

PERFORMANCE MATTERS

News from the CSDE Performance Office



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Learn Together, Grow Together CT Launched

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently launched its new [Learn Together, Grow Together CT](#) initiative, which will highlight districts addressing common issues and problems through innovative approaches, ideas and strategies that are producing successful outcomes. [Learn Together, Grow Together CT](#) will also promote these promising practices in district profiles inventoried on the [CSDE website](#) so that other district leaders and educators can connect with fellow districts and borrow, adapt and put to use these proven models in their own districts and schools. The initiative is part of Commissioner Cardona's major points of focus to leverage the collective capacity and resources already in place around the state in order to better facilitate collaboration around common goals.

[Learn Together, Grow Together CT](#) consists of a social media campaign and dedicated page on CSDE's website with an inventory of district profiles on promising practices they have implemented as well as the results that have been yielded. [Learn Together, Grow Together CT](#) will identify and promote the most exceptional strategies and encourage districts to connect with their counterparts around the state to learn what impact these approaches are having on the success of students, educators and district operations. Districts can share with CSDE their own promising practices to be highlighted by following CSDE on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) then tagging [@ctdepartmentofeducation](#) in posts and Tweeting at [@EducateCT](#). Posts and Tweets should include the hashtag [#LearnGrowCT](#).

The first installment of [Learn Together, Grow Together CT](#) features two topic areas: Chronic Absenteeism and Student Attendance; and, College and Career Readiness ("CCR 2.0"). The districts profiled in this installment include Bristol, Enfield, Middletown and Thomaston.

2019 National Blue Ribbon Award Winners

The U.S. Department of Education named four Connecticut public schools as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools, an annual award given to select schools across the nation for demonstrating overall high achievement or success in closing achievement gaps. The four schools are:

Tracey Magnet School in Norwalk;
John Barry Elementary School in Meriden;
North Mianus Elementary School in Greenwich; and
Guilford High School.

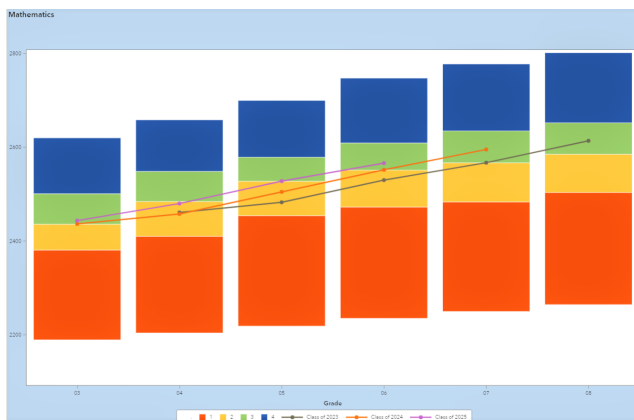
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2019 National Blue Ribbon Award Winners (continued from page 1)

The Connecticut State Department of Education uses data from the Next Generation Accountability System to nominate schools for the National Blue Ribbon School award. Nominated schools must complete an application process and be approved by the U.S. Department of Education. All selected schools in Connecticut were Schools of Distinction in 2017-18. National Blue Ribbon Schools are identified in two categories—Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing and Exemplary High Performing. For more information about the program, please visit the [USED’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program webpage](#).



Rough Cohort Report Available on EdSight Secure



A new report, **Rough Cohort**, is included in the Smarter Balanced achievement report within [EdSight Secure](#). This report shows the achievement of a group of students across grades and time (e.g., Grade 3 in 2016-17 to Grade 4 in 2017-18 to Grade 5 in 2018-19). The measure used to track this change is the average Smarter Balanced scale score. Please see the [FAQ](#) for additional information about this report.

What questions can the Rough Cohort report help me answer?

How are different groups of students achieving over time in my district/school? Is growth greater in some grades than others?

Does that pattern hold for all graduating classes? How does growth in the elementary grades compare to that in the middle grades? Are newer classes entering at similar/lower/higher achievement levels than prior classes?

Updated Data Available on EdSight

School and district-level results for several accountability indicators (2, 4, 8, and 9) have been updated on [EdSight](#). Indicator 2 is Academic Growth for the all students group and high needs students, and beginning with 2018-19 reporting, Indicator 2 will include Growth Toward English Language Proficiency. The Academic Growth component of Indicator 2 is based on the average percentage of growth target achieved for the Smarter Balanced English language arts and mathematics assessments. Growth Toward English Language Proficiency is based on the average percentage of target achieved in the LAS Links composite areas of Literacy and Oral. These data are available through the Performance tab of [EdSight](#). Chronic absenteeism for all students and the high needs group is Indicator 4. 2018-19 Chronic Absenteeism rates are now available in the Students section of EdSight listed under Attendance. Indicators 8 and 9 are graduation rates available in the Performance section of [EdSight](#). Indicator 8 has been updated to include the 2017-18 four-year rate for all students. Indicator 9 includes the 2015-16 six-year rate for high needs students. Also available is the five year graduation rate for 2016-17.



If you have any questions, please e-mail the EdSight helpdesk at EdSight.SDE@ct.gov.

Performance Matters Forum Registration Open

District/school leaders and data managers should plan to join the CSDE Performance Office for the **Performance Matters Forum (PMF)** on **October 17, 2019, at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd, Hartford.**

[Registration is now open.](#) [Details about the sessions are available.](#)

There is no cost to attend this event and parking will be validated. The PMF is being sponsored by the CSDE, AIR and The College Board. Questions can be directed to [Michelle Rosado](#).



Assessment Expert Lorrie Shepard Discusses Appropriate Uses of Data to Inform Decisions

In the Q&A, [Data Walls Demoralize Students](#), from the National Education Policy Center (NEPC), NEPC Fellow Lorrie Shepard addresses problems with data walls and other aspects of “data-driven” culture in schools. She also describes research-based practices that should be guiding classroom assessment. The [NEPC site](#) has many additional resources focused on assessment.



2019 Smarter Balanced Results on EdSight

Aggregate results from the 2019 Smarter Balanced administration for the state, districts, schools, and student groups are available on EdSight at: <http://edsight.ct.gov>. Student-level results are also available to authorized users through [EdSight Secure](#).



[EdSight Secure](#) includes the 2018-19 Smarter Balanced achievement and growth results. While the test scores were available to districts in mid-June through the AIR portal, [EdSight Secure](#) includes the matched cohort growth results based on [Connecticut's Smarter Balanced Growth Model](#). Cohort growth is a better reflection of curriculum and instructional effectiveness than just tracking change in annual achievement. For a refresher on the growth model metrics, please be sure to view the [8-minute video](#); it discusses the two different ways that Connecticut reports academic growth i.e., growth rate *and* average percentage of target achieved.

Lexile® and Quantile® measures are now included starting with the 2018-19 results within the Smarter Balanced achievement report in [EdSight Secure](#). The Lexile® is a measure of both reading ability and text complexity. This measure can be used at <http://fab.lexile.com> to find books and materials that match a student's reading ability and interests. The Quantile® measure can be used at <http://quantiles.com> to find math activities that match a student's ability and goals. Parents and teachers can use these websites to find books, resources, and activities that can improve students' understanding of the content.

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