

Middle School Reform Report



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Update to Board of Education

January 27, 2009

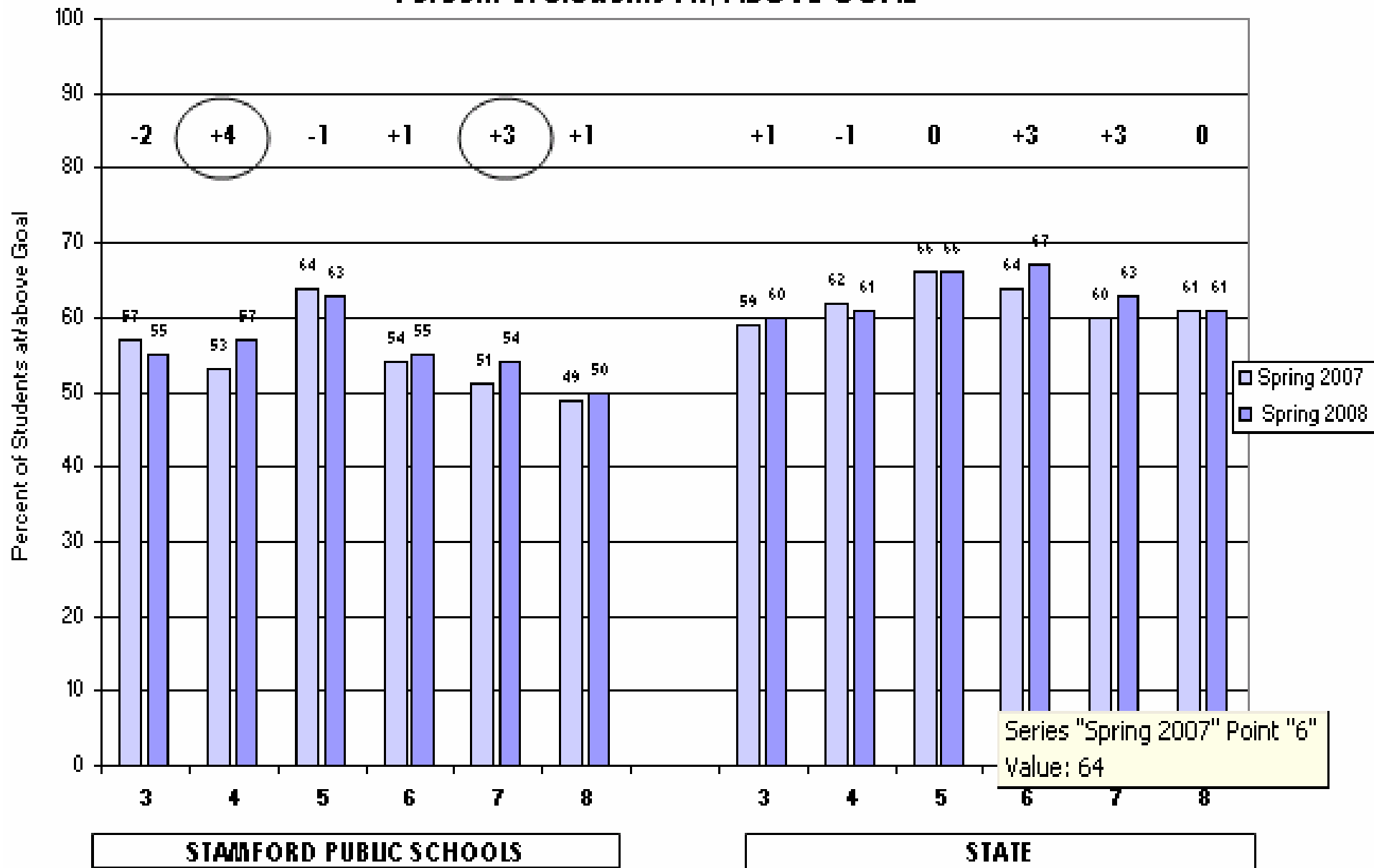
Need for Change

- Data
 - CMT Results, Grades 3-8 MATH & READING
 - Spring 2007 to Spring 2008
 - Percent of Students AT/ABOVE GOAL

SPS CMT Results, Grades 3-8 in MATH
Spring 2007 to Spring 2008

MATH

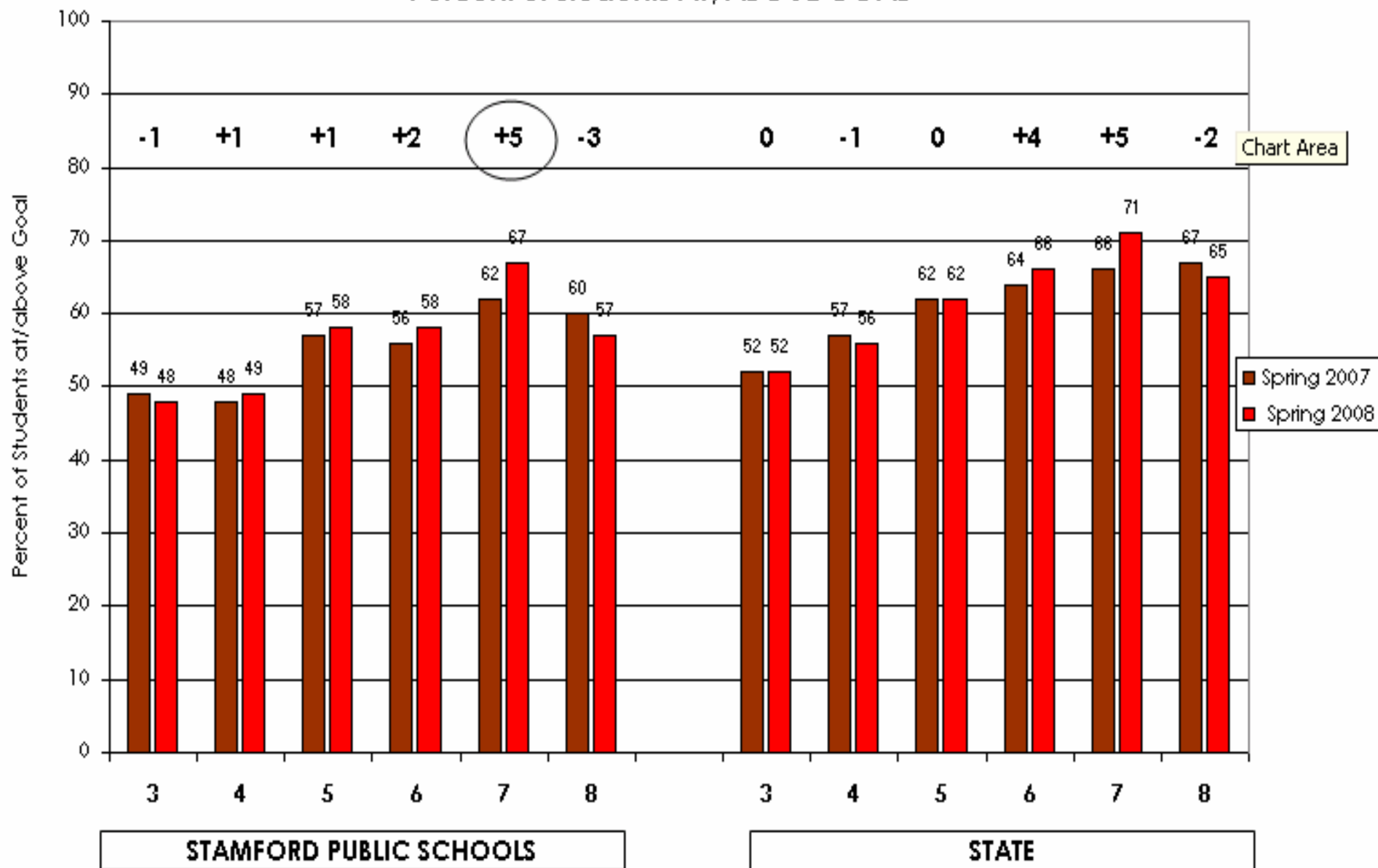
Percent of Students AT/ ABOVE GOAL



SPS CMT Results, Grades 3-8 in READING
Spring 2007 to Spring 2008

READING

Percent of Students AT/ABOVE GOAL



MSTT – 3 Focus Areas

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Organizational Structures
- Professional Development

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Challenge, engage and support each and every student so that they are ready for a college-bound HS course of studies 9th grade
 - Standards-based Connected Math Program
 - Standards-based language arts curriculum that increases the volume, quality and the range of reading and writing for all students
 - Standards-based science curriculum
 - District-wide common assessments in math and science
 - Interventions in place to support student achievement



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Organizational Structures

- Flexible grouping that recognizes the strengths and needs of each and every child.
 - Identify placement strategies that recognize student strengths in specific disciplines (e.g., a student with highly developed math skills may not be as strong in reading)
 - An advisory period to support social/emotional needs

Professional Development

- Content, instructional strategies and recognizing the unique nature of pre-adolescence
 - Efficacy – starting in February
 - C&I PD – early release days, district PD days

Next Steps

1. Formation of a Middle School Advisory Council (MSAC) Feb. kick off meeting date TBD

- Set meeting dates for the rest of the year

Council Membership
5 Middle School Administrators
1 Elementary Administrators
15 Middle School Teachers
3 High School Teachers
2 Elementary Teachers
5 Central Office
14 Family Members
3 Community Members
Ad Hoc Student Advisory
17 Students (10 middle, 3 h.s., 4 elem.)

Next Steps

Community Conversations – February 25th at TOR and May TBD

Board of Education explore policy for high school credit in the middle school

- Algebra?
- World Language?

Pursue Project A² (Access for All) Middle School Grant

- Supports the college readiness program at the high school level
- Promote student participation and performance in the Advanced Placement (AP) classes



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Conclusion

- Challenge and engage each and every student in the classroom
- Flexible grouping to meet the individual needs of students
- Professional development that helps teachers improve their practice and reach each and every child