drop-off rate is the difference between the number of entering students and the number of exiting students from the same cohort. (From the same cohort, subtract the number of exiting students from the number of entering students; divide that number by the number of entering students; multiply by 100 to get the percentage drop-off rate.) Briefly explain in 100 words or fewer any major discrepancy between the dropout rate and the drop-off rate. (Only middle and high schools need to supply dropout rates and only high schools need to supply drop-off rates.)

	2003-2004	2002-2003	2001-2002	2000-2001	1999-2000
Daily student attendance	97%	96%	96%	97%	96%
Daily teacher attendance	97%	96%	96%	96%	94%
Teacher turnover rate	14%	20%	14%	26%	18%
Student dropout rate (middle/high)	%	%	%	%	%
Student drop-off rate (HS)	%	%	%	%	%

### PART THREE SUMMARY

Forest Park Elementary School is one of seven elementary schools in the town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. North Kingstown is a suburban town with a population of approximately 25,000. The present school first opened its doors to students in 1962 and no additions have been constructed. Renovations have included a guidance office, computer lab, two self-contained special education classrooms, new exit doors, and upgrading of electrical and fire alarm systems. Forest Park Elementary School's PTO and community members have enhanced the school grounds by building an outdoor classroom, a walking bridge to an adjacent field, a \$10,000 playground equipment improvement project, and a volunteer weekend with Home Depot for the complete painting of the school's exterior. Forest Park Elementary School students are served by a professional staff of one administrator, twenty-four full and part-time faculty, thirteen aides and support personnel, and two custodians. Forest Park Elementary School is a community school serving 232 students in grades K-5. Of the 232 students 98 percent are White, 1 percent are Hispanic, and 1 percent are Black. Thirty-five students totaling 15% receive special education services and 14% are eligible for free or reduced priced lunch. Forest Park Elementary School is designated as a SmArts School. SmArts Schools is a comprehensive school reform program, grounded in research that uses arts-integrated curriculum to engage students' interest and improve their behavior and academic performance. The teachers and principal annually attend a five-day training conducted locally to help strengthen their own artistic ability and link the arts to Rhode Island's standards in the other core areas.

Forest Park Elementary School supports the North Kingstown School District's which is as follows:

We believe that all students:

- Are capable of learning and becoming self-directed learners.
- Have a desire to learn.
- Learn within a social context which includes the family, school and community.

We believe that student learning is enhanced when the following conditions exist in schools:

- Parents are active participants in their child's learning and equal partners with the school in making education decisions.
- There is a safe and orderly learning environment.
- There is a climate of high expectations.
- There is a respect for the uniqueness and diversity of the students.
- Instruction includes multiple strategies to accommodate different learning styles.
- Instruction includes opportunities for students to work independently and in groups.
- Opportunities are provided for all students to reach their maximum potential.
- Opportunities are provided to help students cope with emerging challenges in and an increasingly changing technological world.

- Interactions among all members of the school community are professional, cooperative, and productive.

#### PART IV INDICATORS OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

##### 1. Assessment Results

Forest Park Elementary School is a public elementary school and fully participates in the annual Rhode Island School Assessments. Assessments in Reading Basic Understanding, Reading Analysis and Interpretation, Writing Conventions, Writing Effectiveness, Mathematics Computation, Mathematics Concepts, and Mathematics Problem Solving are given to all fourth graders throughout the state. The assessments are called New Standards Reference Exams and are produced, published and scored by the Harcourt Brace Corporation. Student achievements on these exams are shown in percentages of students based on the total number of students tested and how they performed. Performance levels for the exams are Percent Who Achieved the Standard with Honors, Percent Who Achieved the Standard, Percent Who Nearly Achieved the Standard, Percent Below the Standard, and Percent with Little Evidence of Achievement. Forest Park Elementary School grade four students performed extremely well on the exams. Reading and Writing categories are combined for a single overall assessment score in English Language Arts. The three Mathematics categories are combined into a single overall assessment score in Mathematics. On the 2004 state assessments in English Language Arts 88% of Forest Park's fourth graders achieved the standard and/or achieved the standard with honors. In Mathematics 97% achieved the standard and/or achieved the standard with honors. In many schools disparities are found in student performance between subgroups such as whites versus minority students, special education versus regular education students, and students who are economically disadvantaged and those who are not. Disparities may also be found between male and female students as well. It is most noteworthy that there were no significant disparities between and among any of the subgroups of Forest Park's fourth graders. This means that no matter what the ethnicity, wealth, gender, or learning challenges all students performed equally and at high standards. More information about the Rhode Island assessments, Forest Park Elementary School's performance with regards to similar elementary schools in the state of Rhode Island and the school's performance over the last three years may be found at [www.ridoe.net](http://www.ridoe.net).

##### 2. Using Assessment Results

The teaching staff of Forest Park Elementary School participates in a data analysis process each fall reviewing data from state assessments as well as school-based assessments in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. School-based assessments using the DRA Reading Assessments, writing prompts written by staff as part of our Writing Handbook, and Everyday Mathematics Mathematics assessments are given to all students fall, winter, and spring. The data base is rich and demonstrates student work and progress over time and across all grades. Using the continuous improvement model taken from the text, Data Analysis for Comprehensive School Improvement, teachers engage in targeting specific

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curriculum areas based on their analysis of student performance. Disaggregation of the data allows the teachers to examine performance of specific subgroups.

Hunches about the why of specific subgroup performance lead to targets and then specific action plans. Action plans include identification and common shared expectations on best instructional practices in the teaching of reading, writing, and mathematics, continued professional development plans for the teachers developed and supported by the school's school improvement team, and individual teacher's professional growth plans as part of their periodic professional performance evaluations. By creating a shared process of identification, instructional improvement, and data analysis, Forest Park Elementary School has demonstrated a democratic, collaborative team of teachers, parents, and ancillary staff effecting rapid and significant improvement by students as evidenced by our performance on state assessments. Creating a baseline of instructional expectations based on best practices has deepened each individual teacher's sense of responsibility, accountability, and honest collaboration to meet and exceed the goals and targets they have set for themselves each year.

### 3. School Communicates Student Performance

The Rhode Island State Department of Education requires all schools to conduct a School Report Night where the school's performance on state assessments is presented and discussed. Forest Park Elementary School annually conducts this meeting in the evening having the event sponsored by the school's School Improvement Team, the School Advisory Council, and the Parent Teacher Organization. The meeting is open to teachers, parents, and the community. The hand-outs presented on that evening are also sent home to each family in the monthly school newsletter for those unable to attend the evening presentation. Along with the school's performance Forest Park Elementary School includes in our presentation the school's annual improvement plan, the rationale for each goal and action plan, and the data that created the focus for each goal area. Students receive their individual performance scores each fall and prior to sharing this information with parents at our fall parent conferences, teachers discuss with each child their performance on the state assessments and the areas of success and needed improvement for the coming school year.

### 4. Sharing its Successes

Forest Park Elementary School has shared openly their instructional practices with other district-wide elementary schools and visiting teacher and administrative teams from neighboring communities. Forest Park teachers have conducted modeled lessons for visiting teachers and administrators and have presented workshops for neighboring schools and our district's middle schools. Forest Park teachers also serve on district curriculum committees in the areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Two Forest Park teachers represented the state of Rhode Island at the NECAP meetings where the new state assessments were designed. Mr. Edward Ferrario, grade four teacher, and the principal, Robert P. Vincze, serve as adjunct professors at the University of Rhode Island in their education department. Forest Park's arts team teachers are regularly visited by their

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district and out of district school teams to model and discuss the processes of arts integration, scheduling, and collaboration.

## PART V CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### 1. School's Curriculum

Forest Park Elementary School's curriculum is clearly documented in the North Kingstown School District's K-12 curriculum as developed by the school district, adopted by the school committee and cyclically revised and rewritten. This brief description will include the areas of Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education/Health, and Dance/Drama. Each curricular area demonstrates a standards-based sequential spiraling articulation of the skills, content, and concepts framed by the Rhode Island Education Standards, the Rhode Island Frameworks for the Arts, and the National Standards they exemplify. Further documentation of this curriculum may be found at [www.ridoe.ri.net](http://www.ridoe.ri.net), and [www.nksd.net](http://www.nksd.net).

Reading and Language Arts instruction will follow the policy by the Rhode Island Department of Education RI Reading Policy Framework, 1999). The Reading and Language Arts curriculum will be an integrated program addressing all aspects of literacy and will provide balanced instruction to address the development in every child of: understanding and familiarity with the English language and its structure; understanding of the speech sound connection to the printed work; the ability to apply language cues to make meaning; writing ability which is both creative and grammatically correct; and an ever increasing motivation to read and write for information and pleasure. A balance literacy program acknowledges that explicit skills instruction and immersion in quality literature with content meaningful to the reader are both essential components of our program. Additionally, all children have significant opportunity for responding to the material they read both orally and in writing. The curriculum requires the commitment of our teachers, administrator, students, and parents to meet the needs of every child and develop confident, successful readers and writers who interpret and analyze the written word and respond to it in a variety of ways.

The following eight mathematics strands are addressed in the mathematics curriculum. They are: Numeration and Order, Geometry and Measurement, Functions and Algebra, Data and Probability, Problem Solving and Reasoning, Math Skills and Tools, Mathematical Communication, and Putting Mathematics to Work. The curriculum is a sequential spiraling one that directly correlates to the New Standards Performance Standards.

The North Kingstown School District is part of the Guiding Education in Math and Science Network (GEMS NET), a collaboration of six South County Rhode Island School districts and the University of Rhode Island, designed to lead a systemic change in science education at the elementary and middle school levels. The Science Curriculum incorporates a kit-by-kit description of student activities as well as charts to show the linkage between the GEMS NET curriculum (which was written to Project 2061 Science Benchmarks) and National Science Education Standards and New Standards Performance Standards. The content standards are

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separated into eight categories which become interwoven like a basket weave with the Rhode Island Core of Learning. The eight categories are: unifying concepts and processes in science, science as inquiry, science in personal and social perspective, history and nature of science, and the four widely accepted divisions of the domains of science, physical science, life science, earth and space science, and technology. The common core of learning comprises the four major goals of education in Rhode Island. They are communication, problem solving, body of knowledge, and responsibility.

The Social Studies curriculum uses an Expanding Environment model for grades K-6. The curriculum is aligned with national standards in history, social studies, and geography. The foundations for all grade level studies are geography, history, civics, and economics. The focus areas for K-5 are; Self and Others, Families, Neighborhoods, Communities, US Regions and Rhode Island Geography, and North American History to Civil War and Rhode Island History. Skill standards in grades K-2 are: think clearly and solve problems about social studies (classify, decide, estimate, solve, compare); talk and write clearly about social studies (present, persuade, collaborate, explain, recommend); make careful plans and use them (brainstorm, envision, research, plan, organize, persist); use the quality process (plan, draft, analyze, and revise when producing products); be able to conduct and present research; be able to relate social studies to your life; and possess technical skills. Skills standards for grades 3-5 are as follows: higher thinking skills; communication skills; goal setting/attainment skills; the quality process; be able to conduct and present research; be able to relate social studies to your life; and possess technical skills.

The North Kingstown Art Program provides learning experiences which allow students from all cultures to understand and practice art in a variety of contexts. Elements of the program include: basic skills and their applications in studio art, the relationship of art and culture in Art History, evaluation and judgment in Art Criticism, aesthetic appreciations and perception, self-expression, creativity, and visual communication.

The North Kingstown Music curriculum includes the following: performance standards: singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music; performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music; improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments; composing and arranging music within specified guidelines; reading and notating music; listening to, analyzing, and describing music; evaluating music and music performances; understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside of the arts; and understanding music in relation to history and culture.

North Kingstown Elementary Physical Education curriculum includes the following content standards: demonstrates competency in many movement forms and proficiency in a few movement forms; applies movement concepts, principles and rules to the learning and development of motor skills with attention to safety; exhibits and maintains a physically active lifestyle and a health-enhancing level of physical fitness; demonstrates responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings while respecting diversity among people; and utilizes

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physical activity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

## 2. Reading Curriculum

Forest Park Elementary School follows the North Kingstown School District Reading Curriculum. The reading curriculum consists of a Comprehensive Literacy Program which includes instruction through Guided Reading and The Reading Workshop Model. Areas of focus are Phonological Awareness, Systematic Phonics Instruction, Vocabulary, Text Comprehension, and Oral Reading Fluency. Instruction of specific thinking strategies to enhance understanding is taught across all grade levels providing students with a common vocabulary about their reading and thinking strategies. All reading instruction is based on student need. Ongoing assessments, (DRA's and running records) are used to monitor the student's progress. In addition, integration with the arts provides students with multiple and varied approaches to the acquisition of reading strategies. The Comprehensive Literacy Program was adopted to meet the needs of all our students. It clarifies academic and performance standards for all students and demands collaboration and team teaching by the regular education classroom teachers, resource and special education teachers, the literacy coach, and the arts team. Through this model all teachers share the accountability of reading success for all students.

## 3. Science Curriculum

Forest Park Elementary School's other curriculum area is science. The science curriculum emphasizes the development of essential skills and knowledge through process skills that are taught and practiced at every grade level. These process skills are: observing, communicating, problem solving, organizing, analyzing and interpreting data, investigating, predicting and planning. These process skills supports the North Kingstown School District's mission of providing students with engaging experiential learning opportunities that support the skills development for life long learning. North Kingstown School District and Forest Park Elementary School have adopted the GEM-NET science program that supports our science curriculum goals and objectives. The program models, teaches, and presents a hands-on science approach that supports the process skills stated above. An integrated literacy component is also part of the program whereby leveled trade books both fiction and non-fiction support the concepts and topics of each unit of study and writing prompts are recommended to assist students in reflecting on their newly acquired understandings of those concepts and topics.

## 4. Instructional Methods

During the fall 2003 school improvement planning process Forest Park Elementary School's faculty and staff identified the following instructional practices as representing best practices in our school and that all teachers would fully support by continued professional development and daily instructional implementation. They are:

- Guided Reading
- Balanced Literacy Instruction
- Writer's Workshop
- One Way Phonics in grades 1 & 2
- Lindamood Bell Phonemic Awareness in grades K & 1

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- A leveled library housed in the computer lab to support all grade levels for Guided Reading
- Resource and Self-Contained special education teachers working in a full inclusionary model of instruction team teaching with grade level classroom teachers
- A Literacy Coach model replacing a pull-out remedial reading program
- Three classroom teachers receiving advanced continual professional development so as to serve as lab classrooms for their colleagues in literacy instruction
- A compacting of curriculum in grades 3-5 so that literacy instruction is fully integrated with the science and social studies curriculum
- A fully integrated arts instruction modeled called SmArts Schools whereby the arts team collaborates through planning and regularly scheduled shared instruction with classroom teachers
- A model citizen program that first defines the faculty and staff's collective beliefs and processes of shared work and accountability and extends itself as a behavioral program that defines and holds students accountable as members of a respectful community.

### 5. Professional Development

Forest Park Elementary School participates in professional development at both school and district levels. The School Improvement Team meets in the fall to define and articulate school improvement goals, targets, and associated professional development activities. These activities vary from sending teams to workshops to then share with their colleagues, bringing in presenters and consultants to work with specific teachers and teams, providing release time for peer modeling and coaching, and forming study groups to read and reflect on specific text-based instructional ideas and then to model and discuss the implementation of these new instructional strategies. Forest Park Elementary School also participates in district-wide professional development in the area of Literacy by having four of its teachers attend year-long monthly workshops provided by the East Bay Educational Collaborative and by attending periodic and summer institutes provided by SmArts Schools on continuing teachers' capacity in arts instruction and in collaboration and teaming. The impact has been significant. The SmArts Schools program has directed teachers to recognize and honor the multiple intelligences of students and to differentiate instruction thereby increasing student engagement, understanding by design, and performance-based application of basic reading, writing, and problem-solving skills. The focused work on literacy and teaming has resulted in the greater inclusion of special education students and the closing of the gap of both expectations and performance of these students. As cited earlier in Part IV, there was little difference in the performance of special education students and regular education students on the New Standards Assessments given spring 2004.

**Forest Park Elementary School  
New Standards Reference Examination  
Grade 4 – Mathematics**

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Testing Month	March	March	March	March	March
<b>SCHOOL SCORES</b>					
% Who Met the Standard	33	39	40	47	39
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	63	32	35	36	27
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	96	71	75	83	66
Number of Students Tested	49	59	53	42	54
Percent of Students Tested	100	100	100	100	98
Number of Students Alternatively Assessed	0	0	0	0	0
Percent of Students Alternatively Assessed	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subgroup Scores</b>					
White					
% Who Met the Standard	N/A	40	41	N/A	N/A
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	N/A	31	35	N/A	N/A
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	N/A	71	76	N/A	N/A
<b>STATE SCORES</b>					
% Who Met the Standard	35	30	32	29	28
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	16	11	13	10	9
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	51	41	45	39	37

**Forest Park Elementary School  
New Standards Reference Examination  
Grade 4 – English/Language Arts**

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Testing Month	March	March	March	March	March
<b>SCHOOL SCORES</b>					
% Who Met the Standard	71	72	65	66	69
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	17	14	18	23	9
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	88	86	83	89	78
Number of Students Tested	49	59	53	42	54
Percent of Students Tested	100	100	100	100	98
Number of Students Alternatively Assessed	0	0	0	0	0
Percent of Students Alternatively Assessed	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subgroup Scores</b>					
<b>White</b>					
% Who Met the Standard	N/A	72	65	N/A	N/A
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	N/A	15	18	N/A	N/A
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	N/A	87	83	N/A	N/A
<b>STATE SCORES</b>					
% Who Met the Standard	56	53	53	54	57
% Who Achieved the Standard With Honors	12	8	10	8	4
% Who Met/Exceeded the Standard	68	61	63	62	61



