



News from Stamford Public Schools

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STAMFORD STUDENTS EXCEED STATEWIDE GAINS IN MATH AND READING ON CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST

Particular progress seen in students scoring at/above goal in grade 3 and in middle school

(July 13, 2011) The percent of Stamford Public School students scoring at/above goal¹ on the math, reading, and writing portions of the Spring 2011 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)² increased across multiple grade levels over last year. In many cases, Stamford's gains outpaced those made statewide. Additionally, Stamford students have shown strong progress in math, as well as notable progress in reading, over the past five years.

“We have heavily invested in professional development, curriculum reforms, and materials. The GE Foundation has generously funded our efforts, which have led to improvement in student performance,” said Acting Superintendent Dr. Winnie Hamilton. “Our gains on standardized tests, particularly at the middle school level, confirm our teachers and administrators are increasingly effective in challenging students at all levels and building on their strengths.”

Highlights from the Spring 2011 CMTs include:

- In math, the percent of Stamford students who scored at/above goal increased from 2010 in grades 3, 6 and 7.
 - In math, the positive gains made by Stamford students in grade 3 (three percentage points), grade 6 (eight percentage points) and grade 7 (six percentage points) exceed the gains made by students statewide, where performance remained nearly the same as 2010 levels.
- In reading, the percent of Stamford students who scored at/above goal increased from 2010 in grades 3, 4 and 8.
 - In reading, the positive gains made by Stamford students in grade 3 (two percentage points) slightly exceed the gains made by students statewide (one percentage point).
- In writing, the percent of Stamford students who scored at/above goal increased from 2010 in grade 3.
- At the goal level in math, grade 6 Stamford students scored on par with their peers statewide.
- When comparing Stamford to its District Reference Group (DRG), grade 6 Stamford students who scored at/above goal outperformed their peers in reading and math. Grade 3 Stamford students who scored at/above goal outperformed their DRG peers in reading. Stamford's DRG includes Ansonia, Danbury, Derby, East Hartford, Meriden, Norwalk, Norwich, and West Haven.

2011 CMTs (2)

This year's increases in CMT scores continue a five-year trend in Stamford. At virtually every grade level, the percent of students scoring at/above goal in math, reading, and science has increased steadily, and in several cases substantially, since 2007.

2007-2011 CMT highlights include:

- The highest levels of growth at/above goal is observed in math, particularly in grade 4 (increase of 8 percentage points), grade 6 (increase of 17 percentage points) and grade 7 (increase of ten percentage points).
 - In reading, Stamford students demonstrated growth (three or more percentage points) all grade levels except grade 5, where there was an overall decline in the percent of students at/above goal.

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¹*The State and the No Child Left Behind Act hold school districts accountable at the 'proficiency' standard. Stamford Public Schools measures student progress at a higher standard, 'goal'.*

²*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).*

³*The GE Foundation awarded Stamford Public Schools \$25.8 million over seven years to improve instruction in math, science, and literacy. It is the largest private grant ever awarded to a school district.*