



***On this first year’s administration of the SBAC state tests, how did “High Needs” students in Magnet schools perform compared to non-high needs students in Magnet schools?***

First, it is important to understand these two groups, of High Needs and Non-High Needs students. The State Department of Education defines a *High Needs* student according to three characteristics:

1. Eligibility for free or reduced price meals, which is the most commonly accepted proxy for poverty;
2. Status as an English learner, which relates to a child’s longevity in the country (often only a very short time); and
3. In the common terminology of special education, having an emotional, learning, or physical disability.

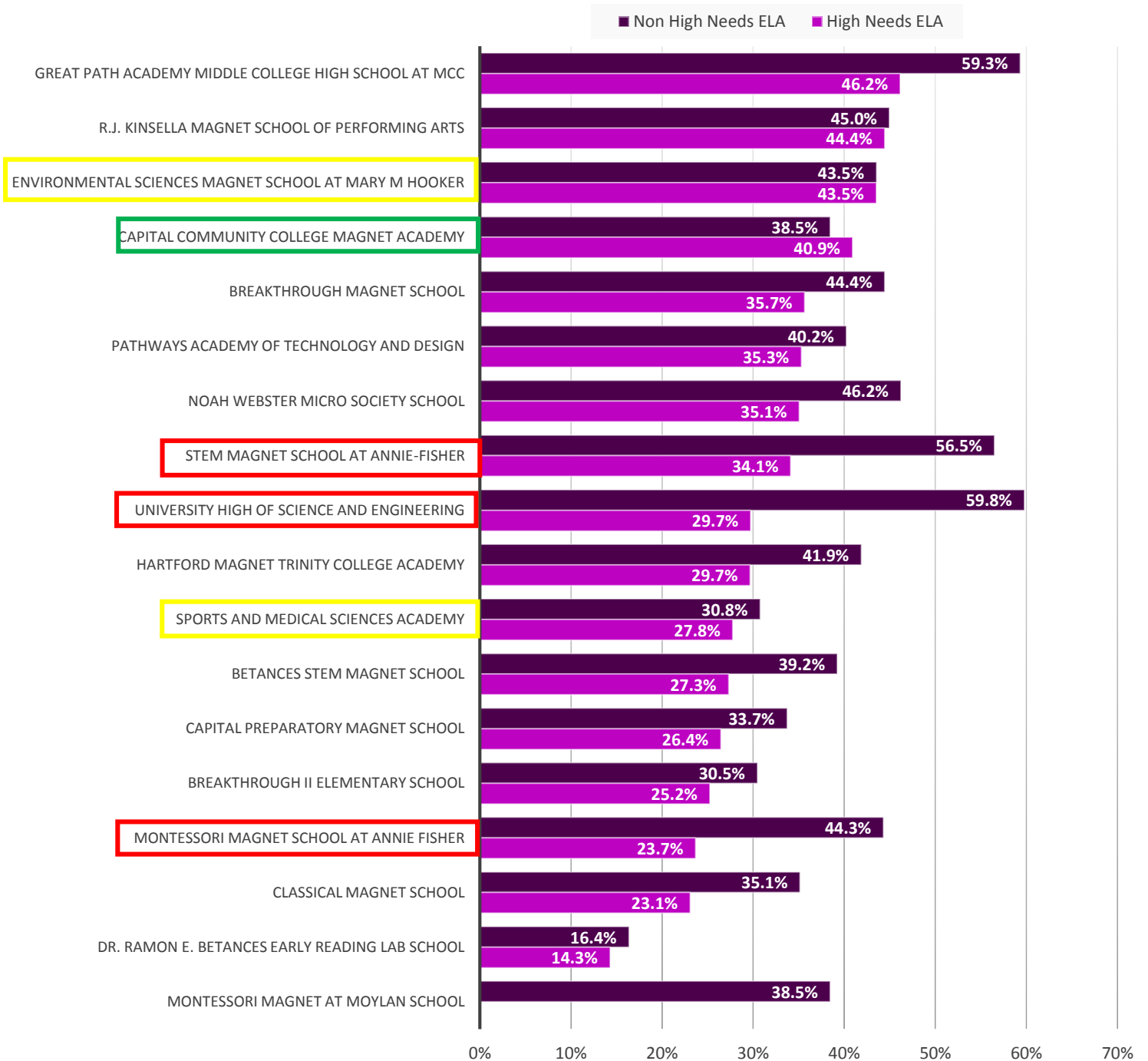
The SBAC was designed to measure student progress toward meeting the college and career expectations set by the Connecticut Core Standards. By the time a student graduates from high school, he/she should be ready to succeed in college and in the workplace according to these standards and expectations. These standards and expectations are used to determine an Achievement Level (descriptions of the Achievement Level can be accessed [here](#)).

The data for high needs students is not broken down by grade level. The data reported reflect the average percent of students in all grades in a given school who meet or exceed the Achievement Level in a subject (English Language Arts and Mathematics). Since all grades are averaged together, it is impossible to determine whether or not the gap that is usually present in early grades (Third Grade) between high needs and non-high needs students decreases over time. Not surprisingly, there will be a gap for any school when all grades are averaged. It would be expected in later grades like Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade that schools experience no gap in performance.

**English Language Arts**

As shown in the graph below, University High School of Science and Engineering, STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher, as well as Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher had the largest gaps in student achievement between non-high needs students and high needs students: gaps of 30.1%, 22.4%, and 20.6%, respectively. Surprisingly, high needs students at Capital Community College Magnet Academy actually outperformed their non-high needs counterparts in ELA averaged across the entire school. Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker saw no gap between the two populations on average, and Sports and Medical Sciences Academy only had a gap of 3 percentage points.

## Non-High Needs vs. High Needs Magnet Students Meeting/Exceeding Achievement Level: ELA



## ELA Ranking

The table below ranks magnet schools in terms of highest percentage of students meeting or exceeding the Achievement Level in ELA. The rankings range from 1-18. A rank of one represents the school with the highest percentage of students on average meeting or exceeding the Achievement Level. A rank of 18 means that school had the lowest percentage of students meeting or exceeding the Achievement Level. The following table compares how magnet schools rank when focusing on high needs student achievement.

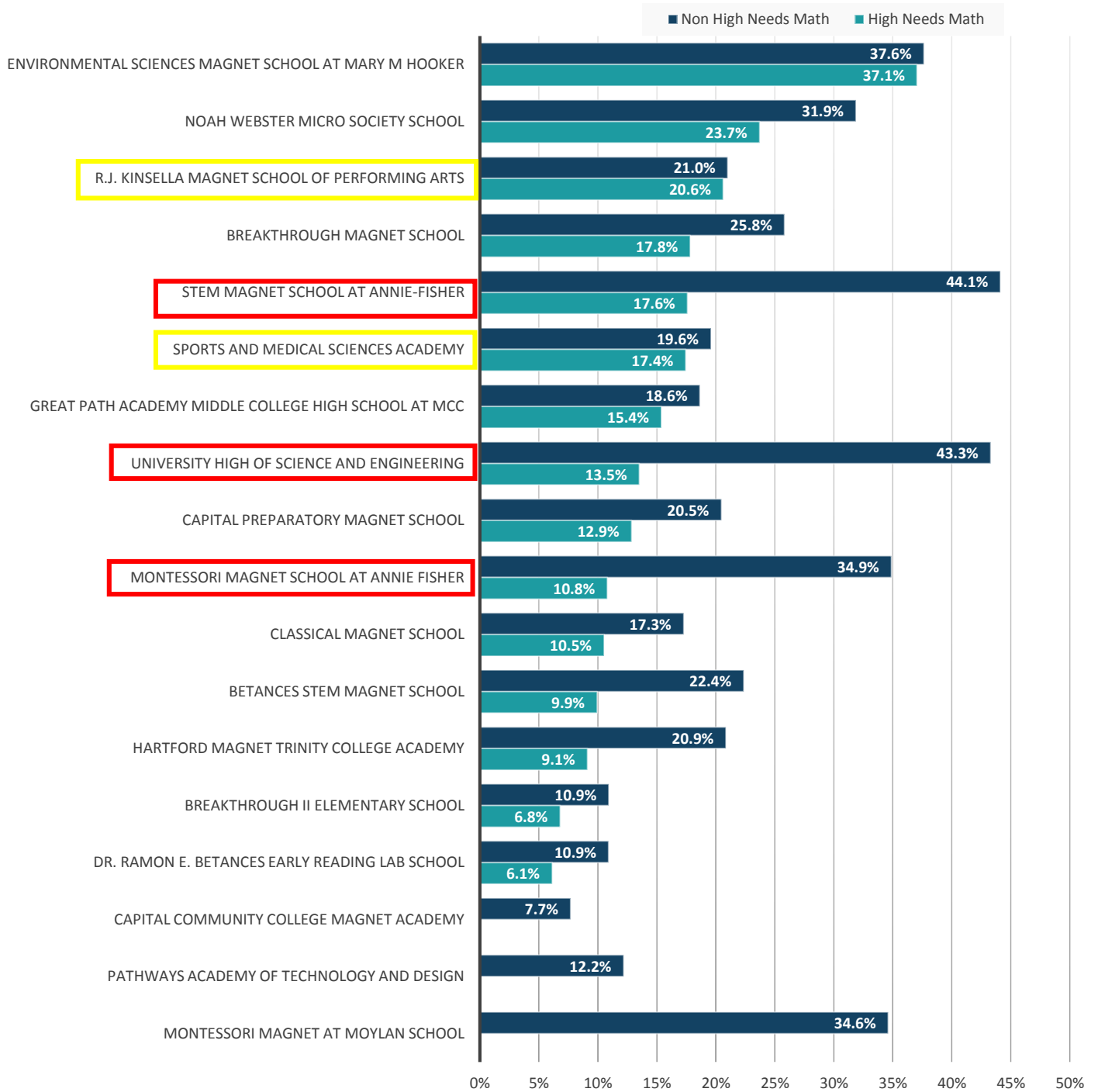
School	Overall Rank (ELA)	High Needs Rank (ELA)
University High of Science and Engineering	1	9
Great Path Academy Middle College High School at MCC	2	1
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	3	8
Noah Webster Micro Society School	4	7
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	5	2
Breakthrough Magnet School	6	5
Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher	7	15
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	8	3
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy	9	9
Pathways Academy of Technology and Design	10	6
Betances STEM Magnet School	11	12
Capital Community College Magnet Academy	12	4
Montessori Magnet at Moylan School	13	N/A
Classical Magnet School	14	16
Capital Preparatory Magnet School	15	13
Sports and Medical Sciences Academy	16	11
Breakthrough II Elementary School	17	14
Dr. Ramon E. Betances Early Reading Lab School	18	17

Magnet schools with the greatest difference in their two rankings (overall vs. high needs only,) not surprisingly, included University High School of Science and Engineering, STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher, and Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher. Interestingly, both Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker and Sports and Medical Sciences Academy ranks improved with their high needs population than overall. CCCMA's high needs ranking was much higher than its overall ranking, due to the higher performance of the high needs population, as evident in the graph above.

## Mathematics

Represented in the following graph, University High School of Science and Engineering, STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher, and Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher again all had the largest gaps in student achievement for Math: 29.8%, 26.5%, and 24.1%, respectively. There was no school where high needs students met or exceed the Achievement Level at a higher rate than non-high needs students. Sports and Medical Sciences and Kinsella Magnet School for the Performing Arts demonstrated very little gap at all between the two populations.

## Non-High Needs vs. High Needs Magnet Students Meeting/Exceeding Achievement Level: Math



## Math Ranking

The table below ranks magnet schools in terms of highest percentage of students meeting or exceeding the Achievement Level in Math. The rankings range from 1-18. A rank of one represents the school with the highest percentage of students on average meeting or exceeding the Math Achievement Level. A rank of 18 means that school had the lowest percentage of students meeting or exceeding the Achievement Level. The following table compares how magnet schools rank when focusing on high need student achievement.

School	Overall Rank (Math)	High Needs Rank (Math)
STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher	1	5
University High of Science and Engineering	2	8
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary M Hooker	3	1
Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher	4	10
Montessori Magnet at Moylan School	5	N/A
Noah Webster Micro Society School	6	2
Breakthrough Magnet School	7	4
Betances STEM Magnet School	8	12
R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts	9	3
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy	10	13
Capital Preparatory Magnet School	11	9
Sports and Medical Sciences Academy	12	6
Great Path Academy Middle College High School at MCC	13	7
Classical Magnet School	14	11
Pathways Academy of Technology and Design	15	16
Breakthrough II Elementary School	16	14
Dr. Ramon E. Betances Early Reading Lab School	16	15
Capital Community College Magnet Academy	18	16

The large differences in rank again correlate with those schools with large gaps between non-high needs and high needs achievement. Not surprisingly, two schools noticed improvements in their ranking by six spots: Sports and Medical Sciences (going from a rank of 12 to a rank of six) and R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts (going from a rank of nine to a rank of three).