

News from the Stamford Public Schools

September 10, 2008

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**STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVES ADEQUATE
YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS FROM STATE FOR 2008**

The federal government has named the Stamford Public School district and 16 schools within the district as In Need of Improvement under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. An additional three schools did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for the first time.

Districts and schools are named In Need of Improvement if they do not make AYP in the same subject, either Math or Reading, for two years in a row on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) or the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). This requirement applies to all students in a school and to all NCLB student subgroups. Subgroups include White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and English Language Learners. AYP is measured by the proficiency targets that students must meet in Math and Reading under NCLB. Additionally, NCLB requires 95% participation on the CMTs and CAPT.

AYP proficiency targets for the Spring 2008 CMT, which are given to students in grades 3-8, increased from 74% to 82% in Math and from 68% to 79% in Reading from 2007 to 2008. The Spring 2008 proficiency targets on the CAPT increased from 69% to 80% in Math and from 72% to 81% in Reading. The standards will rise again in 2010 to require that approximately 9 in 10 students meet the proficiency standards in Math and Reading, and rise once more to 100 percent of students by 2013-2014.

A total of 415 public schools in Connecticut, 100 more than in 2006-2007, did not make AYP. Statewide, Reading scores were the primary reason for elementary and middle schools not making AYP, while Math scores were the primary reason at the high school level. Stamford Public Schools mirrored this trend at the elementary and high school levels. Stamford's middle schools did not reach Proficiency targets in either Math or Reading.

“The instructional improvements we have put in place in the last few years are beginning to bear fruit, as evidenced by recent gains on the CMTs, CAPT, and SATs,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr. “However, NCLB’s categorization of our schools and district do not acknowledge those gains or the intensive efforts of our educators. While we must be accountable for every child to achieve at the highest levels, NCLB does a disservice by not recognizing student progress.”

The Stamford Public School district is in Year V, In Need of Improvement. On the Spring 2008 CMTs/CAPT, Asian and White students met AYP proficiency targets in Math and Reading. Other subgroups (Black, Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, Special Needs, and English Language Learners) did not meet AYP.

SPS AYP 2008 (2)

Individual AYP status for each school is described below:

- Westover is designated “All Clear”, having met all AYP proficiency targets.
- Toquam Magnet, Scofield Magnet, and AITE are considered AYP Not Achieved. These schools did not meet AYP targets for the first time.
- Newfield continues to be In Need of Improvement, Year I, but achieved “Safe Harbor” this year.
- Hart Magnet, K.T. Murphy, the International School at Rogers Magnet, Springdale, and Stillmeadow are In Need of Improvement, Year II.
- Davenport, Roxbury, and Dolan are In Need of Improvement, Year III.
- Northeast, Stark, Cloonan, Rippowam, and Stamford High are in Need of Improvement, Year IV.
- Turn of River and Westhill High are in Need of Improvement, Year V.

As a result of the above, SPS will do the following in the 2008-2009 school year, as required by NCLB and the State:

- Schools will update their 2007-2008 School Improvement Plans.
- School Choice has been offered to students attending Title I Schools designated as In Need of Improvement, Year I or above. Two elementary schools – Toquam Magnet and Westover Magnet – were offered as schools of choice.
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will be offered to students eligible for the federal free and reduced price lunch program who attend schools Title I schools identified as In Need of Improvement, Year II or above. SES provides learning and enrichment opportunities for students beyond the regular school day.
- Stamford Public Schools will continue to partner with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to meet all accountability requirements. Ten schools in the district (those in Need of Improvement Year III or higher, as well as the district itself) will participate in CSDE assessments, which will yield valuable information about reform strategies in high-need schools. Seven Title I schools In Need of Improvement will receive technical assistance from CSDE in the areas of curriculum and instruction and data driven decision making. The district will also participate in CSDE’s Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI) by attending workshops in Data Driven Decision-Making, Making Standards Work, and Developing Formative Assessments.

In addition to federal and state accountability compliance, Stamford Public Schools is in the process of designing and implementing an accountability system to ensure college readiness for each and every student. Through the development of college readiness indicators and use of multiple sources of data—in addition to standardized test scores—all school district stakeholders will have a better understanding of how to prepare each and every student for success in the 21st century.

