



Achieve Hartford!



NEWS RELEASE

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2011 Test Results for Hartford Show Modest Overall Gains on the CMT; High School Results Are Mixed

(HARTFORD – JULY 13, 2011) Results today from the 2011 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for Grades 3 through 8, and yesterday from the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) for 10th Graders, show steady improvement in Hartford since 2007, but the comparatively smaller gain by Hartford students this past year indicates much more work is needed to close the achievement gap.

The overall results on the CMT for children in the third-through-eighth grades averaged a 1.7-point improvement over 2010, for a total gain of 11 points from 2007 to 2011. The average annual gain over that period was 2.7 points. These improvements confirm the impact of the work done so far, but demonstrate that, to close the gap, we must maintain a long-term commitment.

The overall results on the CAPT declined 1 point, driven by a 6.8 point decline in Reading this year. The performance of Hartford 10th graders since 2007 has been up and down, but during that time it has increased by 8.8 points, for an average, annual 2.2-point gain in the CAPT across subjects.

“Overall, the CMT results reflect modest improvement in 2011, with solid growth at Proficient in Reading at all grades except 6 and 8,” said Achieve Hartford! Executive Director Jim Starr. “Given the importance of reading to overall learning, seeing further gains in the early grades is heartening. Ideally, going forward, these improvements can be extended to the upper grades as well,” he added.

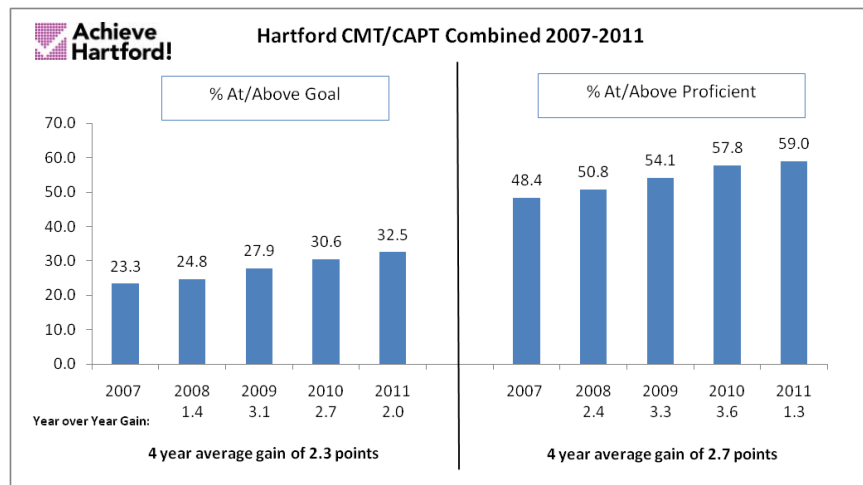
The CMT and CAPT reporting is primarily focused on results at or above the levels of Proficient and Goal. Proficient is the category most often used by the District. Statewide and District comparisons can be calculated online at www.ctreports.com. While Achieve Hartford! will conduct additional analyses, here are some initial highlights from a look at the CMT and CAPT test results combined*

- Since 2007, the percentage of all students performing at Proficiency has increased 10.6 points.
- 59% of Hartford students are performing at Proficiency compared to a state average of 83%.
- As a result of this year’s performance, Hartford’s achievement gap relative to the rest of the State narrowed somewhat to 24 points. The gap in 2007 was 31 points.
- Reading scores improved overall by an average of 2.6 points, with strong gains posted in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 - and declines in Grades 6, 8, and 10.
- Overall, Math and Science performance decreased slightly from last year, with 62.2% and 45.4% of students scoring at Proficient, respectively. Science results were mixed, with gains recorded at the 5th grade offset by decreases recorded at the 8th grade.
- Overall, Writing increased 1.5 points, with the strongest gains in Grades 5 and 6.

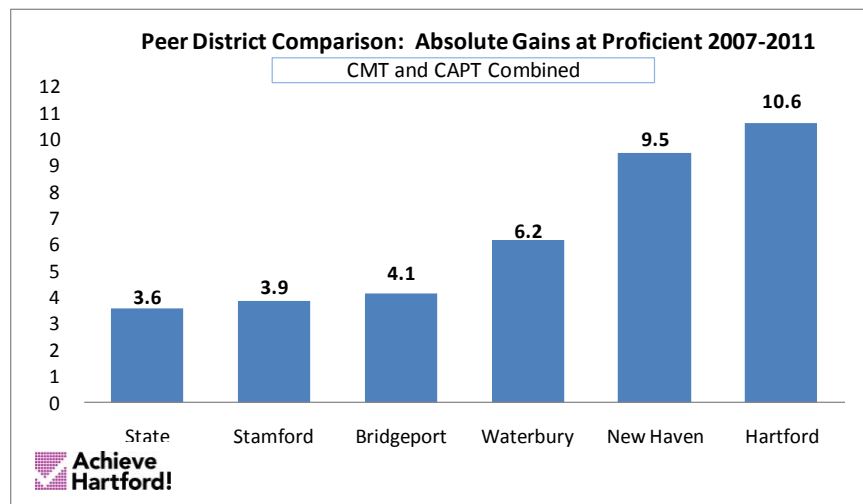
**CMT data summarized here does not include scores from Achievement First Hartford Academy. Its data is not included in the state aggregated data for Hartford.*

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The chart below shows the trends in Hartford’s combined CMT and CAPT results at the Proficient level across all grades and all subjects:



The following chart shows the combined gains at the Proficient level for the state and five urban districts since 2007, across all grades and all subjects:



While Hartford has outpaced its “peer” districts and the state since 2007, the District’s combined CMT and CAPT gain of 1.3 points in 2011 was smaller than that recorded by both New Haven and Waterbury.

“This is a critically important time for Hartford school reform,” said Starr. “Our initial view is that the state test data indicates continued, steady growth. While we are encouraged by the growth, Hartford’s performance still 24-points below that of the state average. This highlights the enormity of our challenge. ‘Slow and steady’ growth is not sufficient to close the achievement gap with the urgency that is needed. Accelerating improvement needs to be the highest priority.”

The Hartford School District has scheduled a July 18 press conference to discuss their results.

Achieve Hartford! is an independent, nonprofit organization of business and community leaders that focuses on student achievement and supporting effective and sustained school reform in the Hartford Public Schools. For more information on Achieve Hartford!, please visit www.AchieveHartford.org.