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860-244-3333
info@achievehartford.org
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# 2017-18 Proficiency Testing Results

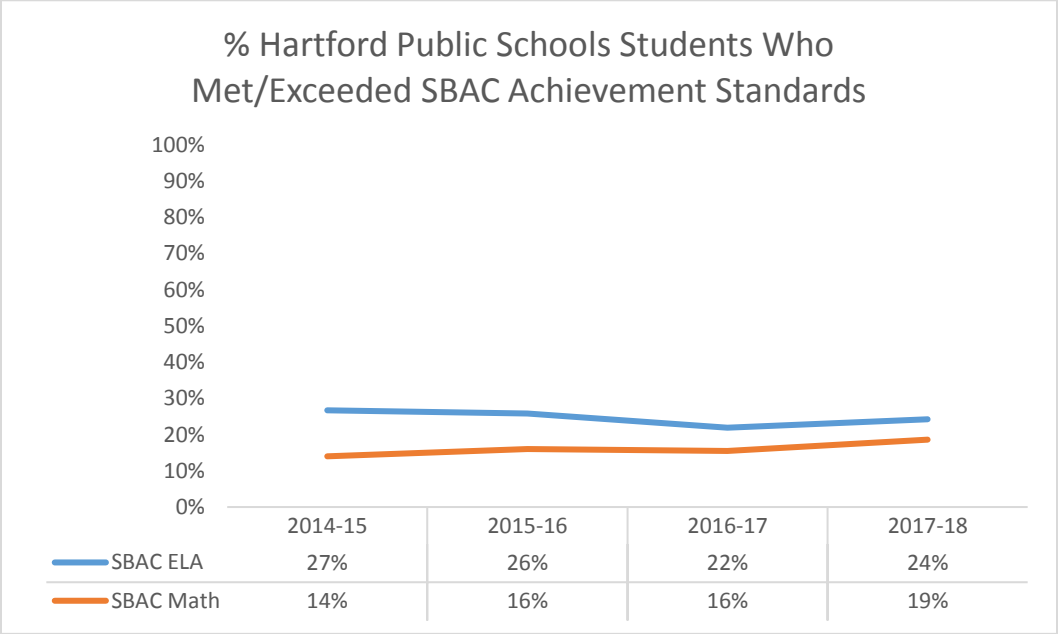
## Background

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

For SBAC testing, the ELA proficiency rate has somewhat rebounded from a serious dip last year, though it remains lower than the first two years of test administration; in Math, the proficiency rate has increased by 5 percentage points over three years, but remains very low in an absolute sense, with fewer than 1 in 5 students reaching proficiency.




| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SBAC ELA | 27% | 26% | 22% | 24% |
| SBAC Math | 14% | 16% | 16% | 19% |

### SBAC Proficiency by Grade Level

As mentioned above, we noted last year that the district experienced a serious drop in ELA proficiency rates on SBAC tests, and that this pattern was consistent across grades. The partial rebound in those rates has also been consistent across grades.

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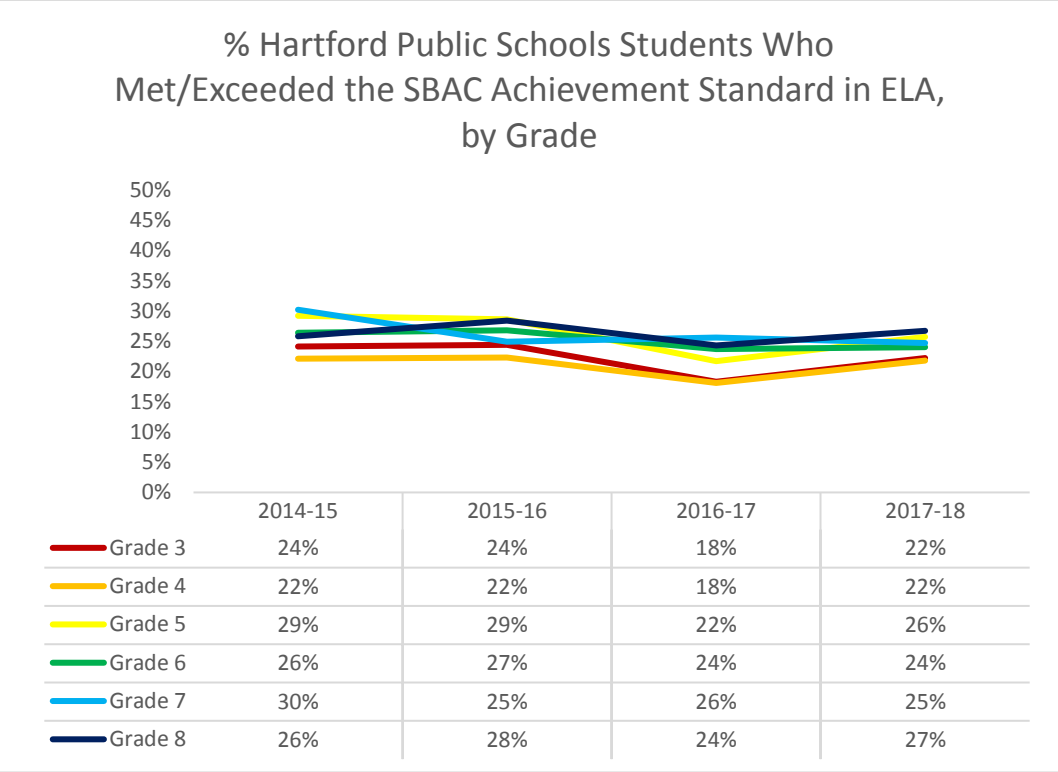


| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 3 | 24% | 24% | 18% | 22% |
| Grade 4 | 22% | 22% | 18% | 22% |
| Grade 5 | 29% | 29% | 22% | 26% |
| Grade 6 | 26% | 27% | 24% | 24% |
| Grade 7 | 30% | 25% | 26% | 25% |
| Grade 8 | 26% | 28% | 24% | 27% |

Also consistent across grades is the gradual trend upwards in SBAC Math proficiency, seen below. While not every grade saw an unambiguous increase this past year, the overall pattern is one of a clear and positive (if small) increase, which will hopefully continue in the coming years.

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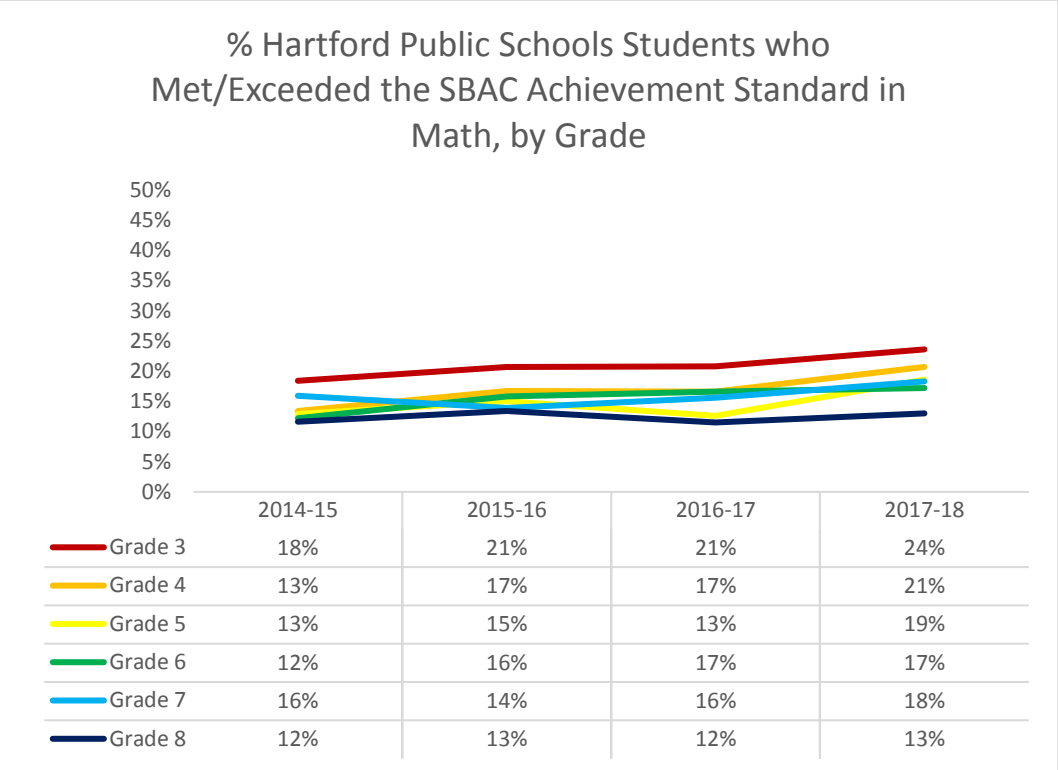


| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 3 | 18% | 21% | 21% | 24% |
| Grade 4 | 13% | 17% | 17% | 21% |
| Grade 5 | 13% | 15% | 13% | 19% |
| Grade 6 | 12% | 16% | 17% | 17% |
| Grade 7 | 16% | 14% | 16% | 18% |
| Grade 8 | 12% | 13% | 12% | 13% |

**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.

| ELA Proficiency | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District** | **2014-15** | **2015-16** | **2016-17** | **2017-18** |
| Farmington School District | 78% | 79% | 79% | 80% |
| Glastonbury School District | 78% | 79% | 77% | 77% |
| West Hartford School District | 72% | 71% | 71% | 70% |
| Achievement First Hartford Academy Inc. District | 42% | 45% | 51% | 57% |
| State of Connecticut | 55% | 56% | 54% | 55% |
| Capitol Region Education Council | 49% | 50% | 47% | 49% |
| Stamford School District | 49% | 50% | 48% | 48% |
| Jumoke Academy District | 38% | 39% | 33% | 37% |
| Manchester School District | 39% | 40% | 36% | 36% |
| East Hartford School District | 33% | 32% | 30% | 35% |

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Haven School District | 29% | 32% | 31% | 34% |
| Waterbury School District | 26% | 27% | 26% | 27% |
| Bridgeport School District | 24% | 22% | 22% | 26% |
| Hartford School District | 27% | 26% | 22% | 24% |
| New Britain School District | 23% | 22% | 19% | 22% |

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 15.

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, at least, Hartford is on a steady upward trajectory. But this is counterbalanced by two things. First, it does not erase the fact that the proficiency rate is still very low. Second, the more general trend in Connecticut is very positive; the statewide rate has increased by 8 points since the first administration of the test, and every district in this comparison except Manchester and New Britain has had noticeable proficiency rate increases.

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

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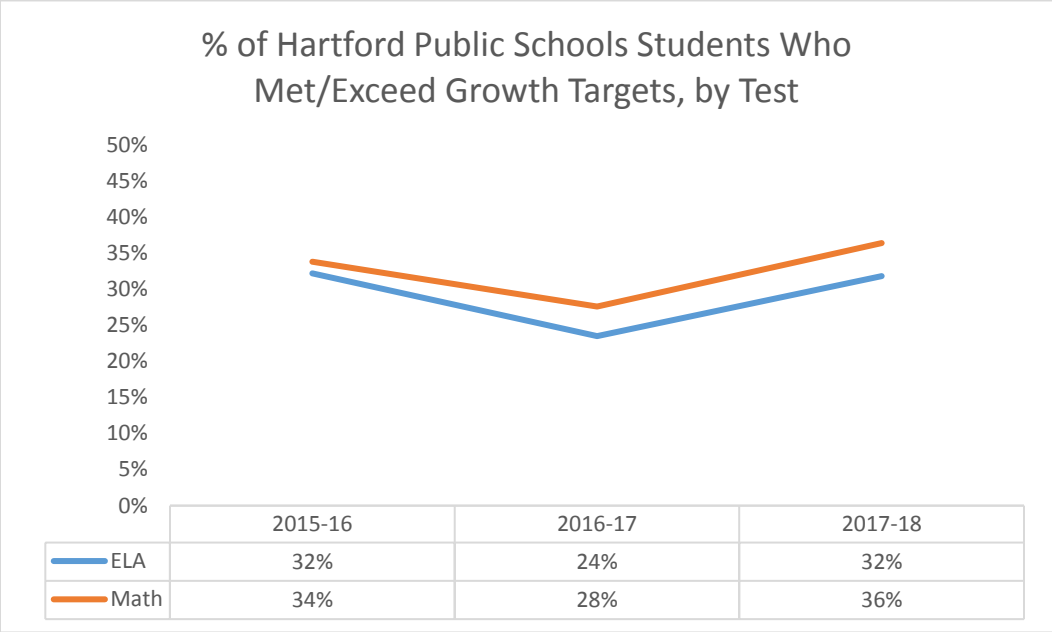
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Britain School District | 14% | 13% | 12% | 14% |

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Growth

**Growth Rates by Subject and Grade Level**

Under the CT State Department of Education's Growth Model for SBAC, each student is assigned a growth target based on their SBAC performance in the previous year. This makes it possible to have a sense for how many students are making adequate progress, regardless of whether they have reached proficiency. A student who has not reached proficiency but is hitting their growth targets year after year is essentially on track to become proficient.




| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ELA | 32% | 24% | 32% |
| Math | 34% | 28% | 36% |

It is hard to identify from these three years of data whether there is any meaningful trend in Hartford's growth rates for SBAC tests. There was a large decrease in both rates from year 1 to year 2 of the model, followed by an almost exact rebounding in year 3. On one hand, if one were to add regression trendlines to this graph, they would be essentially flat; on the other hand, it's not at all clear that this pattern will continue.

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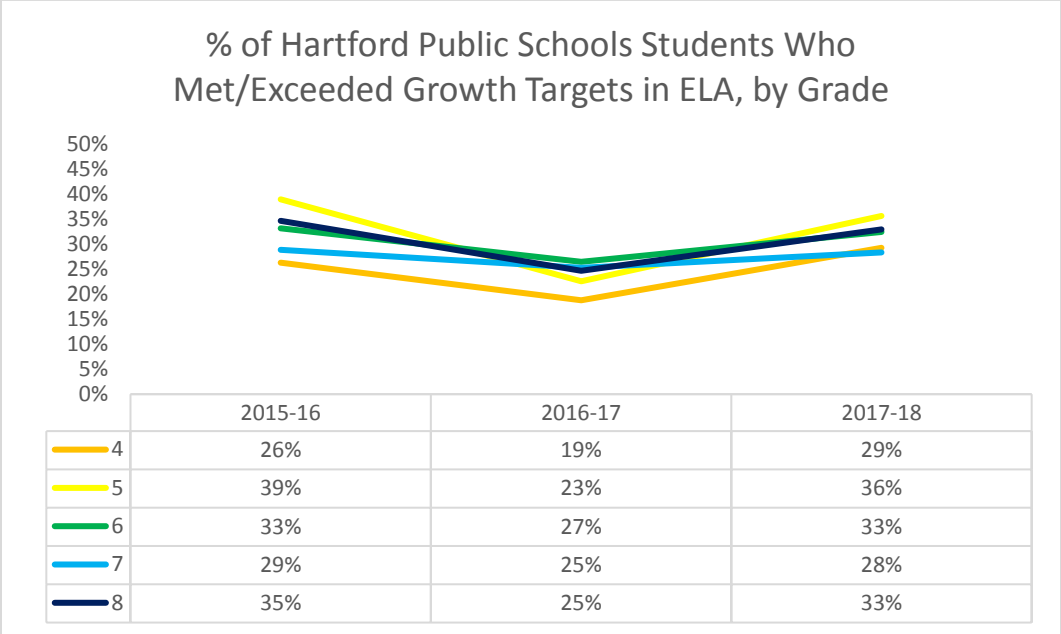
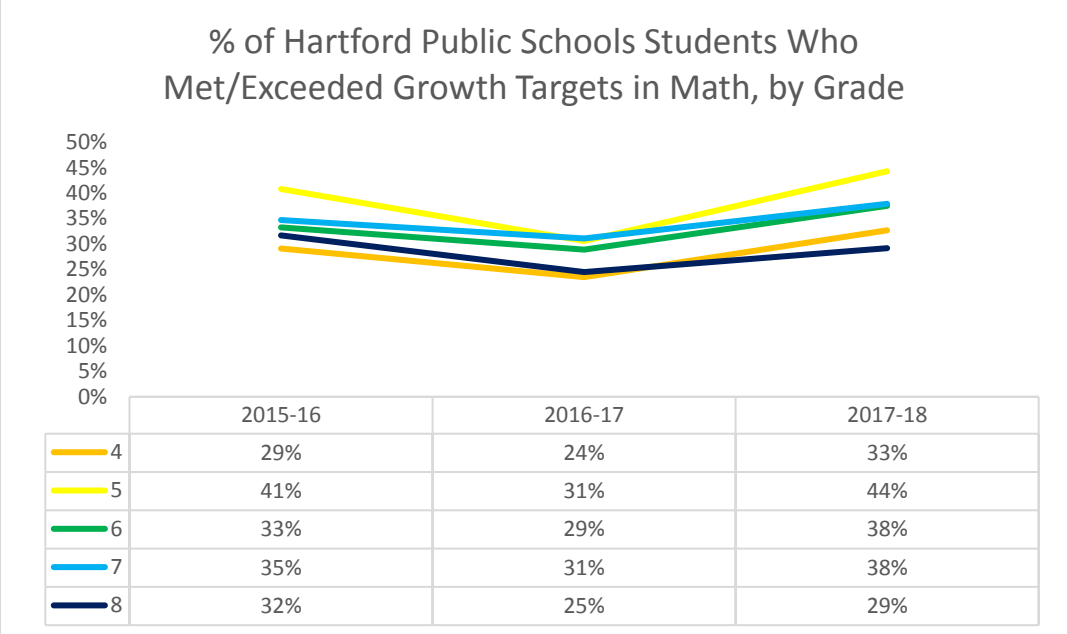



| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 26% | 19% | 29% |
| 5 | 39% | 23% | 36% |
| 6 | 33% | 27% | 33% |
| 7 | 29% | 25% | 28% |
| 8 | 35% | 25% | 33% |




| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 29% | 24% | 33% |
| 5 | 41% | 31% | 44% |
| 6 | 33% | 29% | 38% |
| 7 | 35% | 31% | 38% |
| 8 | 32% | 25% | 29% |

On both tests, students are most likely to meet their growth targets in 5th grade. This seems unlikely to happen by sheer coincidence, especially because it is mostly consistent across time; a closer examination of why this might be happening would require student-level data that we don't have access to, but would undoubtedly be worthwhile.

**Comparison to Other Districts and the State**

Again, we present a table of comparison to other districts and statewide results. For ELA growth rates, the story here is much the same as the proficiency rate comparison above (pages 3),

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

In Math, however, note that despite the low overall rate of proficiency in Hartford, the progress it has made over the last couple of years translates in a growth rate higher than most of the comparison districts examined here. Hopefully, this is something Hartford can build on in years to come.

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

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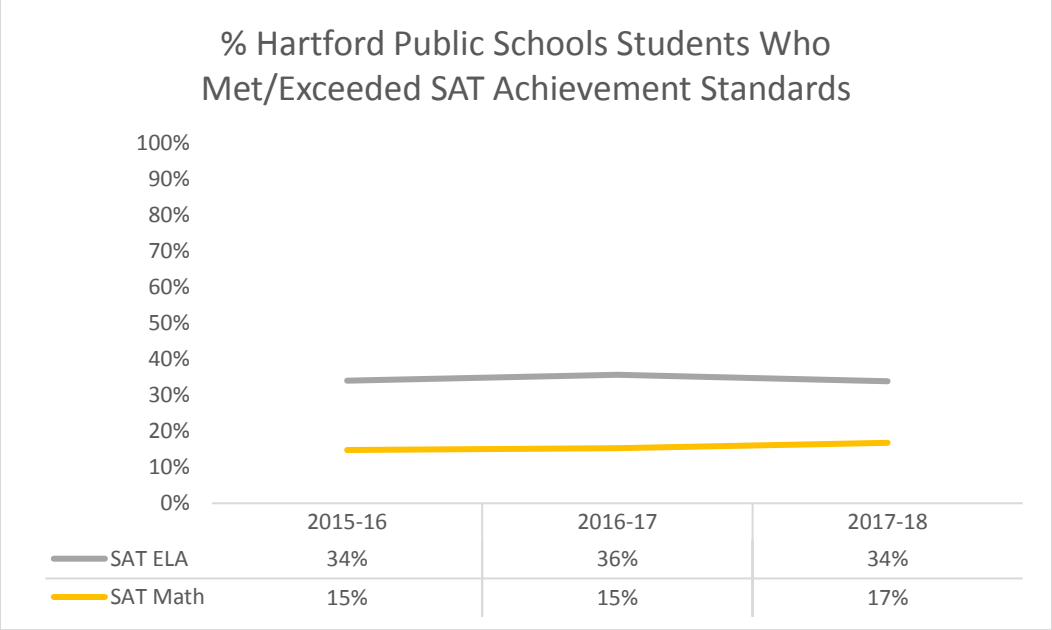
## School Day SAT

Much like the SBAC standards, the state has established a set of achievement levels for the SAT in both ELA and Math. Here, as with SBAC, we report the combined rates of students scoring at level 3 (met the standard) and level 4 (exceeded the standard). The corresponding raw scores on each 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 |

Considering 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.




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 for this analysis, data privacy laws are structured in a way which requires a lot of that data to be suppressed to prevent possible identification of individual students; only Bulkeley, Classical, Pathways, and University High are large enough to have consistently available data.

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.

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

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.

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

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:**
Broadly speaking, these results tell us little that last year's reports did not. What news there is can be summarized as follows.

SBAC:

1. Last year's slump in ELA proficiency in Hartford seems to have been partly, but not entirely, an aberration;
2. Hartford's progress in SBAC Math is sustained and increasing (though small);
3. Hartford is doing relatively well in terms of their growth rate in Math; and
4. There is an interesting pattern of noticeably higher growth rates in 5th grade which deserves closer examination.

SAT:

5. Proficiency rates are consistent across the last three years.