

Presentation to the Board of Education

**Follow-up on State assessments and
The Writing Revolution
January 10, 2017**

The Sky is Not Falling (but we can do better)

When compared to the regional success rates, which include other high-performing districts from Westchester, Rye's success rates were an average of 14 percentage points higher across all domains. There was not one area in which Rye's eighth graders did not out-perform regional success rates.

Factors that may be holding us back

- Lack of commitment to the testing on the part of some of the stakeholders
- A rich array of other activities



Guiding Strategies

- Hiring the Best Teachers
- Implementing a Strong Curriculum
- Utilizing Formative and Summative Assessments
- Using report cards and other predictive data
- Analysis of Test and Assessment Data
- Implementation of RTI
- Specific Test Preparation

Specific Activities

- Department coordinators were given performance charts indicating the ranking of students in the county by grade level.
- Teachers receive an indication of the strengths and weaknesses of each student in order to target instruction.
- Teachers view test items through Engage NY.
- Department coordinators have viewed and analyzed tests results at department meetings.
- Students who did not meet cut scores are placed in support programs.
- Guidance counselors communicate with parents of students needing support to explain the scores and indicate areas that need support.
- Social studies department partnered with ELA department to design lessons to address the common core standards and literacy skills.
- RTI was implemented for students not succeeding academically.

Data Analysis

ELA

- Strengths/Weaknesses Reports
- Building Benchmark Reports
- Review of Released Questions
- Linking to standards, length and levels of reading passages
- Specific questions-Multiple Choice, 2-point Extended Responses, or 4-point Essays, Vocabulary
- Test-taking Genre
- Test Preparation
- Reading/Writing Workshop

Math

- Strengths/Weaknesses Reports
- Building Benchmark Reports
- Review of Released Questions
- Linking to standards, domains, and types of questions
- Specific questions-Multiple Choice or 2- or 3- point Extended Responses, Vocabulary
- Test Preparation
- Review of Math Curriculum



THE Writing Revolution™

Advancing Thinking Through Writing

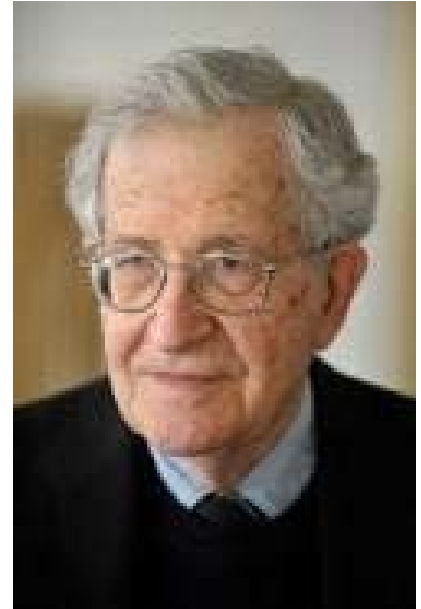
The Writing Revolution brings proven strategies to underserved schools that enable students to improve their writing skills, become better readers, speak more coherently, and elevate their thinking in all content areas.

[Read More](#)

Who is this man?

- A. One of our new science teachers
- B. The new superintendent who will replace Dr. Monahan
- C. Noam Chomsky, whoever that is

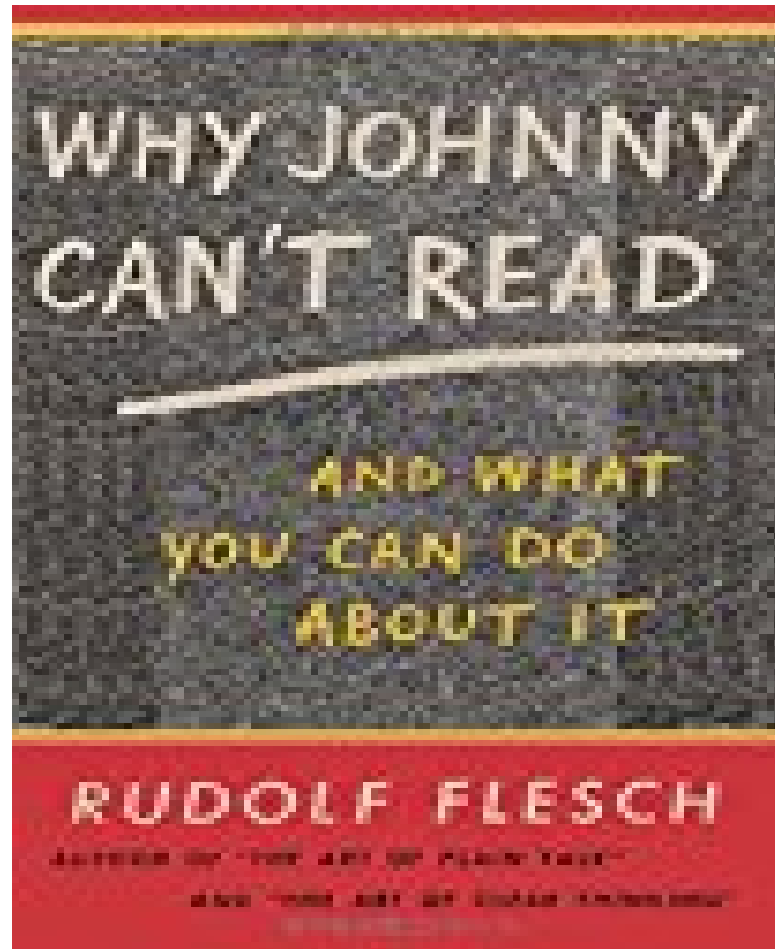
Many consider Chomsky the father of the modern study of English sentence structure.



And who is this man?



And who is this man?



Dr. Flesch wrote this groundbreaking book over 60 years ago. He stressed the importance of different modes of linguistic instruction.

Writing Revolution's Major Strategy

- Instruct students in the use of common syntactical devices and practice them over and over, then, once mastered, to have them use those to improve their sentences.

Tentative Plan

- Intensive three day training for a team of teachers and administrators
- Based on feedback, follow-up and additional training during the summer.

Endorsements and Research

- LEAD Administrators and Teachers from The Bank Street College of Education
- Doug Lemov – *Teach Like a Champion*
- Dr. Peter McDermott, Chair, Pace University School of Education
- New York City Department of Education
- The Windward School
- Tuckahoe Public Schools



Dr. Monahan with
his students

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ANOTHER THING

We will move carefully to make sure there is buy in from staff, especially our teachers.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION