

Chapter Three

EDUCATION

PREKINDERGARTEN EXPERIENCE

CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST SCORES - 4TH GRADERS

CONNECTICUT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

TEST SCORES - 10TH GRADERS

CUMULATIVE DROPOUT RATE



Prekindergarten Experience

Between SY 2004 and SY 2006, the percent of kindergartners with preschool experience increased from 77 percent to 79.3 percent. However, when we look at the number of children with pre-K experience by district, the results are mixed. Optimally, we would like nine out of ten children in any district to have preschool experience. In 2006, this level of exposure occurred in only one-quarter of Connecticut districts.

Priority School Districts (PSDs) were established by the Connecticut State Board of Education to bring equity in educational funding to districts with the greatest academic need. Today, PSDs receive the majority of School Readiness funding. Yet, in 2006, only eight PSDs had the same or a higher percentage of kindergartners with preschool experience as the state average. In the remaining 11 PSDs, the rate of children with pre-K experience ranged from a low of 48 percent to a high of 71 percent. Assessment of family need and program planning conducted by local early childhood councils must continue if these percentages are to increase.

Three barriers stand in the way of families enrolling their children in preschool: (1) affordability; (2) access; and (3) awareness. The cost of basic necessities may over-ride parents' desire to provide a preschool experience for their children. For some, cultural beliefs, a lack of trust, and limited understanding of the behaviors, skills, and knowledge children need to be successful in school may stand in the way. In some communities, long-term planning to increase pre-K capacity is hindered by unstable funding streams, a lack of licensable space, and limited numbers of teachers who meet state-established early education qualifications. Literacy and communication may also

Prekindergarten Experience					
District	SY 2004-2005 % of Kindergartners	SY 2006-2007 % of Kindergartners	District	SY 2004-2005 % of Kindergartners	SY 2006-2007 % of Kindergartners
Fairfield Co.					
Bethel SD	84.5%	87.2%	Norwalk SD	81.0%	85.1%
Bridgeport SD	63.7%	65.5%	Redding SD	92.8%	98.5%
Brookfield SD	90.3%	96.2%	Ridgefield SD	87.1%	88.3%
Danbury SD	73.6%	65.0%	Shelton SD	87.3%	87.1%
Darien SD	99.7%	97.6%	Sherman SD	86.7%	93.6%
Easton SD	91.9%	82.4%	Stamford SD	80.3%	81.6%
Fairfield SD	96.2%	94.6%	Stratford SD	80.2%	64.5%
Greenwich SD	93.8%	94.9%	Trumbull SD	86.4%	87.9%
Monroe SD	92.9%	91.4%	Weston SD	96.7%	99.0%
New Canaan SD	99.4%	99.3%	Westport SD	100.0%	95.5%
New Fairfield SD	90.9%	90.1%	Wilton SD	99.7%	98.7%
Newtown SD	87.8%	88.1%			
Hartford Co.					
Avon SD	87.0%	81.6%	Manchester SD	61.9%	66.7%
Berlin SD	92.7%	88.2%	Marlborough SD	76.9%	79.8%
Bloomfield SD	87.3%	83.5%	New Britain SD	43.7%	63.8%
Bristol SD	81.5%	86.2%	Newington SD	85.7%	81.3%
Canton SD	89.5%	91.5%	Plainville SD	83.4%	76.4%
East Granby SD	91.5%	89.3%	Rocky Hill SD	81.9%	95.0%
East Hartford SD	60.6%	48.0%	Simsbury SD	93.4%	92.1%
East Windsor SD	86.2%	76.0%	Southington SD	90.0%	82.1%
Enfield SD	69.0%	73.0%	South Windsor SD	91.3%	82.9%
Farmington SD	93.9%	91.7%	Suffield SD	79.9%	89.0%
Glastonbury SD	90.7%	95.4%	West Hartford SD	81.5%	85.0%
Granby SD	94.6%	96.5%	Wethersfield SD	82.5%	92.9%
Hartford SD	55.2%	67.5%	Windsor SD	83.6%	82.2%
Hartland SD	76.2%	81.8%	Windsor Locks SD	72.0%	58.7%
Litchfield Co.					
Barkhamsted SD	83.1%	94.2%	North Canaan SD	85.4%	36.8%
Canaan SD	70.0%	77.8%	Plymouth SD	84.7%	81.6%
Colebrook SD	100.0%	78.6%	Salisbury SD	48.6%	82.8%
Cornwall SD	85.7%	85.7%	Sharon SD	47.8%	30.8%
Kent SD	90.6%	90.6%	Thomaston SD	72.3%	71.4%
Litchfield SD	65.1%	77.2%	Torrington SD	78.4%	74.4%
New Hartford SD	92.7%	88.5%	Watertown SD	81.6%	70.6%
New Milford SD	61.7%	76.2%	Winchester SD	69.2%	68.5%
Norfolk SD	57.9%	88.9%			
Middlesex Co.					
Chester SD	95.3%	95.3%	Essex SD	98.6%	84.1%
Clinton SD	59.6%	72.1%	Middletown SD	87.5%	83.0%
Cromwell SD	77.5%	86.3%	Old Saybrook SD	92.9%	94.8%
Deep River SD	56.1%	46.4%	Portland SD	85.5%	92.3%
East Haddam SD	85.7%	86.0%	Westbrook SD	92.1%	83.6%
East Hampton SD	85.7%	89.9%			

Prekindergarten Experience

District	SY 2004-2005 % of Kindergartners	SY 2006-2007 % of Kindergartners	District	SY 2004-2005 % of Kindergartners	SY 2006-2007 % of Kindergartners
New Haven Co.					
Ansonia SD	45.1%	62.0%	New Haven SD	64.0%	65.2%
Bethany SD	84.6%	94.3%	North Branford SD	86.8%	95.0%
Branford SD	84.0%	85.7%	North Haven SD	81.3%	85.6%
Cheshire SD	89.8%	99.1%	Orange SD	96.3%	97.6%
East Haven SD	72.4%	70.0%	Oxford SD	92.9%	94.5%
Guilford SD	89.7%	82.9%	Seymour SD	73.2%	74.6%
Hamden SD	65.5%	85.9%	Wallingford SD	81.3%	84.4%
Madison SD	96.4%	94.7%	Waterbury SD	56.9%	60.4%
Meriden SD	83.3%	81.6%	West Haven SD	69.3%	71.0%
Milford SD	85.1%	82.0%	Wolcott SD	77.1%	91.9%
Naugatuck SD	72.0%	77.1%	Woodbridge SD	95.7%	89.1%
New London Co.					
Bozrah SD	85.2%	80.8%	New London SD	59.8%	59.0%
Colchester SD	66.2%	82.3%	North Stonington SD	91.8%	87.5%
East Lyme SD	86.0%	93.5%	Norwich SD	65.8%	79.3%
Franklin SD	82.6%	94.7%	Preston SD	72.5%	72.7%
Griswold SD	79.8%	88.5%	Salem SD	87.9%	72.5%
Groton SD	72.4%	72.8%	Sprague SD	75.0%	77.8%
Lebanon SD	76.8%	87.8%	Stonington SD	64.6%	86.5%
Ledyard SD	73.8%	78.5%	Voluntown SD	96.7%	84.8%
Lisbon SD	91.8%	91.9%	Waterford SD	83.7%	65.3%
Montville SD	50.0%	74.9%			
Tolland Co.					
Andover SD	80.5%	69.4%	Somers SD	81.4%	88.6%
Bolton SD	89.6%	83.3%	Stafford SD	73.3%	70.1%
Columbia SD	95.4%	88.5%	Tolland SD	58.2%	68.1%
Coventry SD	60.6%	62.8%	Union SD	100.0%	77.8%
Ellington SD	78.2%	66.1%	Vernon SD	79.2%	74.4%
Hebron SD	98.1%	97.1%	Willington SD	78.8%	83.3%
Mansfield SD	79.4%	79.7%			
Windham Co.					
Ashford SD	83.0%	94.3%	Pomfret SD	68.4%	80.9%
Brooklyn SD	82.0%	87.5%	Putnam SD	74.7%	67.8%
Canterbury SD	80.4%	70.9%	Scotland SD	83.3%	88.0%
Chaplin SD	60.7%	76.2%	Sterling SD	93.7%	76.2%
Eastford SD	59.1%	55.0%	Thompson SD	73.3%	75.9%
Hampton SD	88.9%	100.0%	Windham SD	76.1%	80.6%
Killingly SD	65.9%	72.9%	Woodstock SD	68.5%	94.7%
Plainfield SD	66.2%	65.8%			
RESCs					
* * *					
Charter/Magnet					
* * *					
CONNECTICUT					
77.0% 79.3%					



be a barrier for families who are unaware of pre-K options and their importance.

Data for this indicator are obtained from parental self-reports at the time children enter kindergarten. Local early education teachers and administrators express the following concerns about these data: (1) data collection has not been standardized in every school district; (2) the definition of “preschool” may be different for families and administrators; and (3) a written survey of parents usually is less accurate than collecting attendance data from all pre-K programs in a district. To fully understand what is happening in school districts related to pre-K experience, methods of data collection must be changed, local strategies and situations must be better understood by state planners, and adequate funding must be available.

Barbara Tacchi

Coordinator, Waterbury School Readiness Program
Chair, Connecticut School Readiness Network

Note: See page 60 for list of Charter/Magnet Schools and RESCs

Key * Total average not calculated by the Connecticut State Department of Education
RESCs Regional Education Service Centers
SY School Year



Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test

A comparison of the results from the 2006 and 2008 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) reveals that on a *school-by-school* rather than district basis, high schools posted solid improvement, middle schools had smaller gains, and elementary scores remained flat. Despite the overall gains in high school, urban high schools continue to significantly underperform their wealthier suburban peers.

Connecticut's achievement gap between poor and non-poor students, already the largest achievement gap of any state according to the National

Connecticut Mastery Test Scores - 4th Graders

District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008			District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008		
	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals		Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals
Fairfield County	** 11,163	5,485	49.1%	11,283	5,635	49.9%							
Bethel SD	240	144	60.0%	239	139	58.2%	Norwalk SD	771	231	30.0%	782	240	30.7%
Bridgeport SD	1,632	182	11.2%	1,681	225	13.4%	Redding SD	135	73	54.1%	157	108	68.8%
Brookfield SD	240	168	70.0%	199	138	69.3%	Ridgefield SD	458	319	69.7%	419	316	75.4%
Danbury SD	685	219	32.0%	705	244	34.6%	Shelton SD	420	208	49.5%	471	214	45.4%
Darien SD	383	268	70.0%	391	288	73.7%	Sherman SD	60	40	66.7%	46	27	58.7%
Easton SD	128	98	76.6%	130	98	75.4%	Stamford SD	1,166	477	40.9%	1,105	413	37.4%
Fairfield SD	762	471	61.8%	835	532	63.7%	Stratford SD	599	214	35.7%	582	209	35.9%
Greenwich SD	689	475	68.9%	704	446	63.4%	Trumbull SD	508	338	66.5%	530	378	71.3%
Monroe SD	346	202	58.4%	308	211	68.5%	Weston SD	187	142	75.9%	212	151	71.2%
New Canaan SD	342	262	76.6%	312	244	78.2%	Westport SD	436	302	69.3%	445	321	72.1%
New Fairfield SD	226	127	56.2%	236	134	56.8%	Wilton SD	341	261	76.5%	356	240	67.4%
Newtown SD	409	264	64.5%	438	319	72.8%							
Hartford County	** 10,466	4,341	41.5%	10,771	4,391	40.8%							
Avon SD	303	247	81.5%	274	202	73.7%	Manchester SD	532	211	39.7%	525	218	41.5%
Berlin SD	250	155	62.0%	257	157	61.1%	Marlborough SD	91	49	53.8%	86	47	54.7%
Bloomfield SD	175	46	26.3%	162	49	30.2%	New Britain SD	762	97	12.7%	860	99	11.5%
Bristol SD	677	317	46.8%	690	272	39.4%	Newington SD	346	171	49.4%	314	167	53.2%
Canton SD	150	88	58.7%	118	69	58.5%	Plainville SD	180	81	45.0%	200	86	43.0%
East Granby SD	76	37	48.7%	80	40	50.0%	Rocky Hill SD	197	100	50.8%	232	121	52.2%
East Hartford SD	510	83	16.3%	525	107	20.4%	Simsbury SD	394	278	70.6%	386	285	73.8%
East Windsor SD	126	43	34.1%	117	41	35.0%	Southington SD	519	315	60.7%	505	293	58.0%
Enfield SD	435	174	40.0%	472	178	37.7%	South Windsor SD	380	226	59.5%	363	215	59.2%
Farmington SD	326	216	66.3%	334	231	69.2%	Suffield SD	212	127	59.9%	201	126	62.7%
Glastonbury SD	557	353	63.4%	542	304	56.1%	West Hartford SD	740	394	53.2%	828	455	55.0%
Granby SD	186	110	59.1%	198	123	62.1%	Wethersfield SD	275	124	45.1%	332	189	56.9%
Hartford SD	1,590	122	7.7%	1,712	154	9.0%	Windsor SD	300	113	37.7%	282	102	36.2%
Hartland SD	30	14	46.7%	23	14	60.9%	Windsor Locks SD	147	50	34.0%	153	47	30.7%
Litchfield County	** 1,701	730	42.9%	1,707	711	41.7%							
Barkhamsted SD	46	32	69.6%	45	17	37.8%	North Canaan SD	39	18	46.2%	36	20	55.6%
Canaan SD	+			9	6	66.7%	Plymouth SD	142	62	43.7%	128	43	33.6%
Colebrook SD	+			19	8	42.1%	Salisbury SD	27	17	63.0%	31	19	61.3%
Cornwall SD	+			10	6	60.0%	Sharon SD	26	12	46.2%	25	6	24.0%
Kent SD	30	17	56.7%	22	11	50.0%	Thomaston SD	95	37	38.9%	95	30	31.6%
Litchfield SD	73	46	63.0%	92	54	58.7%	Torrington SD	346	115	33.2%	390	137	35.1%
New Hartford SD	91	53	58.2%	87	49	56.3%	Watertown SD	261	96	36.8%	224	112	50.0%
New Milford SD	374	171	45.7%	357	152	42.6%	Winchester SD	121	43	35.5%	118	30	25.4%
Norfolk SD	30	11	36.7%	19	11	57.9%							
Middlesex Co.	** 1,472	672	45.7%	1,534	730	47.6%							
Chester SD	50	24	48.0%	54	26	48.1%	Essex SD	71	30	42.3%	68	43	63.2%
Clinton SD	167	85	50.9%	166	73	44.0%	Middletown SD	415	171	41.2%	417	167	40.0%
Cromwell SD	146	71	48.6%	164	79	48.2%	Old Saybrook SD	121	63	52.1%	132	67	50.8%
Deep River SD	42	16	38.1%	53	34	64.2%	Portland SD	135	54	40.0%	125	56	44.8%
East Haddam SD	111	63	56.8%	104	55	52.9%	Westbrook SD	65	33	50.8%	66	42	63.6%
East Hampton SD	149	62	41.6%	185	88	47.6%							

Connecticut Mastery Test Scores - 4th Graders

District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008			District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008		
	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals		Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals
New Haven Co.	** 9,270	3,421	36.9%	9,280	3,347	36.1%							
Ansonia SD	201	60	29.9%	189	85	45.0%	New Haven SD	1,370	190	13.9%	1,416	242	17.1%
Bethany SD	85	42	49.4%	78	47	60.3%	North Branford SD	195	73	37.4%	189	71	37.6%
Branford SD	285	151	53.0%	260	139	53.5%	North Haven SD	329	164	49.8%	278	136	48.9%
Cheshire SD	398	251	63.1%	391	230	58.8%	Orange SD	213	122	57.3%	206	133	64.6%
Derby SD	108	36	33.3%	89	19	21.3%	Oxford SD	181	103	56.9%	173	88	50.9%
East Haven SD	279	94	33.7%	285	96	33.7%	Seymour SD	171	99	57.9%	204	101	49.5%
Guilford SD	313	198	63.3%	275	179	65.1%	Wallingford SD	489	232	47.4%	533	223	41.8%
Hamden SD	421	126	29.9%	460	135	29.3%	Waterbury SD	1,423	277	19.5%	1,414	293	20.7%
Madison SD	289	218	75.4%	299	213	71.2%	West Haven SD	484	159	32.9%	562	161	28.6%
Meriden SD	712	179	25.1%	709	178	25.1%	Wolcott SD	244	158	64.8%	213	135	63.4%
Milford SD	574	308	53.7%	576	270	46.9%	Woodbridge SD	114	68	59.6%	117	79	67.5%
Naugatuck SD	392	113	28.8%	364	94	25.8%							
New London Co.	** 2,969	1,206	40.6%	2,865	1,209	42.2%							
Bozrah SD	33	12	36.4%	21	10	47.6%	New London SD	259	38	14.7%	259	17	6.6%
Colchester SD	255	112	43.9%	243	139	57.2%	North Stonington SD	60	28	46.7%	59	32	54.2%
East Lyme SD	208	118	56.7%	189	130	68.8%	Norwich SD	418	103	24.6%	405	96	23.7%
Franklin SD	26	21	80.8%	17	10	58.8%	Preston SD	58	27	46.6%	51	32	62.7%
Griswold SD	130	36	27.7%	132	48	36.4%	Salem SD	63	38	60.3%	61	44	72.1%
Groton SD	361	147	40.7%	359	133	37.0%	Sprague SD	33	14	42.4%	32	11	34.4%
Lebanon SD	107	54	50.5%	98	55	56.1%	Stonington SD	171	80	46.8%	195	92	47.2%
Ledyard SD	241	118	49.0%	215	111	51.6%	Voluntown SD	42	12	28.6%	27	15	55.6%
Lisbon SD	66	24	36.4%	66	28	42.4%	Waterford SD	213	115	54.0%	214	106	49.5%
Montville SD	225	109	48.4%	222	100	45.0%							
Tolland County	** 1,786	916	51.3%	1,677	843	50.3%							
Andover SD	55	26	47.3%	52	31	59.6%	Somers SD	130	58	44.6%	134	46	34.3%
Bolton SD	91	58	63.7%	74	55	74.3%	Stafford SD	147	65	44.2%	146	67	45.9%
Columbia SD	67	21	31.3%	62	21	33.9%	Tolland SD	241	124	51.5%	248	133	53.6%
Coventry SD	166	87	52.4%	157	75	47.8%	Union SD	+			9	4	44.4%
Ellington SD	188	112	59.6%	191	117	61.3%	Vernon SD	307	130	42.3%	245	95	38.8%
Hebron SD	188	117	62.2%	169	108	63.9%	Willington SD	72	39	54.2%	53	23	43.4%
Mansfield SD	134	79	59.0%	137	68	9.6%							
Windham County	** 1,296	460	35.5%	1,324	421	31.8%							
Ashford SD	56	23	41.1%	48	18	37.5%	Pomfret SD	63	37	58.7%	52	31	59.6%
Brooklyn SD	97	37	38.1%	101	44	43.6%	Putnam SD	80	21	26.3%	88	30	34.1%
Canterbury SD	53	25	47.2%	47	11	23.4%	Scotland SD	20	1	5.0%	34	6	17.6%
Chaplin SD	37	12	32.4%	18	1	5.6%	Sterling SD	53	14	26.4%	59	16	27.1%
Hampton SD	29	17	58.6%	17	10	58.8%	Thompson SD	126	42	33.3%	106	38	35.8%
Killingly SD	195	88	45.1%	192	67	34.9%	Windham SD	222	35	15.8%	265	44	16.6%
Plainfield SD	170	60	35.3%	193	69	35.8%	Woodstock SD	95	48	50.5%	104	36	34.6%
Reg School Dist	** 1,614	886	54.9%	1,588	882	55.5%	DCF				9	0.0%	
Charter/Magnet	** 164	44	26.8%	238	63	26.5%	RESCs	** 304	98	32.2%	321	106	33.0%
CONNECTICUT	** 42,205	18,259	43.3%	42,597	18,338	43.0%							



Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), increased between 2007 and 2008 across all grade levels on state tests. The gap between white students and both black and Hispanic students also increased—in elementary, middle, and high school. In fact, poor white students now score higher than non-poor black students in elementary, middle, and high school.

While state achievement as a whole was largely unchanged in elementary and middle school, several urban districts improved at a higher rate than the state average. Of Connecticut's



five largest districts, Hartford and New Haven beat the state average for performance gains by student cohorts in elementary and middle school (3.5 points and 2.6 points, respectively, to the state's 1.9 points). Hartford turned around a 10-year downtrend in 2008, improving at a faster rate than the state. In addition, a number of urban schools across Connecticut beat the statewide average for three years in a row, suggesting that sustained progress in closing the achievement gap is possible.¹

Marc Porter McGee
 Director of Communications
 and Research
 Connecticut Coalition for
 Achievement Now
 (ConnCAN)

Connecticut Academic Performance Test Scores - 10th Graders

District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008			District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008		
	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals		Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals
Fairfield Co.	** 9,926	3,831	38.6%	10,635	3,692	34.7%							
Bethel SD	271	135	49.8%	280	113	40.4%	Newtown SD	412	216	52.4%	436	190	43.6%
Bridgeport SD	1,101	65	5.9%	1,511	48	3.2%	Norwalk SD	780	147	18.8%	836	145	17.3%
Brookfield SD	242	109	45.0%	270	132	48.9%	Ridgefield SD	431	284	65.9%	438	306	69.9%
Danbury SD	680	140	20.6%	713	126	17.7%	Shelton SD	437	143	32.7%	426	124	29.1%
Darien SD	244	154	63.1%	292	179	61.3%	Stamford SD	1,090	212	19.4%	1,090	196	18.0%
Fairfield SD	634	371	58.5%	702	381	54.3%	Stratford SD	596	143	24.0%	581	112	19.3%
Greenwich SD	684	364	53.2%	686	273	39.8%	Trumbull SD	506	218	43.1%	572	276	48.3%
Monroe SD	387	198	51.2%	297	137	46.1%	Weston SD	197	129	65.5%	218	151	69.3%
New Canaan SD	328	216	65.9%	300	209	69.7%	Westport SD	390	261	66.9%	412	265	64.3%
New Fairfield SD	217	138	63.6%	264	131	49.6%	Wilton SD	299	188	62.9%	311	198	63.7%
Hartford Co.	** 10,120	3,170	31.3%	10,520	2,981	28.3%							
Avon SD	245	161	65.7%	277	153	55.2%	Manchester SD	557	99	17.8%	486	108	22.2%
Berlin SD	270	124	45.9%	240	91	37.9%	New Britain SD	658	55	8.4%	787	45	5.7%
Bloomfield SD	157	4	2.5%	191	7	3.7%	Newington SD	403	122	30.3%	393	147	37.4%
Bristol SD	661	164	24.8%	630	191	30.3%	Plainville SD	245	76	31.0%	228	64	28.1%
Canton SD	127	71	55.9%	134	89	66.4%	Rocky Hill SD	180	84	46.7%	200	68	34.0%
East Granby SD	70	38	54.3%	49	23	46.9%	Simsbury SD	378	217	57.4%	422	290	68.7%
East Hartford SD	633	92	14.5%	616	51	8.3%	Southington SD	540	161	29.8%	511	164	32.1%
East Windsor SD	145	36	24.8%	115	26	22.6%	South Windsor SD	415	199	48.0%	404	165	40.8%
Enfield SD	444	90	20.3%	488	77	15.8%	Suffield SD	212	110	51.9%	215	105	48.8%
Farmington SD	351	201	57.3%	359	204	56.8%	West Hartford SD	719	305	42.4%	785	335	42.7%
Glastonbury SD	513	316	61.6%	480	232	48.3%	Wethersfield SD	300	109	36.3%	319	111	34.8%
Granby SD	194	113	58.2%	182	95	52.2%	Windsor SD	352	114	32.4%	378	61	16.1%
Hartford SD	1,196	57	4.8%	1,485	51	3.4%	Windsor Locks SD	155	52	33.5%	146	28	19.2%
Litchfield Co.	** 1,288	396	30.7%	1,023	346	33.8%							
Litchfield SD	116	53	45.7%	112	57	50.9%	Torrington SD	332	71	21.4%	+		
New Milford SD	401	158	39.4%	422	172	40.8%	Watertown SD	225	47	20.9%	242	62	25.6%
Plymouth SD	112	24	21.4%	141	25	17.7%	Winchester SD	*			*		
Thomaston SD	102	43	42.2%	99	30	30.3%							
Middlesex Co.	** 1,159	411	35.5%	1,149	368	32.0%							
Clinton SD	186	65	34.9%	159	46	28.9%	Middletown SD	327	88	26.9%	294	54	18.4%
Cromwell SD	135	40	29.6%	140	59	42.1%	Old Saybrook SD	112	58	51.8%	125	72	57.6%
East Haddam SD	86	26	30.2%	120	33	27.5%	Portland SD	88	31	35.2%	94	23	24.5%
East Hampton SD	142	63	44.4%	144	51	35.4%	Westbrook SD	83	40	48.2%	73	30	41.1%

Connecticut Academic Performance Test Scores - 10th Graders

District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008			District	SY 2005-2006			SY 2007-2008				
	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals		Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals	Total Tested	# Met Goals	% Met Goals		
New Haven Co.	**	7,606	1,855	24.4%	8,628	1,767	20.5%								
Ansonia SD		165	26	15.8%	174	23	13.2%	Naugatuck SD		340	79	23.2%	321	86	26.8%
Branford SD		280	106	37.9%	321	114	35.5%	New Haven SD		1,272	82	6.4%	1,500	81	5.4%
Cheshire SD		420	228	54.3%	418	197	47.1%	North Branford SD		183	67	36.6%	158	68	43.0%
Derby SD		100	13	13.0%	110	8	7.3%	North Haven SD		277	126	45.5%	325	99	30.5%
East Haven SD		290	51	17.6%	284	32	11.3%	Seymour SD		210	45	21.4%	211	49	23.2%
Guilford SD		306	150	49.0%	287	161	56.1%	Wallingford SD		565	190	33.6%	546	172	31.5%
Hamden SD		564	140	24.8%	565	95	16.8%	Waterbury SD		1,030	77	7.5%	1,144	69	6.0%
Madison SD		327	211	64.5%	303	174	57.4%	West Haven SD		464	85	18.3%	459	47	10.2%
Meriden SD		606	99	16.3%	607	53	8.7%	Wolcott SD		207	80	38.6%	227	56	24.7%
Milford SD					557	153	27.5%								
New London Co.	**	2,418	785	32.5%	2,478	674	27.2%								
Colchester SD		243	85	35.0%	246	62	25.2%	Montville SD		208	61	29.3%	233	61	26.2%
East Lyme SD		326	190	58.3%	317	150	47.3%	New London SD		173	8	4.6%	189	5	2.6%
Griswold SD		192	39	20.3%	201	38	18.9%	North Stonington SD		62	23	37.1%	56	22	39.3%
Groton SD		368	93	25.3%	344	69	20.1%	Norwich SD		*			*		
Lebanon SD		130	35	26.9%	145	36	24.8%	Stonington SD		204	77	37.7%	203	78	38.4%
Ledyard SD		265	91	34.3%	269	75	27.9%	Waterford SD		247	83	33.6%	241	78	32.4%
Tolland Co.	**	1,134	480	42.3%	1,192	449	37.7%								
Bolton SD		62	34	54.8%	66	30	45.5%	Stafford SD		117	53	45.3%	122	46	37.7%
Coventry SD		153	49	32.0%	134	45	33.6%	Tolland SD		189	82	43.4%	236	90	38.1%
Ellington SD		178	90	50.6%	194	102	52.6%	Vernon SD		293	107	36.5%	294	68	23.1%
Somers SD		142	65	45.8%	146	68	46.6%	Woodstock		*			*		
Windham Co.	**	843	116	13.8%	924	117	12.7%								
Killingly SD		198	21	10.6%	220	37	6.8%	Thompson SD		96	23	24.0%	100	10	10.0%
Plainfield SD		203	19	9.4%	239	26	10.9%	Windham SD		228	36	15.8%	265	35	13.2%
Putnam SD		118	17	14.4%	100	9	9.0%								
Regional Schools	**	3,349	1,543	46.1%	3,288	1,534	46.7%	DCF		71	0	0.0%	77	0	0.0%
Charter/Magnet	**	114	3	2.6%	149	14	9.4%	CT Tech HS		2,573	16	0.6%	2,559	273	10.7%
RESCs	**	106	26	24.5%	141	28	19.9%	Other	**	1,002	315	31.4%	1,027	261	25.4%
CONNECTICUT		37,957	12,590	33.2%	43,790	12,504	28.6%								

Note:

See page 60 for list of Regional School Districts, Charter/Magnet Schools, RESCs, DCF, and Technical High Schools

Endnotes

1 Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN). (2008.) *The State of Connecticut Public Education: A 2008 Report Card for Connecticut Public Schools*. New Haven, CT.

Key

- * Most or all high school students in these towns attend endowed and incorporated academies: Norwich students attend Norwich Free Academy, Winchester students attend Gilbert School, and Woodstock students attend Woodstock Academy
- ** County and special category totals and average percentages have been calculated by author
- + Data not available
- ++ Gilbert School, Norwich Free Academy, and Woodstock Academy
- SY School Year



Cumulative Dropout Rate

From 2004 to 2006, cumulative dropout rates for nearly three out of four Connecticut school districts improved, a very positive trend. The cumulative dropout rate in Hartford was cut by nearly one-third, from 20.8 percent for the Class of 2004 to 13.8 percent for the Class of 2006. Norwalk reduced its cumulative dropout rate from 10.1 percent to 3.1 percent, Hamden from 15.7 percent to 3.9 percent, and Derby from 9.6 percent to 2.9 percent. Yet, despite the improvements, there are still districts with unacceptably high dropout rates. New Britain had the highest cumulative dropout rate (23.9 percent); Bridgeport had the second highest (22.4 percent).

Connecticut's cumulative dropout rate is calculated by adding up the number of high school students in a class who drop out of school over a four-year period and expressing it as a proportion of the full class cohort. This method of calculation is known as a "leaver" rate. Thirty-two states use a "leaver" formula to estimate dropout and graduation rates.¹

Across the country, the manner of calculating dropout and graduation rates has become controversial as at least four different formulas are used by different states. As a result, there are no uniform accountability data.

In 2005, the National Governor's Association brokered a compact with the 50 state governors to establish a uniform measure for dropout and graduation rates. In 2007, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education set this agreement in regulation, requiring all states to calculate graduation and dropout rates using the same formula by 2013. To comply, states will have to assign a single identification number to students and track their progress through school over the four-year period. This uniform calculation will distinguish between dropouts and those students who transfer to another school, district, or state; leave high school to enroll in a GED program; or remain in high

Cumulative Dropout Rate

District	Class of 2004	Class of 2006	District	Class of 2004	Class of 2006
Fairfield Co.					
Bethel SD	1.9%	0.4%	Newtown SD	3.3%	4.1%
Bridgeport SD	25.9%	22.4%	Norwalk SD	10.1%	3.1%
Brookfield SD	0.4%	0.9%	Ridgefield SD	0.9%	1.0%
Danbury SD	12.1%	7.9%	Shelton SD	7.7%	6.0%
Darien SD	1.2%	1.2%	Stamford SD	9.5%	7.3%
Fairfield SD	2.8%	1.5%	Stratford SD	7.2%	5.8%
Greenwich SD	3.7%	2.8%	Trumbull SD	7.4%	3.3%
Monroe SD	0.6%	0.9%	Weston SD	0.0%	0.0%
New Canaan SD	0.0%	0.0%	Westport SD	1.1%	0.0%
New Fairfield SD	2.1%	1.2%	Wilton SD	0.4%	0.3%
Hartford Co.					
Avon SD	0.0%	0.0%	Manchester SD	4.6%	5.8%
Berlin SD	4.6%	3.8%	New Britain SD	22.7%	23.9%
Bloomfield SD	11.1%	4.6%	Newington SD	2.7%	0.9%
Bristol SD	7.0%	5.2%	Plainville SD	4.8%	2.6%
Canton SD	0.9%	0.8%	Rocky Hill SD	2.2%	4.1%
East Granby SD	5.3%	0.0%	Simsbury SD	2.1%	1.5%
East Hartford SD	8.6%	8.3%	Southington SD	5.3%	8.0%
East Windsor SD	11.3%	8.0%	South Windsor SD	5.3%	3.1%
Enfield SD	12.6%	8.4%	Suffield SD	3.0%	2.1%
Farmington SD	5.7%	1.9%	West Hartford SD	5.2%	4.3%
Glastonbury SD	2.8%	0.8%	Wethersfield SD	9.9%	3.9%
Granby SD	4.1%	2.1%	Windsor SD	7.9%	6.3%
Hartford SD	20.8%	13.8%	Windsor Locks SD	13.7%	6.4%
Litchfield Co.					
Litchfield SD	3.0%	3.1%	Torrington SD	16.0%	12.4%
New Milford SD	1.1%	3.5%	Watertown SD	6.9%	3.2%
Plymouth SD	5.3%	8.2%	Winchester SD	**	**
Thomaston SD	9.1%	2.9%			
Middlesex Co.					
Clinton SD	4.5%	2.6%	Middletown SD	4.8%	4.4%
Cromwell SD	0.8%	3.0%	Old Saybrook SD	0.0%	0.0%
East Haddam SD	9.3%	1.9%	Portland SD	3.0%	0.0%
East Hampton SD	0.8%	1.4%	Westbrook SD	1.3%	1.3%

Cumulative Dropout Rate

District	Class of 2004	Class of 2006	District	Class of 2004	Class of 2006
New Haven Co.					
	*	*			
Ansonia SD	9.0%	7.3%	Naugatuck SD	11.3%	6.3%
Branford SD	5.2%	3.5%	New Haven SD	18.7%	16.2%
Cheshire SD	3.9%	3.0%	North Branford SD	2.8%	2.1%
Derby SD	9.6%	2.9%	North Haven SD	5.2%	1.8%
East Haven SD	4.8%	2.1%	Seymour SD	8.7%	10.8%
Guilford SD	2.0%	1.7%	Wallingford SD	4.5%	4.3%
Hamden SD	15.7%	3.9%	Waterbury SD	10.3%	13.1%
Madison SD	3.9%	0.4%	West Haven SD	5.8%	5.3%
Meriden SD	11.1%	7.3%	Wolcott SD	5.1%	5.5%
Milford SD	6.9%	7.5%			
New London Co.					
	*	*			
Colchester SD	4.7%	2.3%	Montville SD	8.1%	4.4%
East Lyme SD	3.6%	6.8%	New London SD	60.5%	19.0%
Griswold SD	10.6%	10.7%	North Stonington SD	9.8%	4.0%
Groton SD	3.5%	2.6%	Norwich SD	**	**
Lebanon SD	3.4%	0.7%	Stonington SD	12.3%	6.9%
Ledyard SD	7.4%	4.4%	Waterford SD	2.9%	4.4%
Tolland Co.					
	*	*			
Bolton SD	1.2%	1.1%	Stafford SD	7.7%	8.9%
Coventry SD	5.8%	1.4%	Tolland SD	4.2%	1.8%
Ellington SD	4.5%	2.2%	Vernon SD	8.5%	8.8%
Somers SD	7.4%	3.0%			
Windham Co.					
	*	*			
Killingly SD	23.0%	19.0%	Thompson SD	12.3%	7.7%
Plainfield SD	24.3%	18.6%	Windham SD	17.9%	8.8%
Putnam SD	17.4%	10.4%	Woodstock	**	**
Regional Schools					
	*	*	Charter/Magnet	*	*
RESCs					
	*	*	Other	++	*
Technical HS					
	*	*			
CONNECTICUT					
	8.8%	6.6%			



school longer than their classmates. Connecticut is scheduled to meet the regulation in 2010.

Once Connecticut begins to use the required federal formula, cumulative dropout and graduation rates may look very different.

Barbara Edinberg
 Assistant Director
 Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition

Note:

See page 60 for list of Regional School Districts, Charter/Magnet Schools, RESCs, DCF, and Technical High Schools.

Endnotes

- 1 Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. (2008). *School to College: Can State P-16 Councils Ease the Transition?* A special supplement to Education Week's *Diplomas Count*. Bethesda, MD.

- * Total percentages not calculated by the Connecticut State Department of Education
- ** Most or all high school students in the towns attend endowed and incorporated academies: Norwich students attend Norwich Free Academy; Winchester students attend Gilbert School; and Woodstock students attend Woodstock Academy
- ++ Gilbert School, Norwich Free Academy, and Woodstock Academy