2015-16 SBAC Report #1: How did Hartford Students Perform?
Was there any improvement over 2014-15?

Background

All data presented in this report was obtained from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), through http://edsight.ct.gov. CSDE also provides important information.[i] regarding changes to the Smarter Balanced assessments in 2015-16. Due to these changes, this report will contain no analysis of testing results for Grade 11 students, and comparisons will be made on the basis of the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standards, not their scores.

How did Hartford students in each grade and cohort perform on the SBAC in 2015-16?

Overall, 26.9% of Hartford students met or exceeded the standard in English Language Arts (ELA), while just 16.6% did so in Math. These numbers reflect the performance of all students with scored tests from Grades 3 though 8.

The highest rates were all ELA: 29.1% in Grade 5, 28.4% in Grade 8, and 28.3% in Grade 6. The lowest were all Math: 14.1% in Grade 7, 14.3% in Grade 8, and 15.2% in Grade 5.

Grade	% met/exceeded ELA			% met/exceeded Math		
	2014-15	2015-16	Change	2014-15	2015-16	Change
3	25.1%	25.7%	0.6%	20.0%	22.7%	2.6%
4	23.4%	24.0%	0.7%	15.1%	18.2%	3.1%
5	30.0%	29.1%	-0.9%	12.7%	15.2%	2.5%
6	26.8%	28.3%	1.5%	12.2%	16.2%	4.0%
7	30.8%	24.9%	-5.9%	16.2%	14.1%	-2.2%
8	25.8%	28.4%	2.6%	11.6%	14.3%	2.7%

Generally speaking, results improved slightly in ELA and moderately in Math, with the exception of 7th graders (whose performance dropped in both) and a small decrease in ELA performance for 5th graders. It is also important to point out that a change over one year does not necessarily represent a trend.

More important than the year-over-year change by grade is the progress being made by each cohort, which is less encouraging. By cohort, we refer to the class which will graduate in a given year, and report their results from one grade to the next; so, for instance, what the below table shows for the cohort graduating in 2020 is their 8th grade scores from this year, and 7th grade scores from last year. Four of the five cohorts for which there are two years of data available performed worse in ELA this year than they did last year. The results in Math are mixed.

	% met/exceeded ELA			% met/exceeded Math		
Class of	2014-15	2015-16	Growth	2014-15	2015-16	Growth
2025		25.7%	N/A		22.7%	N/A
2024	25.1%	24.0%	-1.0%	20.0%	18.2%	-1.8%
2023	23.4%	29.1%	5.8%	15.1%	15.2%	0.1%
2022	30.0%	28.3%	-1.8%	12.7%	16.2%	3.5%
2021	26.8%	24.9%	-1.9%	12.2%	14.1%	1.9%
2020	30.8%	28.4%	-2.4%	16.2%	14.3%	-1.9%
2019	25.8%		N/A	11.6%		N/A

How did Hartford students in each school perform on the SBAC in 2015-16?

Testing results at individual schools vary widely from the results reported above. In ELA, two schools—the STEM Magnet at Annie Fisher and Renzulli Academy—saw 69% of testers meeting or exceeding the standard. The rest of the top ten is composed of Achievement First Hartford Academy and seven magnet schools, all with met/exceeded percentages in the 40s.

	% met or exceeded ELA		
School	2014-15	2015-16	Change
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	57%	69%	13%
Renzulli Academy	*	69%	N/A
Montessori Magnet at Moylan School	*	49%	N/A
Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher	44%	48%	3%
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	44%	47%	3%
Achievement First Hartford Academy	42%	45%	3%
Breakthrough Magnet School	44%	44%	-1%
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	45%	43%	-2%
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy	42%	43%	1%
Noah Webster Micro Society School	46%	42%	-4%

Results drop off sharply from there; of the 36 schools in the system, 14 saw fewer than 1 in 5 students achieving proficiency (full table below, page 4).

The distribution of Math scores is even more discouraging. Even at the highest performing—again, the STEM Magnet at Annie Fisher—only 57% of test takers met or exceeded the standard.

	% met or exceeded math		
School	2014-15	2015-16	Change
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	44%	57%	13%
Renzulli Academy	*	48%	N/A
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	38%	39%	1%
Breakthrough Magnet School	28%	33%	5%
Noah Webster Micro Society School	32%	31%	-1%

Once you get past the top five, performance is down to 30% and falling fast. In Math, 14 of the 36 schools saw fewer than 1 in 10 students achieving proficiency (full table below, page 5). These are the same 14 schools which performed worst in ELA.

In both ELA and Math it is clear from the available data that students at Hartford's magnet schools continue to achieve at a much higher rate than students at neighborhood schools. This disparity is consistent across both tests and both years included in this report. Data tables for results by school can be found below on pages 3 and 4.

How did Hartford students' performance compare to peer and surrounding districts?
For the purpose of this comparison, we are considering Bridgeport, CREC, East Hartford, Farmington, Glastonbury, Jumoke Academy, Manchester, New Britain, New Haven, Stamford, Waterbury, and West Hartford to be either peer or surrounding districts.

By this definition, Hartford is undeniably underperforming when compared to peer and surrounding districts. On both ELA and Math, Hartford is behind most of the districts on this list, outperforming only Waterbury (tied in ELA performance), New Britain, and Bridgeport. A table displaying this data can be found below on page 5.

SBAC 2015-16	% met or exceeded	
District	ELA	Math
Glastonbury School District	79.2%	74.6%
Farmington School District	78.6%	72.5%
West Hartford School District	71.1%	57.9%
Stamford School District	49.7%	41.0%
Capitol Region Education Council	49.6%	32.3%
Manchester School District	40.3%	29.7%
Jumoke Academy District	38.5%	20.3%
New Haven School District	32.1%	18.5%
East Hartford School District	31.8%	17.0%
Hartford School District	26.9%	16.8%
Waterbury School District	26.9%	16.0%
New Britain School District	22.2%	12.6%
Bridgeport School District	22.5%	9.9%

The opportunity gap revealed by this data is enormous and growing. The achievement gap between Hartford and neighboring and peer districts has stretched even wider since the implementation of the new SBAC tests, as compared to previous tests.

Conclusions
As compared to last year, each grade except 7th improved their performance in Math, while remaining mostly flat on average in ELA. Individual cohorts, on the other hand, mostly did worse in ELA, while remaining mostly flat on average in Math. School-by-school results vary widely, with the magnets

consistently outperforming the neighborhood schools, and a large number of schools performing very poorly. Additionally, Hartford is performing poorly overall when compared to nearby and peer districts around the state.

School	% met or exceeded ELA		
	2014-15	2015-16	Change
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	57%	69%	13%
Renzulli Academy	*	69%	N/A
Montessori Magnet at Moylan School	*	49%	N/A
Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher	44%	48%	3%
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	44%	47%	3%
Achievement First Hartford Academy	42%	45%	3%
Breakthrough Magnet School	44%	44%	-1%
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	45%	43%	-2%
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy	42%	43%	1%
Noah Webster Micro Society School	46%	42%	-4%
STEM Magnet School at Dwight	39%	35%	-4%
Capital Preparatory Magnet School	34%	33%	-1%
Dr. James H Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy	25%	31%	7%
Sports and Medical Sciences Academy	31%	31%	0%
Classical Magnet School	35%	29%	-6%
Breakthrough II Elementary School	31%	28%	-3%
Dr. Ramon E. Betances Early Reading Lab	16%	26%	10%
Sanchez School	24%	23%	-1%
West Middle School	33%	23%	-10%
Global Communications Academy	26%	20%	-5%
Kennelly School	19%	20%	2%
Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School	21%	20%	-1%
Batchelder School	12%	18%	5%
Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School	17%	16%	-1%
Burr School	15%	15%	0%
Parkville Community School	17%	14%	-3%
M. L. King School	17%	14%	-4%
M. D. Fox Elementary School	9%	13%	4%
Fred D. Wish Museum School	10%	13%	3%
Simpson-Waverly School	13%	11%	-2%
McDonough Expeditionary Learning School	13%	9%	-4%
Asian Studies Academy	13%	9%	-4%
SAND School	9%	9%	0%
Milner Elementary School	10%	8%	-2%
Burns Latino Studies Academy	5%	7%	2%
Clark School	6%	7%	1%

School	% met or exceeded math		
	2014-15	2015-16	Change
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	44%	57%	13%
Renzulli Academy	*	48%	N/A
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	38%	39%	1%
Breakthrough Magnet School	28%	33%	5%
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Sports and Medical Sciences Academy	20%	23%	3%
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	21%	22%	1%
Breakthrough II Elementary School	11%	20%	9%
West Middle School	16%	19%	3%
Capital Preparatory Magnet School	21%	18%	-3%
Dr. Ramon E. Betances Early Reading Lab	11%	17%	6%
Sanchez School	14%	17%	3%
Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School	9%	15%	6%
Classical Magnet School	17%	15%	-3%
Dr. James H Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy	14%	14%	1%
Kennelly School	7%	12%	5%
Global Communications Academy	11%	10%	0%
M. D. Fox Elementary School	3%	9%	6%
Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School	6%	9%	3%
Parkville Community School	8%	9%	0%
Batchelder School	4%	7%	3%
Burr School	7%	7%	0%
Clark School	*	7%	N/A
Fred D. Wish Museum School	5%	6%	1%
SAND School	*	5%	N/A
M. L. King School	4%	4%	1%
Simpson-Waverly School	5%	4%	-1%
Milner Elementary School	*	3%	N/A
McDonough Expeditionary Learning School	3%	3%	0%
Asian Studies Academy	4%	2%	-1%
Burns Latino Studies Academy	*	2%	N/A

Endnotes

[i] From http://edsight.ct.gov: "There were two key changes to the Smarter Balanced assessments in 2015-16. These changes affect the comparison of results on EdSight between 2014-15 and 2015-16:

The Smarter Balanced assessment was administered in Grade 11 in 2014-15. However, in 2015-16, the SAT was administered in Grade 11 in lieu of Smarter Balanced. Therefore, the "All Grades Combined" results on EdSight for 2014-15 (which include Grade 11 results) cannot be compared directly with the "All Grades Combined" results from 2015-16 which exclude Grade 11 results and only include Grades 3 through 8.

The CSDE discontinued the Performance Task portion of the English Language Arts assessment in February 2016. ELA results on EdSight for 2014-15 include the Performance Task portion while the 2015-16 ELA results exclude the Performance Task portion and are based only on the computer-adaptive test (CAT) portion of the ELA assessment. Consequently, on EdSight, the 2014-15 ELA results cannot be compared with the 2015-16 ELA results. To facilitate an apples-to-apples comparison, the CSDE rescored the 2014-15 data unofficially based solely on the CAT portion of the ELA test. These unofficial high-level results are contained in the preliminary excel file released on August 18, 2016. In the future, the rescored ELA results from 2014-15 will be incorporated into an EdSight report."