

SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Low costs, high achievement in Marcellus

The district has one of the lowest per-pupil costs and fared well in state.

By John Grau
Staff writer

When the results of state tests are catalogued, Marcellus officials point with a certain pride that their students stand among the best schools around.

"Our kids do typically well in any kind of state standards," said Patrick Collier, Driver Middle School principal, at a recent review of the state report card results for the Marcellus Board of Education.

School report card

This may be even more true for a district that has one of the lowest per-pupil costs in Central New York. The district's 1997-98 per pupil cost of \$7,512 was 15th among the 18 school districts in Onondaga County and 37th among the 44 districts in the region.

In student-teacher ratio, Marcellus has the highest in Onondaga County, with an average 17.3 students for each teacher. That contrasts to Fabius-Pompey, LaFayette and Jamesville-DeWitt at the top of the list among districts with high schools at between 12.1 and 12.6 pupils per teacher. The Marcellus ratio

is the third highest in the four-county area.

Meanwhile, Marcellus ranked seventh in Onondaga County in percentage of seniors graduating with Regents diplomas and third in the county and the region for the highest percentage of graduates that went on to attend college.

"I think we have an excellent teaching staff and supportive parents in a community where education is a top priority," said Joanne Downes, the district's assistant superintendent for instruction.

Last year's third-grade placed Marcellus second in Onondaga County in percent of those achieving the 85 percent level of distinction on the reading test. The 66 percent mark for distinction was 5 percent higher than last year and among the most improved schools in the test in the region.

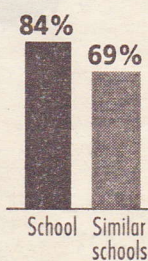
So-called "comparable schools" average about 48 percent passing with distinction.

According to the state Department of Education, MARCELLUS, PAGE 15

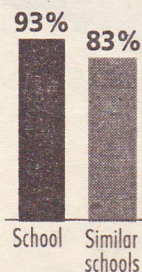
Marcellus

Percent of 1998 ninth graders who scored at least a 55 on Math Course I in eighth or ninth grade. Also, percent of 1998 high school graduates who scored at least 55 on an English Regents exam during their high school careers.

Math Course I



English



Syracuse Newspapers

Where your school stands: Marcellus

Use this chart to see basic information for your district and the district. Except for "District spending per pupil," which is based on figures are taken from the 1997-'98 school year. "Non-teaching and para-professionals."

District/School	Grade range	Enrollment	Teachers	Students per teacher	District spending per pupil
Marcellus		2,148	124	17.3	\$7,512
K.C. Heffernan Elem.	K-3	726	37	19.6	
C.S. Driver Middle	4-8	839	53	15.8	
Marcellus High	9-12	583	34	17.1	

