



News from Stamford Public Schools

Contact: Sarah Arnold, Public Affairs Officer (203) 977-4095

STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUES UPWARD TREND ON CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST

More students scoring at/above goal

Math scores increase in nearly every grade; many grade-level gains exceed State averages

Reading scores show widespread improvement for students in grade 6

(July 15, 2010) Student scores on the Spring 2010 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMTs) indicate improvement across content areas, grades, and demographic groups over last year and the past five years.

The greatest increases were achieved in Math. In grades 3, 5, and 8, Stamford's gains in the percentage of students who scored at/above Goal exceeded the State's. Those percentages increased in virtually every grade (3, 4, 5, 6, and 8) over last year. Since 2006-07, Math scores have improved substantially in grades 5 and 6, by 13 and 15 percentage points respectively. When viewed by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) student categories, Math scores increased by 10 or more percentage points for Asian Americans in grade 8 and Students with Disabilities in grade 5. Math scores also increased for Hispanic students in grades 5 and 8 (7 percentage points and 9 percentage points respectively), Asian American and Black students in grade 6 (7 percentage points and 8 percentage points respectively), White students in grade 3 (5 percentage points), and Students with Disabilities in grade 7 (8 percentage points). Over the past five years, Math gains of 10 or more percentage points were achieved in multiple grades in the Asian American, Black, White, Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities categories, with Black students in grade 6 improving by 24 percentage points over that time period.

"As we have raised the bar, students have met the challenge," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr. "The same goes for our educators. I am extremely proud of the way they have wholeheartedly embraced the wide-scale curriculum reforms that are increasing student achievement. I am also profoundly grateful to the GE Foundation's Developing Futures™ Program for its multi-million dollar investment in curriculum, instruction, and professional development. These resources have enabled our educators to make a big difference in student outcomes."

(2) CMT/CAPT Results 2010

Recently, the GE Foundation announced it would award Stamford Public Schools an additional \$10 million, bringing its total investment in the school district to \$25.8 million over seven years. The additional grant funds will enable the district to intensify efforts to improve the literacy program in the same way it has done for Math. This year, Writing scores for every subgroup in grades 5 and 6 increased between 2-10 percentage points over last year. Stamford's gains in the percentage of students in grades 5 and 6 who scored at/above Goal in Writing exceeded the State's. In Reading, grade 6 showed the greatest improvement over last year (9 percentage points) and over the past five years (12 percentage points). The gains in the percentage of students in grade 6 who scored at/above Goal in Reading exceeded the State average for Asian American, Black, White, Economically Disadvantaged, and ELL categories.

Since 2008, when the CMTs first included a Science component for grades 5 and 8, Stamford's scores have increased for Hispanic students in grade 8 (13 percentage points), for Asian American students in grade 5 (10 percentage points), for Economically Disadvantaged students in grade 8 (9 percentage points), and for Black students in grades 5 and 8 (7 percentage points and 8 percentage points respectively).

"Under Dr. Starr's leadership, and with the incredible commitment of administrators, teachers, and paraeducators, students in Stamford Public Schools continue to make impressive gains on the CMTs," said Board of Education President Jackie Heftman. "I believe that Stamford will be looked at as the model for closing the achievement gap in urban school districts." In fact, that gap is beginning to narrow. Since 2006, the gap between Stamford's lowest and highest performing students at/above the Proficient level has decreased by approximately 12 percentage points in Math, 6 percentage points in Reading, and approximately 1 percentage point in Writing.

According to Bob Corcoran, president and CEO of the GE Foundation, "These results only further our commitment to Stamford Public Schools. Dr. Starr, his administration, and the teachers, parents, and students of Stamford have demonstrated true progress over the past five years and GE and the GE Foundation look forward to continuing the partnership."

On the Spring 2010 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), the percentage of Stamford students who scored at/above goal was up slightly in Science, remained comparable to last year in Math, and dipped slightly in Reading and Writing.

The CMTs are administered annually to students in grades 3-8 in Math, Reading, and Writing. Students in grades 5 and 8 are also tested in Science. Scores are categorized in five performance levels: 1 (Below Basic); 2 (Basic); 3 (Proficient); 4 (Goal); 5 (Advanced). The CAPT is administered each year to students in grade 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. Results are reported using the same five performance levels as the CMTs.