

# 2018-19 Proficiency Testing Results

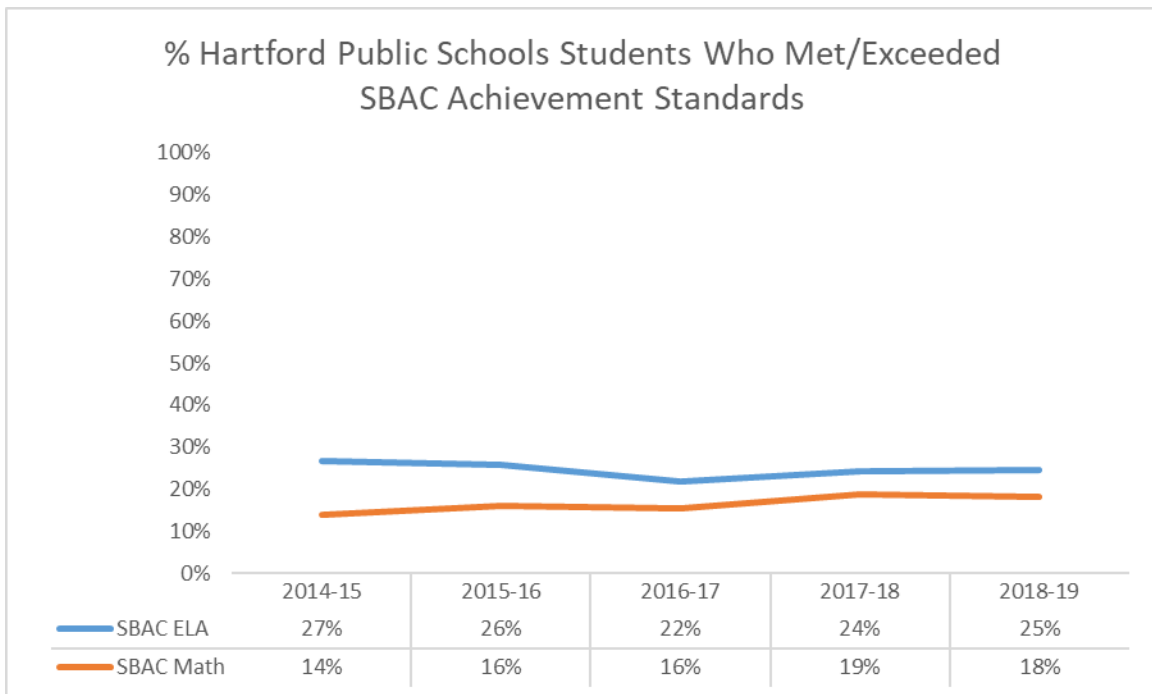
## Background

The data presented in this report is the most recent SBAC and SAT data for students in the Hartford Public Schools (HPS), available from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), through <http://edsight.ct.gov>. SAT data is from the School Day SAT administration in the fall; SBAC data is from administration in the spring. Comparisons will be made based on the percent of students meeting or exceeding the achievement standards set by the state, not their numeric scores. While we have combined SBAC and SAT data into a single report and are presenting the two in very similar ways, we do not intend to draw direct comparison between the two, and we caution the reader not to do so either.

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Proficiency

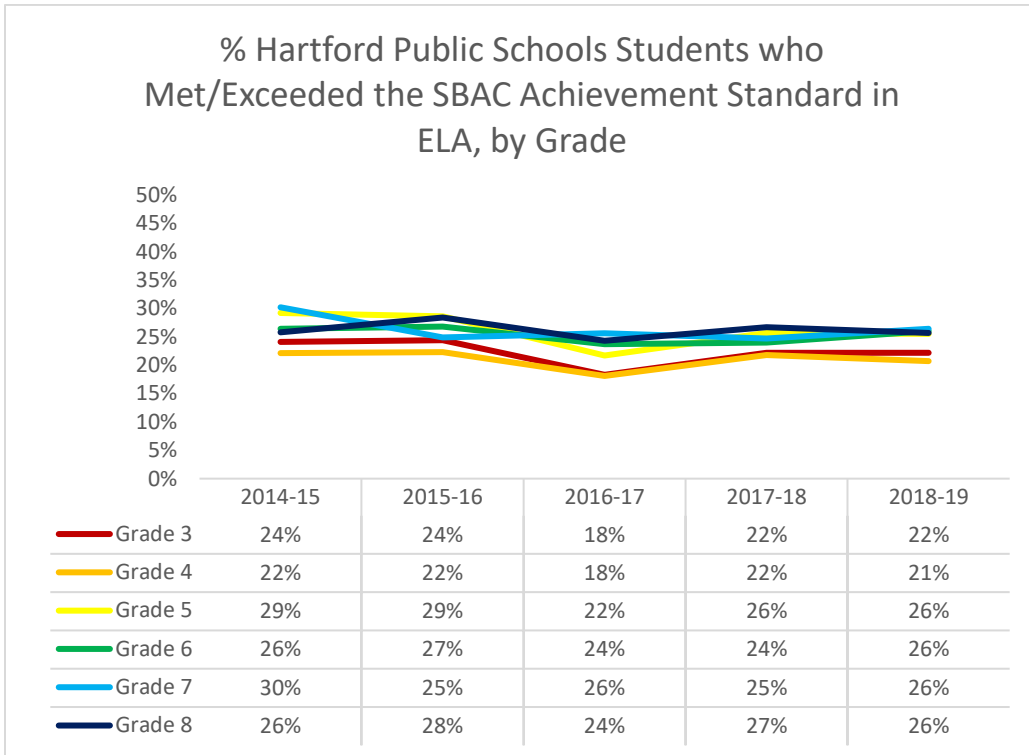
### **Overall Proficiency Rates**

SBAC proficiency rates did not really change in 2018-19. The ELA proficiency rate appears to be slowly climbing from a low point in the 2016-17 school year, though it remains lower than the first two years of test administration. In Math, the proficiency rate is essentially the same as the previous year, having decreased by a fraction of a percent. It is still up 4 points from the first year of administration, but remains very low in an absolute sense, with fewer than 1 in 5 students reaching proficiency.

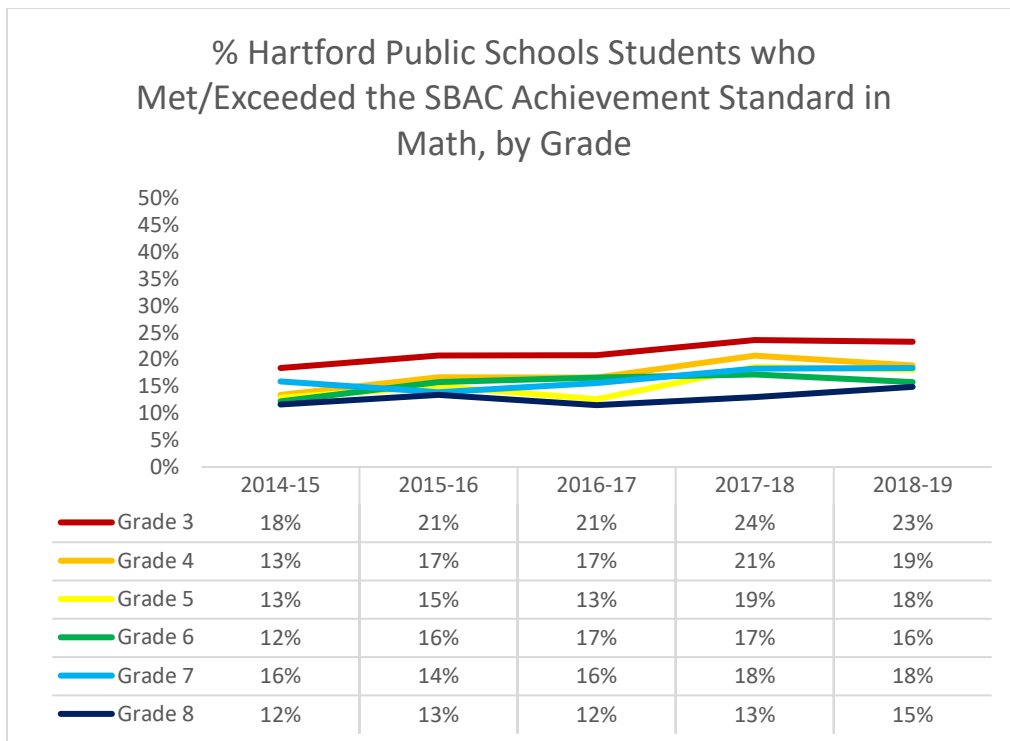


### **SBAC Proficiency by Grade Level**

Generally speaking, for ELA, the overall pattern described above holds when breaking students down by grade. Third and fourth grade students still have substantially lower proficiency rates than the higher grades; this is a consistent across all five years of SBAC administration.



Unfortunately, the gradual trend upwards we were seeing in SBAC Math proficiency appears to have stalled not only at the district level but at every grade level. Most grades saw a small decrease, with the exceptions of Grade 7 (which went from 18.3% to 18.4%) and Grade 8.



### Comparison to Other Districts and the State

As in previous years we present a table of other districts for comparison. Farmington, Glastonbury, and West Hartford are included as examples of clear high performers in the region; CREC, Achievement First, and Jumoke are included as examples of different governance models for education; and the rest are included to compare Hartford’s proficiency struggles with those of other Alliance districts.

SBAC ELA Proficiency by District					
District	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Farmington School District	78%	79%	79%	80%	82%
Glastonbury School District	78%	79%	77%	77%	78%
West Hartford School District	72%	71%	71%	70%	70%
Achievement First Hartford Academy Inc. District	42%	45%	51%	57%	59%
State of Connecticut	55%	56%	54%	55%	56%
Stamford School District	49%	50%	48%	48%	48%
Capitol Region Education Council	49%	50%	47%	49%	47%
East Hartford School District	33%	32%	30%	35%	36%
Manchester School District	39%	40%	36%	36%	35%
New Haven School District	29%	32%	31%	34%	34%
Jumoke Academy District	38%	39%	33%	37%	34%
Waterbury School District	26%	27%	26%	27%	30%
Bridgeport School District	24%	22%	22%	26%	27%
Hartford School District	27%	26%	22%	24%	25%
New Britain School District	23%	22%	19%	22%	20%

In terms of ranking this group of districts, we see little change over the 4 years of administration. Most of these districts have proficiency rates which have gone up and down slightly but are currently very close to where they began with the first SBAC administration in 2014-15. The exceptions seem to be New Haven, which has increased their proficiency rate by 5 points since 2014-15, and Achievement First Hartford, which has increased theirs by 17.

The proficiency rate in Hartford continues to compare unfavorably even to other Alliance districts—and so does the trend. This should be deeply concerning to everyone involved and suggests some unique failure in Hartford. We cannot continue to deflect proficiency concerns by appealing to demographic and budgetary characteristics when we are trending negative and East Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport are all trending positive.

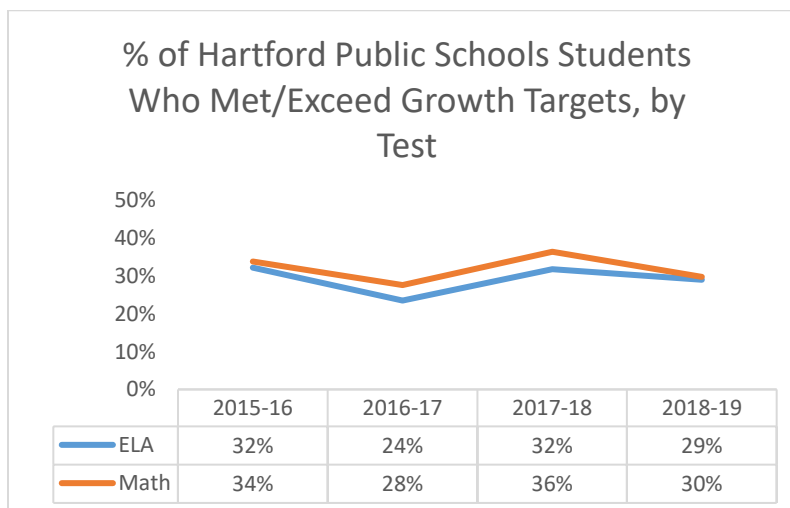
In Math, Hartford appears to be stalled despite almost all comparison districts trending up. The general trend in Connecticut is very positive; the statewide rate has increased by 9 points since the first administration of the test, and many of the comparison districts have seen noticeable proficiency rate increases.

SBAC Math Proficiency by District					
District	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Glastonbury School District	67%	75%	74%	74%	76%
Farmington School District	64%	73%	74%	74%	75%
West Hartford School District	55%	58%	61%	61%	62%
Achievement First Hartford Academy Inc. District	26%	30%	43%	51%	53%
State of Connecticut	39%	44%	46%	47%	48%
Stamford School District	37%	41%	44%	42%	43%
Capitol Region Education Council	31%	32%	35%	35%	33%
Manchester School District	28%	30%	30%	27%	29%
Jumoke Academy District	16%	20%	22%	24%	24%
New Haven School District	13%	18%	21%	21%	23%
East Hartford School District	17%	17%	17%	22%	22%
Waterbury School District	13%	16%	18%	19%	20%
Hartford School District	14%	16%	16%	19%	18%
Bridgeport School District	9%	10%	13%	15%	16%
New Britain School District	14%	13%	12%	14%	11%

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Growth

### Growth Rates by Subject and Grade Level

Under the CSDE Growth Model for SBAC, each student is assigned a growth target based on their previous performance. A student who has not reached proficiency but is hitting their growth targets year after year is essentially on track to become proficient.



The four years of data available do not reveal any meaningful trend here. The instability of this metric gives us no reason to conclude that the district is doing any better or worse over time in this way. This pattern (or lack of a pattern) holds when disaggregating by grade level.

### Comparison to Other Districts and the State

Again, we present tables of comparison to other districts and statewide results. The ranking and story here is much the same as the proficiency rate comparison above (pages 3-4). Hartford sits near the bottom of the Growth Rate rankings for ELA, joined by fellow Alliance Districts and Jumoke Academy:

SBAC ELA Growth Rates by District				
District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Farmington School District	54%	50%	55%	53%
Glastonbury School District	51%	46%	48%	49%
West Hartford School District	44%	43%	45%	47%
Achievement First Hartford Academy Inc. District	48%	47%	53%	41%
State of Connecticut	43%	36%	40%	40%
Capitol Region Education Council	40%	36%	39%	37%
Stamford School District	42%	37%	38%	37%
East Hartford School District	36%	30%	37%	36%
Waterbury School District	33%	26%	28%	34%
New Haven School District	39%	30%	35%	33%
Bridgeport School District	31%	26%	35%	30%
Hartford School District	32%	24%	32%	29%
Manchester School District	35%	26%	29%	28%
Jumoke Academy District	35%	26%	35%	27%
New Britain School District	29%	21%	31%	26%

The table of comparisons for Math (next page) is very similar, but with CREC also doing very poorly on the Growth Rate metric in this domain.

In some ways, a poor Growth Rate is a worse sign than poor proficiency rates. There will always be argument over whether a high proficiency rate is a reflection of the education being provided or the starting condition of students in the school/district. Growth Rates demystify that issue somewhat, because they are a better reflection of how well the school/district is improving the proficiency of the students they are responsible for.



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SBAC Math Growth Rates by District				
District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Farmington School District	65%	55%	56%	58%
Glastonbury School District	58%	51%	54%	57%
West Hartford School District	46%	48%	46%	49%
State of Connecticut	44%	42%	42%	43%
Achievement First Hartford Academy Inc. District	43%	50%	57%	39%
Stamford School District	40%	45%	38%	39%
Manchester School District	33%	31%	25%	34%
East Hartford School District	27%	29%	36%	34%
New Haven School District	41%	32%	32%	33%
Waterbury School District	31%	31%	30%	33%
Bridgeport School District	29%	35%	33%	32%
Capitol Region Education Council	37%	40%	32%	31%
Hartford School District	34%	28%	36%	30%
New Britain School District	25%	25%	33%	24%
Jumoke Academy District	35%	32%	33%	24%

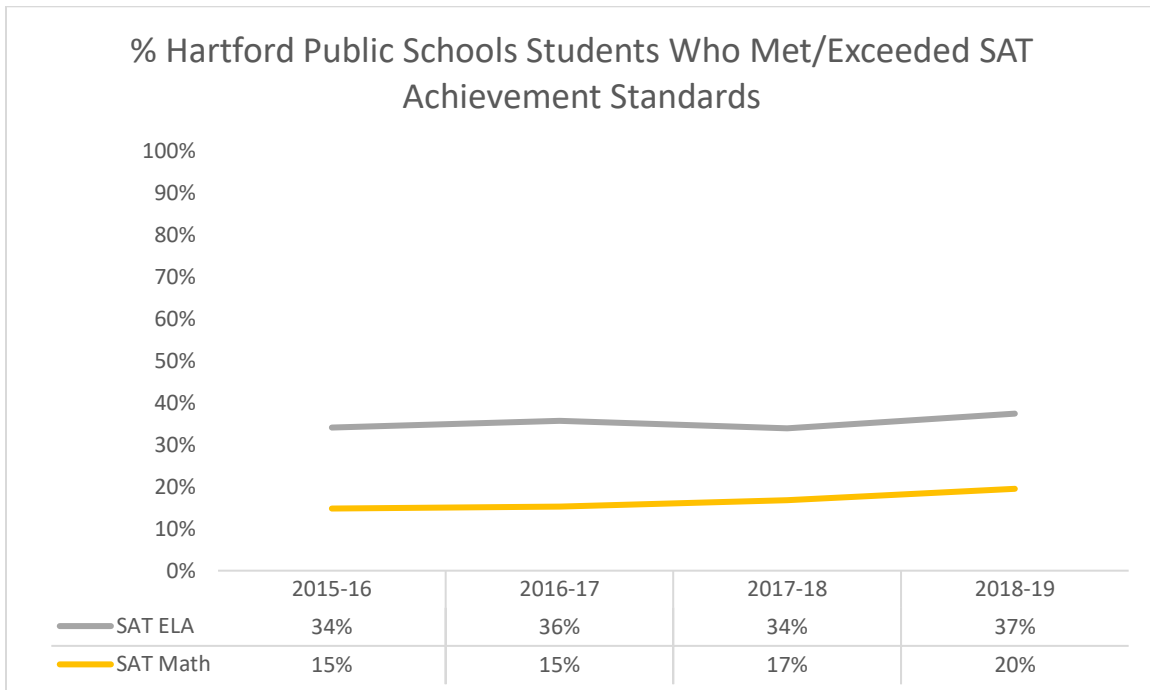
## School Day SAT

The School Day SAT is administered to 11<sup>th</sup> graders across the state. Here, as with SBAC, we report the combined rates of students scoring at level 3 (met the standard) and level 4 (exceeded the standard). Despite that similarity, we again remind the reader not to make direct comparison of SBAC and SAT results.

The corresponding raw scores on each SAT test are:

SAT Score Ranges for Achievement Levels	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
ELA	200-410	420-470	480-620	630-800
Math	200-410	420-520	530-640	650-800

Using Level 3 as the cutoff matches College Board’s own [SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks](#), which are scores of 480 for ELA and 530 for Math.



It is encouraging to see a 3-point increase over last year in both ELA and Math proficiency on the SAT. In Math, this looks like part of a trend of gradual increase over the last few years; in ELA, it is harder to tell.

We would prefer, in the case of SAT data, to give a comparison of the proficiency rates at each high school in the district. Unfortunately, as in previous years, only a few of Hartford’s high schools have enough data available, making comparison difficult. Even in providing a district comparison (below), we have had to drop Achievement First and Jumoke for the same reason, since despite their classification as legally separate districts, in each case there is only one relatively small school in question.

SAT ELA Proficiency by District				
District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Farmington School District	84%	88%	87%	84%
Glastonbury School District	85%	84%	81%	82%
West Hartford School District	77%	81%	79%	79%
State of Connecticut	65%	65%	62%	62%
Stamford School District	55%	56%	54%	55%
Capitol Region Education Council	56%	54%	51%	51%
Manchester School District	51%	51%	51%	50%
East Hartford School District	44%	42%	45%	38%
Hartford School District	34%	36%	34%	37%
New Haven School District	39%	37%	37%	34%
Bridgeport School District	29%	35%	32%	30%
New Britain School District	26%	28%	29%	25%
Waterbury School District	34%	32%	27%	29%

In both ELA and Math, the distribution of proficiency rates is broadly similar to what we saw above with SBAC. Farmington, Glastonbury, and West Hartford are out ahead, and beating the state average; CREC, Manchester, and Stamford are in the middle, lagging behind the state average.

SAT Math Proficiency by District				
District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Glastonbury School District	69%	75%	68%	73%
Farmington School District	61%	67%	71%	66%
West Hartford School District	56%	61%	61%	62%
State of Connecticut	39%	41%	40%	41%
Stamford School District	32%	33%	36%	38%
Manchester School District	21%	22%	30%	31%
Capitol Region Education Council	24%	23%	27%	23%
East Hartford School District	20%	25%	18%	21%
Hartford School District	15%	15%	17%	20%
Bridgeport School District	10%	16%	13%	13%
New Britain School District	11%	9%	10%	12%
New Haven School District	13%	15%	16%	12%
Waterbury School District	9%	11%	9%	10%

The rest, including Hartford, are a lot further behind. As with SBAC, there is a spread of about 60 points between the highest proficiency and lowest proficiency districts used in this comparison.





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### **Conclusions:**

These results are broadly similar to those in previous reports. What news there is can be summarized as follows:

1. The SBAC ELA proficiency rate in Hartford is still recovering from the 2016-17 decrease;
2. Hartford is no longer making progress on SBAC Math proficiency; and
3. SAT Math proficiency rates appear to be trending upward in Hartford; SAT ELA is still too inconsistent to tell.