

SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

The regular meeting of the Southington Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southington Town Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut.

1. BOARD RECOGNITIONS ~ 7:00 P.M.

Before the meeting, a Celebration of Excellence was held to honor the following people:

- a. Mr. Justin Mirante, who is Southington's 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year, was presented with a plaque by Board Chairperson, Brian Goralski.
- b. Mr. Roy Rodrigues, Director of Adult Education from 1986 through 2012, who recently retired, was recognized for his dedication to the program and presented with a plaque.
- c. The Giving Back Girls were recognized for collecting school supplies, donations, and backpacks. They handed out the backpacks filled with these items along with a Wal-Mart gift card to students in need. The Giving Back Girls program is run through the Southington Community Services and strives to give back to the community. The following group members were recognized and given a plaque for their endeavors: Marisa Matarazzo, Hannah Jackman, Madison Yurgaitis, Erin Gibney, Emily Gibney, Gabrielle Mulholland, Michelle Woodruff, Lauren Torino, Samantha Sagnella, Catherine Myers, Marisa Matthews, Samantha Martins, Tricia Gibney, Lynn Daley, Moira Myers, Anthony Matarazzo, Joe Campochiaro, Mark Fazzolari, Mercedes Galante, Destiny Galante, Tyler Galante, Sandra Amato, Lyn Lorenzo and Callie Williams.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Brian Goralski. Board members present were Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, and Mrs. Patricia Queen. Absent was Mr. David Derynoski.

Present from the administration were Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance; Mr. Frederick Cox, Director of Operations, and Dr. Perri Murdica, Senior Special Education Coordinator.

Student Representatives present were Miss Whitney DiMeo and Miss Abigail Harris.

There were approximately 10 individuals in the audience.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The student representatives led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mrs. Notar-Francesco, seconded by Mrs. Carmody:

“Move to approve the regular Board of Education minutes of September 13, 2012.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications from Audience

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue: Mr. Cyr addressed the environmental issues at the two middle schools. He thanked Dr. Erardi for his expediency in communicating to the public to clarify the issues. He noted that there were conspiracy theorists in the public who were spreading erroneous information, which he refuted. He noted that the EPA changed their standards in the past 18 months and that there was no cover up as alleged by others.

b. Communications from Board Members and Administration

Communication from the Board Members:

Mrs. Queen reported that she attended a PTO meeting at Hatton School and DePaolo Middle School. She noted that the work of the PTOs were extraordinary with numerous volunteer hours expended. Mrs. Queen explained a new initiative at Hatton School that was started by two individuals this summer and sponsored by Dannon called “Rally for Recess.” Dannon will donate up to \$30,000 to renovate a playground for a winning school who submits the most number of product codes. Hatton School is already in 13th place nationwide. The vision is to have a playground that is wheelchair accessible with ramps. The two individuals proposed that the PTOs in Southington come together to collectively achieve this goal rather than compete against each other. The PTOs could help each other to do something for a different school next year.

Mrs. Queen announced that the Southington High School Athletic Department is presenting an information session on “Concussion Management Signs and Symptoms” on Wednesday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium with Dr. Carl Nissen as the guest speaker.

Mr. Goralski announced that Mr. Bob Brown, Southington Education Association Union President, invited the Board members to the Wall of Fame Ceremony at Southington High

School on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium foyer. It is an opportunity to recognize former Southington High School students who have gone on to do something notable with their lives.

Communication from Administration:

Dr. Erardi discussed his Administrative Report:

1. All-Day Kindergarten – Strong Elementary School: Dr. Erardi noted that the dates for the All-Day Kindergarten discussion were October 1 at 7:00 p.m. with Daycare Providers/Directors and October 4 at 7:00 p.m. with a Community Open Microphone.
2. Parent Executive Council – October 17, 7:00 p.m.: Dr. Erardi reported that the consensus of the Executive Parent Council is to alternate every month in order to accommodate as many people as possible. One month will be a lunchtime meeting and the second month an evening meeting.
3. SHS Statistical Analysis Update: Dr. Erardi reported that this was an update broken down by sport and gender regarding student athletes who had symptoms of or received a concussion.
4. Turf Field Update: Dr. Erardi reported that he continues to be impressed with the leadership of Mike DeFeo, a volunteer within the community, who is working hard to bring the turf field across the finish line. Mr. DeFeo continues to hold to the October finish date, or earlier, if the weather cooperates.
5. Veterans' Partnership: Dr. Erardi reported that a donation of \$4,000 by the Board of Education was made to the Friends of Fisher House Foundation to help veterans. The money was raised by Southington students in Grades K-12.

Mr. Goralski announced that on Friday, October 5, the soccer team will be hosting an event called "Headers for Heroes" at Southington High School at 3:00 p.m. All proceeds from that game will be donated to the "Wounded Warrior Foundation."

6. HAZMAT Issues (Attachment #1): Dr. Erardi explained that on Wednesday evening, September 26, there was an opportunity to talk about the safety aspect of the two middle schools with the community. Through the air samplings taken, they were able to assure all students, staff, parents, and community members that the buildings were safe. Dr. Erardi explained that the Feasibility Study for this project was done by Fletcher Thompson Associates. On or around May 12, 2011, Fletcher Thompson Associates prepared a document for administration and the School Board. Part of that document did not include a study on environmental issues, which is very typical of Feasibility Studies. In a very proactive manner, Mr. Cox worked with Fletcher Thompson and EnviroMed, the chemical hygienist that the school system uses. EnviorMed was hired to determine asbestos, lead, and PCBs. The surprise would have been if there were no asbestos, lead or PCBs in our buildings. The report that was returned to the Board stated that the issue was tiles in one of the middle schools. The Board of Education followed direction to the letter of the law to make sure that the exposed tiles were taken care of during the

summertime. It was important for the Board to not only create a protocol and a conversation for the students and staff when the project moved forward but it was equally important to make sure that the school system's maintenance employees and custodians were working in a safe environment also. Dr. Erardi stated that he was very impressed with the document that was sent forward out of the Maintenance Department to ensure all the maintenance employees that there was a protocol and process in place to be followed for lead, asbestos and PCBs. This is the document that has lived since September 2011. The sampling that was taken by EnviroMed was less than a half-dozen samples. They are projecting to take well over 200 samples within the current study that is being undertaken. It was important last evening to tell the community, students and staff that the project, which will be commencing in July 2013, under the guidelines of the Connecticut Statutes, would not take place with any students on site during remediation of the asbestos and PCBs.

Dr. Erardi shared that there will be documents sent forward to the Public Building Committee from EnviroMed with their findings, which will be important for our current chemical hygienist (who presented last evening) to have as they work towards what the bottom line cost will be and how this remediation will take place.

There has been protocol in place regarding safety of staff over the last few years at the middle schools. Student safety will never be compromised. The administrative offices remain open for any community conversations that are needed regarding this serious issue. Dr. Erardi assured the Board of Education that he will continue to stay in front of this issue.

c. Communications from Student Board Representatives

Miss DiMeo congratulated Mr. Mirante. Although she did not have him for a teacher, she knows of students who did and have great admiration and respect for him. She reported on the following:

- The College Fair was held in the cafeteria last week with over 900 people in attendance. There were over 120 schools represented for every niche.
- The National Honor Society will be holding their annual Blood Drive.
- No one talks about leveling except for the occasional slip of Level 3 being CCP. There is a huge participation of AP students with last year a potential of 300 students who were able to take AP testing. This year it is over 500 students. The freshmen are starting with a clean slate into the leveling system.

Miss Harris reported on the following:

- She agreed that the leveling has gone smoothly and was not noticeable. She would like to see more honors and electives though.
- Open House was held last Thursday and parents stated that they enjoyed it and that they found it very informative.

Mrs. Lombardi questioned the utilization of the Naviance program. Miss DiMeo replied that it was increasing with college applications where they sync common applications to Naviance. It is where a student writes their user name and password from the common

application on Naviance and then you are able to have them together. Mrs. Lombardi noted that freshmen are encouraged to begin using Naviance. She questioned what that utilization looks like year to year because it was a great precursor to the College Fair. Miss DiMeo stated that she started using Naviance in her freshman year. She was able to look at her GPA versus what the accepted GPA for a particular college was and the accepted SAT score versus the student's SAT score. Students are able to take personality tests to see what schools are right for them to narrow down their college search. Mrs. Lombardi asked about what the utilization looks like by grade level.

Mrs. Smith replied that Naviance started at the high school allowing multiple teachers to access a student's progress and allowing students to keep track of their electronic portfolio. With the advent of student success planning, Grades 6, 7, and 8 are responsible for the development of student success plans. These plans will include interest inventories for the sixth grade students with the results collected using the Naviance program. The eventual goal is the Grades 6 through 12 teachers can read about a particular student starting in sixth grade. The student has the opportunity to include some of his/her best writing, interests, and courses taken. The middle school teachers are currently being trained on how to use Naviance through their guidance departments. In the middle schools, students will be trained through their computer classes on how to access Naviance.

Mrs. Queen noted that she sat through many college information sessions that are provided for prospective students and parents and a few of the colleges mentioned Naviance and said it was an excellent program. With Naviance, a student has the reassurance that all of the pieces have come together and nothing has been missed in the common application.

The student representatives left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting ~ September 18, 2012

Mrs. Smith reported on the status of the SOAR program. The SOAR program was renamed and they still have various components of the SOAR program this year with the idea of providing to elementary students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 a push-in enrichment model that will reach the needs of more students. The elementary administrators, teachers and SOAR Team members are constantly meeting, evaluating, and assessing the changing SOAR program to develop a program to accomplish more enrichment to more children in a variety of ways in all schools while still giving equality of time and energy to every school.

Mrs. Carmody reported that Dale Riedinger explained the new Common Core Standards (Focus, Coherence, and Rigor) in math to the committee. The district Professional Development Plan is providing teachers explicit information about the changes on how to apply these new Common Core Standards. She noted that Common Cores are being done in all areas.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco stated that she understood what the Common Core was going to look like for math by the time Ms. Riedinger was done explaining it. She was impressed by the way this new curriculum will be structured to enable students to be very critical and ask good questions and to teach students how to justify their work.

Mrs. Carmody added that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee also planned the dates for future meetings.

Mr. Goralski stated that he was concerned with the piece about SOAR. He would like more information about it to come back to the Board. He noted that last year there was a big budget discussion about how more students were going to be reached. When he read this report it showed him that they are still doing a lot of the old-style and less of what they thought that they were getting. He would like to have more information about why they are not where they should be for this budget season because that will be a valid discussion. He noted that they want more students reached, not less. He asked Mrs. Carmody and Mrs. Smith to bring that back through their committee.

Mrs. Lombardi agreed with Mr. Goralski and recommended looking at adding children to the program who might be strong in one area but may not be strong in another area, such as an ELL student. Mr. Goralski would like the report to include this.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Government Communications

There was no communication.

b. Construction Update

Mr. Cox reported that there was no change on the closeouts of the Plantsville and South End projects. There were many changes at the Municipal Center and everyone is moved in with the exception of the records storage, which is currently being moved over from Beecher Street. He will be advising the Board shortly on the steps in giving back 49 Beecher Street to the town. The intersection on Route 10 with the traffic lights was opened up this afternoon.

Mrs. Clark asked if anyone was left at Beecher Street. Mr. Cox replied that Steven Lee in the Production Room was having his equipment broken down on Friday to be moved to the Municipal Center early next week. The security system at Beecher Street is still functional and the maintenance staff will be doing a daily drive-by and the police department has been advised that the building is vacant.

Dr. Erardi noted that the School Board mentioned that they would like to have a Fletcher Thompson report in the near future on the middle schools. He asked the Board if they wanted the report to come forward in October or November. Mrs. Johnson wanted the opportunity for the Board to provide input in advance of the end date. She would rather see the report sooner rather than later. Mr. Goralski stated that if Board members have a concern, they should be sharing them with Mrs. Clark and him now because they are the Board representatives on the committee. He noted that Mr. Cox was always available. He agreed with Mrs. Johnson and stated that the final drawings are in place now and noted that Mr. Christopher Palmieri [Assistant Principal at DePaolo and Town Councilor] has been an invaluable member of that building committee. At every meeting, Mr. Palmieri has reported to the committee the perspectives of the staff with a written report. The Board agreed with Dr. Erardi to invite Mr. Pocock, Chair of the

Public Building Committee, and Fletcher Thompson to the first meeting in October to give a brief report.

Mrs. Queen questioned how the decision was made about the chilled beam concept that required the windows to be non-operable to preserve the integrity of the system. Mr. Goralski replied that the committee made the decision for all windows to be non-operable with the exception of the administrative wing. It was based on the input from the architects, mechanical engineer, and the construction management team. The reason that decision was made was because of the administrative request that there be some communication and immediate access to the exterior of the building versus radios. The chilled beam would be for the primary classroom wings of the building with the traditional air conditioning in the larger areas such as gyms, auditoriums and office area. The chilled beam requires a very controlled humidity environment. Mrs. Clark added that the chilled beam system is very quiet, energy efficient and does not take up space in the ceiling like traditional air conditioning ductwork would, which would affect ceiling heights.

c. Curriculum Initiative ~ Summer School Program Review

Mr. David DeStefano, who is the new Director of Summer School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2012 Summer School program (*Attachment #2*). He replaces Mr. Richard Terino who was the Summer School Director for nine years. Mr. DeStefano discussed the purposes for taking Summer School courses in Grades 9-12, and enrichment programs in Grades 6-8 and in Grades K-5. He pointed out the 2012 highlights and the current enrollment figures along with historical enrollment data going back to 2004. He noted that there were 131 students enrolled throughout the program. Mr. DeStefano proposed expanding the session for the elementary enrichment program to three hours with each session 1.5 hours. His reason for a bigger block includes an arts and crafts component. Mr. DeStefano reviewed the start and end dates for the proposed July 2013 Summer School calendar and discussed his ideas for the 2013 Summer School Program. Mr. DeStefano noted that in trying to balance the budget he had to reduce the hours of the nurse and the secretary for the program.

Mrs. Carmody stated that she would like to see the Kindergarten Summer School program expanded. She questioned why there were a large number of ninth graders enrolled. Mr. DeStefano replied that most of those students failed a course and agreed that it was a comparatively large number this year.

Mrs. Lombardi asked Mr. DeStefano to take a second look on what could be done at the high school level. She noted that funding is not always available for the students to take the classes when there was no more funds left of the money donated by the Southington Community Services. Another issue is transportation to the Summer School program, which could also be a detriment for students with extenuating circumstances. Mr. DeStefano replied that Janet Mellon has been wonderful and that her program has also been expanding. Southington Community Services receive funds from the Salvation Army and fundraising. By covering the two sessions this year, it exhausted their funds very quickly. Mrs. Lombardi asked if there was another avenue beyond the Southington Community Services. Dr. Erardi noted that they offered credit recovery through the online Virtual Learning Academy, which was piloted last year, and it was successful for the youngsters who struggled to get to the school. He would bring the statistics to the Board in a weekly update.

Mrs. Queen stated that one of the challenges with some of the most motivated students is choosing between all the courses that they want to take at the high school. Some of the students want to take some of the AP courses but don't have enough room to do the prerequisite. She asked if some of these summer courses could serve to satisfy the prerequisite. Mr. DeStefano replied that not all of the AP prerequisites are offered during the summer. He noted that the courses offered change every year. Dr. Erardi pointed out that the Summer School program for high school students is remedial with some enrichment at the elementary school level. Right now, there is no enhancement for a student who wants to take a complete course during the summer to move forward quicker to more rigorous courses during the school year; however, that will be the next conversation regarding Summer School. It is not presently our structure because we cannot do that in 15-18 days.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco remembered that approximately 15 years ago Southington had the enrichment program where it started at 9:00 a.m., there were two sessions and it ended at noon. There were many children who participated in programs such as Introduction to Magic. She thought that the number of students would cover the expenses and did not know why Southington moved away from that. Mr. DeStefano believed that there were state funds provided at that time. Mr. Terino, in the audience, added that in 2004 the Board at that time wrestled with the decision to keep the program because of a lean budget. At the time, the Board of Education budget funded \$16,000 and CREC funded approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 and that was where the money came from to pay for supplies and teachers to run the enrichment/remedial program. CREC was waiting for the Board's decision but the Board took too long to make that decision so CREC backed out and went to another town. Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that her children participated in that for a number of years and felt that it would be nice if something similar to that could be arranged again.

Mrs. Johnson thanked Mr. DeStefano for taking on the Summer School program. She noted that her children also took part in the enrichment/remedial program many years ago and that it was a wonderful experience for them. It was not so cost prohibitive to send her children and provide them with that fabulous opportunity; especially the band camp for elementary students, because it was funded by grants and the school system. She questioned teacher assessment and if Mr. DeStefano would be assessing the effectiveness of the teachers. She stated that there was a big difference between teaching for two-hours in a block and teaching 45-minutes. Mr. DeStefano replied that in working with the staff their styles seem to be appropriate for the topics that were covered as well as what the students needed. There was differentiation of lessons. The teachers create a style where the two-hour block is broken up into fragments. Mrs. Johnson commented about the proposal for a three-hour block for elementary students. If the plan is to have remedial plus enrichment, there will be so many different kinds of interests that they will not be able to combine the perfect enrichment plus remedial concept in the same block. Mr. DeStefano pointed out that some downtime would be built-in where the students take a break. Mrs. Johnson noted that there were Literacy grants available. Mr. DeStefano was looking into a Target grant but they only accept applications in April and then award it in September.

Mr. DeStefano thought that there was so much opportunity for an elementary school program. If it takes flight, then he thought that it would eventually deserve its own program director if the numbers get up to 130 again. Mr. Goralski thanked him for his visions sending the Summer School program down that path.

d. All-Day Kindergarten Initiative Update

Dr. Erardi reported that administration plans to bring to the Board of Education an All-Day Kindergarten proposal on November 8. They will be meeting with the community, preschool directors and home daycare providers next week to discuss this initiative. He noted that Mrs. DiNello and Mr. Cox have taken on the fiscal piece and how that cost can be deferred within the operational plan.

Mrs. Smith reported that the committee is comprised of current Kindergarten teachers, Grade 1 teachers, speech and language teachers, a representative from the Early Childhood Collaborative, and a parent. Their purpose is to better define what they believe the curriculum would look like in a full-day Kindergarten, and what it would not look like. They are developing what they consider to be a sample model day in the life of a Full-Day Kindergartener. This will be shared at the public forum on October 4. Their research is also including the study of other Full-Day Kindergarten programs in the state of Connecticut.

Mrs. Lombardi asked Mrs. Smith to do a compare and contrast on that sample model in terms of what does it look like today, what it would like in the All-Day Kindergarten. Mrs. Smith replied that they were already doing that.

e. Municipal Center Update

Dr. Erardi reported that the meeting room was still not completed. The next Board of Education meeting on October 11 will be in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall. On October 25, the Board will be recognizing retired teachers at Strong Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. with the Board of Education meeting following at 7:30 p.m. He hoped that November 8, 2012 would be the first meeting in the Municipal Center Assembly Room for the Board of Education.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Assumptions / Priorities for 2013-2014

Mrs. Notar-Francesco felt that under Assumptions and the bullet regarding state and federal financial support of education there should be something about the Budget Control Act that is going to be impacting the grants they are receiving through Sequestration. She would reword it to say, "*State and Federal financial support of education will not keep pace with increased programming mandates and may be further reduced by the Budget Control Act.*" Mr. Oshana thought that was very important because it will have a potential dramatic impact on Southington.

Mrs. Notar-Francesco noted that under Priorities, the last bullet, she would add "*Pending completion of the district's Feasibility Study, support funding for the implementation of All-Day Kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year.*" The Board members agreed.

Mrs. Johnson had language issues under Priorities. She did not think there should be periods at the end of each of the phrases because they are not whole sentences. Mrs. DiNello asked if she wanted them removed under the Assumptions as well. Mrs. Johnson did not want

them removed because those were sentences. Under Assumptions, most of the Assumptions state “will be.” Mrs. Johnson suggested that the first bullet should be *“Open communication and cooperation will be maintained with other municipal boards and community throughout the budget process.”* Mrs. Johnson thought that the third bullet from the bottom should read, *“Use of space and facilities district-wide will be efficient and effective.”* This would keep consistency throughout the Assumptions.

Mrs. Clark noted that the first bullet under Priorities was changed from past years to *“Support funding for appropriate class sizes at all levels of instruction.”* It used to be *“to reduce or maintain class sizes.”* She pointed out that the change was due to a sign of the times. Mrs. Johnson asked administration to comment on that change. Mrs. DiNello replied that she and Mrs. Smith reviewed the class sizes over the previous years and they don’t believe that they will be in a position to continue to try to reduce the current class sizes. The Board has been comfortable with the presentations made and the support provided, when necessary, in classrooms. They hope to make sure the class sizes are appropriate. The Board has given guidelines to them at the elementary level that they try very hard to maintain. They thought the word “appropriate” was a better use of the terminology versus misleading anyone to think that the priority of the Board was to actually make a change in the current status.

Mrs. Lombardi questioned the fourth bullet under Priorities and if they needed the word *“integration”* in the phrase because there are so many components of technology beyond integration that are needed. The Board agreed to take out the word “integration.”

Mrs. Queen asked what would be the types of grants that would be affected under Sequestration. Mrs. DiNello replied that it was their understanding it was the federal grants, which include Title I, Title II, IDEA and the Perkins grant.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to accept the Budget Assumptions and Priorities for 2013-2014 with the changes as discussed.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

b. CMT Report 2012

Mrs. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2012 CMT Results for Grades 3 through 8 (*Attachment #3*). She noted ctreports.com is a web address accessible by the public for Connecticut CMT and CAPT Online Reports. She stated that the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) continues with changes that are currently underway with the national movement toward Common Core State Standards. She noted that the CMT was a criterion reference test that identifies the relationship to the subject matter. The CMT does not measure innate ability; it measures mastery of achievement of particular curricular areas. The five categories of performance are Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, Goal and Advanced. The state’s goals are that all students will at least reach the level of Proficient.

Mrs. Smith reported on the percentages of the students in Southington compared to the state in the areas of math, reading and writing for Grades 3-8. She pointed out that Southington

made Adequate Yearly Progress in all areas. Mrs. Smith noted that science scores were included in Grades 5 and 8. She explained that the CAPT test results will be shared with the Board at a different time.

Mrs. Smith stated that writing was a particular focus with the district over the last two and one-half years and shared data about the writing scores in Grades 3-8 compared to the state. She was happy with the higher percentages then they would typically see on classroom assessments in the area of editing because the district has been doing a lot of work in that particular focus area. More meaningful are the Average Vertical Scale scores that show growth over time in mathematics and reading compared to the state. She noted that Southington students' math and reading scores and their vertical scale scores continue to increase as they progress into the next grade level.

Mrs. Smith stated that moving forward they are changing to Common Core State Assessments and a new way of assessing the achievement of our students. The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and CAPT will be going away. There will be a brand new assessment in 2014-2015. It will be Smarter Balanced Assessment and may end up with a different name but that is the company that most of the states have contracted with. Connecticut's new accountability system "Metrics and School Classification System" will be going into effect this year. While we have received information on CMT scores for last spring and CAPT scores, we nonetheless have received a different looking report for what our school and district target goals are for next year. No longer will it be as it has been in the past. For example, if 50% of the students scored Proficient or above, then you were very safe and made Adequate Yearly Progress. Now, the goal for next year is "Goal."

Mrs. Smith explained why Connecticut needed a new accountability system. She explained the elements of school performance to capture in future years in the nation are: Cohort growth, college and career readiness, civics, arts, fitness/wellness and school climate. These are all measures that are coming and will form the new report card. Mrs. Smith explained the major shifts that have occurred with No Child Left Behind to Connecticut's new indicators, which have gone into effect this year. She noted that it was truly difficult to develop an action plan for improvement based on the traditional scoring of CMT.

Mrs. Smith explained the Performance Index (students who take MAS/Skills checklist), Calculating Performance Index (district/school/subgroup), School classification, District and School Profile Metrics and CMT district targets.

Mr. Goralski proposed that the Board members ask a few questions of Mrs. Smith now but he would like the Board to share questions with Mrs. Smith through the weekend and give her the opportunity next week to get back to the Board collectively rather than answer the same questions.

Mrs. Carmody commented on how well Mrs. Smith and our district has done. She was very proud of these results. Mrs. Smith noted that this new direction was tying into so many things such as the Common Core movement, the curriculum renewal, the professional development and teacher evaluation plan, which are all connected. We are in a period of transition right now. The focus instructionally is going to be more on getting ready for Smarter Balanced Assessments and less on interventions to correct or to enhance a CMT score.

Mrs. Smith explained that a very important message that Commission Pryor and his team want to make sure is conveyed to Boards of Education is that this is not a ranking system of schools. It is not about the rankings anymore; it is about a school against itself and students against themselves.

Mr. Goralski loved the presentation and the handouts. At some point, as they continue to grow, he asked if that type of handout would be able to be included in their electronic document. Mrs. Smith noted that there were some Board members who were more comfortable with paper but as they move forward it would be an electronic document and people would be able to print it if they would like to.

Dr. Erardi asked Mr. Goralski to invite Mr. Charles Beliveau [Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds], who was in the audience, to attend Executive Session as part of the School Safety discussion.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEA NEGOTIATIONS AND SCHOOL SAFETY

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move that the Board go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SEA Contract Negotiations and School Safety, and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Blanchard

Recording Secretary

Southington Board of Education

**SOUTHINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

Mr. Brian Goralski, Board Chairperson, called the Executive Session to order at 9:51 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Terri Carmody, Mrs. Colleen Clark, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Mrs. Terry Lombardi, Mrs. Jill Notar-Francesco, Mr. Zaya Oshana, Mrs. Patricia Queen, and Mr. Brian Goralski.

Board Members Absent: Mr. David Derynoski.

Administration Present: Dr. Joseph V. Erardi, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Karen Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri DiNello, Director of Business and Finance, and Mr. Charles Beliveau, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

MOTION: by Mrs. Carmody, seconded by Mrs. Notar-Francesco:

“Move to go into Executive Session, excluding the public and the press, for the purpose of discussing SEA Contract Negotiations and School Safety and upon conclusion reconvene to public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Clark:

“Move to reconvene into public session.”

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board reconvened into public session at 10:31 p.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Oshana, seconded by Mrs. Lombardi:

“Move to adjourn.”

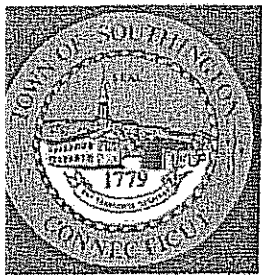
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Notar-Francesco, Secretary
Southington Board of Education



SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Charles P. Beliveau
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Memo

To: Custodial and Maintenance Employees
From: Charlie Beliveau
Date: 9/16/2011
Cc: A. Campagnano, F. Cox, F. Pepe, File
Re: HAZMAT Issues

This is to serve as clarification on procedures to be followed involving several hazardous material issues.

1. Some of the ceiling tiles at DePaolo Middle School through testing by EnviroMed Services have been determined to contain low levels of asbestos. These tiles have been inspected by an environmental engineer and any tiles found to be damaged have been repaired with an appropriate encapsulation product. In order to prevent any potential release of asbestos any contact with the ceilings must first be approved by this office. This includes any access and or working above ceilings, attaching anything to ceilings, or coming in contact with the ceilings for any purpose.
2. EnviroMed Services determined through further testing at DePaolo Middle School and Kennedy Middle School that the composite PCB levels for the exterior caulking and window glazing materials was above the 1.0 mg/kg threshold making them regulated materials. Disturbing PCB-containing materials is not recommended due to the possibility of emitting dioxin to the environment. Undisturbed the caulking and glazing does not pose a threat to the occupants of the building. To eliminate potential hazardous conditions no contact or disturbance of any caulking or glazing materials is permitted without prior approval from this office.
3. There still exists a significant amount of vinyl asbestos floor tile within the schools. Any floor tiles that are damaged or loose should be reported as soon as possible so proper handling can be determined. EnviroMed Services has informed us that undamaged loose vinyl asbestos tiles may be re-glued and there is no limitation on the quantity of Asbestos floor tiles that can be re-glued in their original location.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Summer School 2012

Presented by Dave DeStefano
Director of Summer School
September 27th, 2012

Purpose

- The summer school courses for students in grades 9-12 can register for any of the following purposes: loss of credit due to attendance, failure of a subject (provided the failing average was not below 50), preview of a course not yet taken (no high school credit), or review of a course taken previously (no high school credit).

- Students in grades 6-8 who have not met sufficient success in remedial language arts and math.
- Students may also register to review the curriculum content needed to enter that next grade.
- These courses focus on academic skills assessed by the Connecticut Mastery Test.

- Parents or guardians of children in grades K – 5 register their child wishing to build on skills not successfully acquired during the past school year.
- Parents or guardians may wish to challenge their child's next grade level in an enrichment class at that next grade level.

2012 Highlights

- There was a transfer in responsibilities from Rick Terino to Dave DeStefano just weeks prior to the start of registration. Rick was able to provide guidance to his successor.
 - As a result, there was a smooth transition and the program was well prepared thanks to a collaborative effort.
- Prior to the start of the program, an all-call to all parents who have a child in elementary school alerted parents of the enrichment program registration.
 - As a result there was an influx of registrations; the highest since its inception in 2005.

Highlights (cont.)

- Sixty-eight of seventy-two students earned credits for a course through the summer offerings, four of which were able to receive a diploma at the conclusion of the program.
- The elementary enrichment program was housed at Strong Elementary School, an environment accommodating to K-5 students.
- Southington Community Services was able to cover up to two sessions for students who needed financial assistance.
 - As a result, the SCS made a monetary contribution of \$5,500.

2012 Enrollment		
	# of students	# of sessions
Elementary	32	50
Pre-K	2	3
Kindergarten	6	11
Grade 1	9	13
Grade 2	6	8
Grade 3	7	12
Grade 4	2	3
Grade 5	0	0
Middle School	27	44
Grade 6	3	5
Grade 7	5	7
Grade 8	19	32
High School	72	96
Grade 9 (each)	1	3
Grade 9	33	46
Grade 10	16	20
Grade 11	17	20
Grade 12	5	7
Total:	131	190

Enrollment History				
Year	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2004		19	84	103
2005	49	13	97	159
2006	29	20	86	135
2007	24	20	128	172
2008	12	17	98	127
2009	23	22	87	132
2010	22	19	97	138
2011	26	29	67	122
2012	32	27	72	131

Proposals

Elementary Enrichment Proposals

1. Maximum enrollment with an expansion to 1.5 hour sessions and a day added

Teachers	Costs (4.0 hrs/day)	Enrollment	Costs	Income	Difference	Additional costs
K-5 Teachers	\$11,869.20	95 sessions (50-60 students)	\$125/session	\$11,875	-\$6	Nurse (\$1,154)

High School	Session I (7-9 a.m.)	Session II (9:05-11:05 a.m.)	Session III (11:10 a.m.-1:10 p.m.)				
Middle School	Session I (8:30-10 a.m.)	Session II (10:05-11:35 a.m.)					
Elementary School	Session A (9:15-10:15)	Session B (10:30-11:30)					
Times	7 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12 p.m.	1

Currently

Elementary Enrichment Proposals						
2. Maximum enrollment with an expansion to 1.5 hour sessions with arts & crafts integrated and a day added.						
Teachers	Costs (3.5 hrs/day)	Enrollment	Costs	Income	Difference	Additional costs
K-5 Teachers	\$10,395.55	90 sessions (50-55 students)	\$125/session	\$11,250	+\$855	Nurse (\$1,154)

High School	Session I (7-9 a.m.)		Session II (9:05 - 11:05 a.m.)		Session III (11:10 a.m - 1:10 p.m.)	
Middle School			Session I (8:30 - 10 a.m.)		Session II (10:05 - 11:35 a.m.)	
Elementary School			Session A (9 - 10:30 a.m.)		Session B (10:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m.)	
Times	7 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12 - 1

Proposed

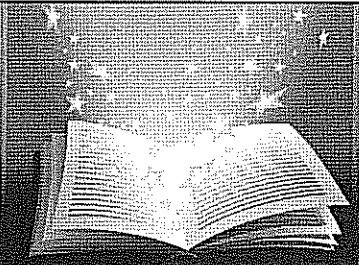
Proposed calendar						
July 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9-12 program begins	K-5 program begins		Holiday (no school)		
7	K-5 program begins					
14						
21	K-5 program concludes (18 th day)			9-12 program concludes (18 th day)	K-5 program concludes (18 th day)	
28						

Rationale	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys were distributed to parents of elementary school students. Results indicate that the following: Have a program that is uninterrupted by holiday time. Include an arts & crafts component that breaks the workload by students K-5 staff had also indicated that the 15-minute break in between the hour-long sessions interrupted the momentum and reduced the success rate. Greater enrollment will help sustain a program that is otherwise subsidized by 9-12 enrollment. 	

2013...A Look Ahead

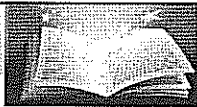
- Implementation of a middle school recommendation for summer school protocol.
- Potential Walmart grant for \$1,500 to help offset the costs of expanding the elementary school program.
- Elementary space may change.
- Southington Community Services may not cover two sessions for the upcoming summer.
- Possible guest speaker from the Lego company may join the last day of the K-5 program.

Southington
Public Schools



CMT Results
2012
Grades 3-4-5-6-7-8

Barra L. Smith
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Betty Chastler
Language Arts Coordinator
Kate Birdinger
Science/Math Coordinator




CMT assesses essential reading, writing, math, and science skills

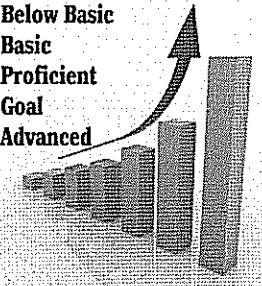
Spring results - Grades 3 through 8

Criterion-reference tests


Tests that identify the relationship to the subject matter. They measure if the student has mastered a specific level of the subject matter by comparing their score to a standard [ARA = Standards-Based Assessment]



The Connecticut Mastery Test



Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Goal
Advanced



**Percent by Level - Grade 3
Math, Reading, Writing**

MATH


	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	8.3	7.9	19.1	38.3	30.4
Southington	8.8	1.9	8.8	32.2	56.7

READING

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	15.0	10.8	15.2	35.7	23.5
Southington	7.7	5.2	13.9	41.7	30.6

WRITING

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	6.3	9.8	20.5	39.4	23.3
Southington	4.4	4.8	12.2	42.1	36.5



**Percent by Level - Grade 4
Math, Reading, Writing**

MATH


	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	6.4	7.8	17.6	38.7	31.5
Southington	6.8	1.9	8.8	40.3	49.1

READING

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	13.3	8.4	14.1	48.5	18.8
Southington	5.0	5.2	10.9	53.8	25.2

WRITING

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	8.1	10.2	16.4	37.0	29.3
Southington	2.2	2.9	9.5	38.4	45.1



**Percent by Level - Grade 5
Math, Reading, Writing, Science**

MATH

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	6.1	8.2	13.0	35.6	38.2
Southington	6.6	2.9	6.9	32.2	57.3

READING

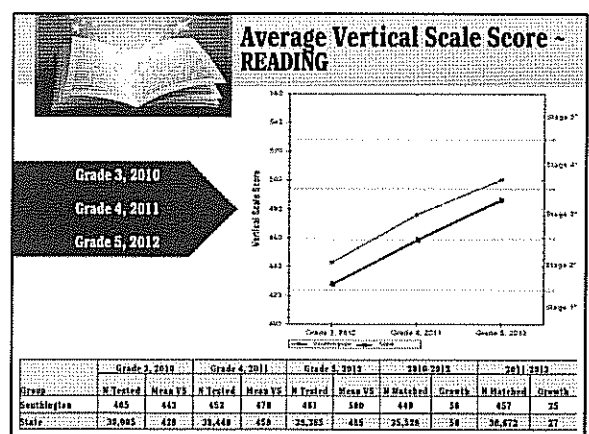
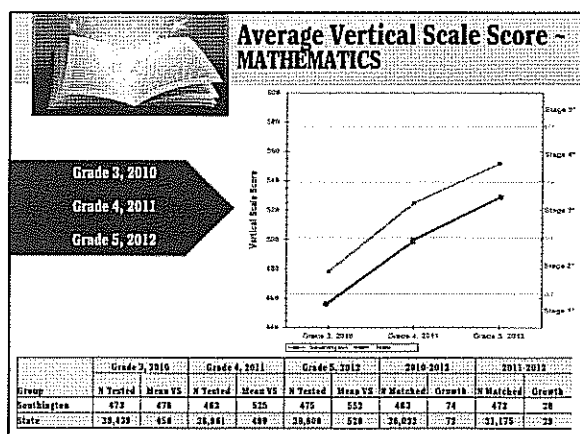
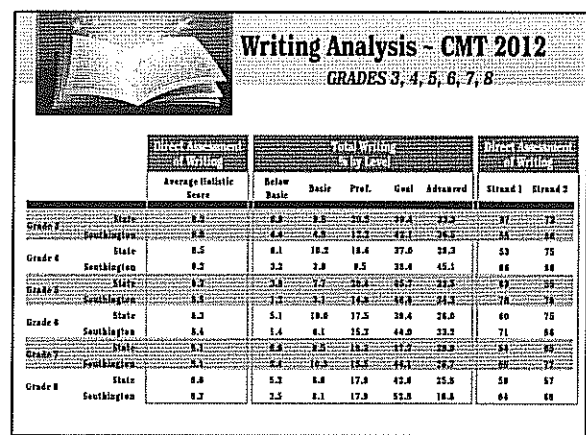
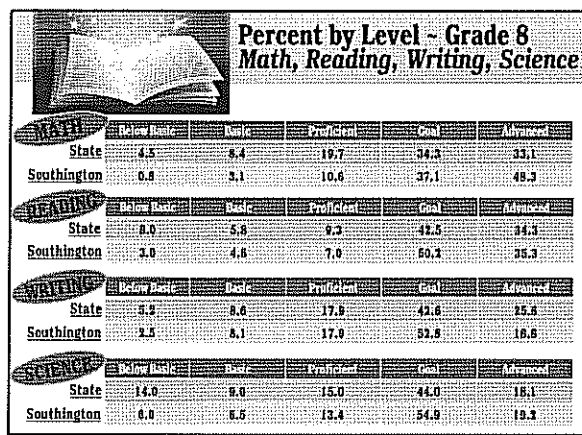
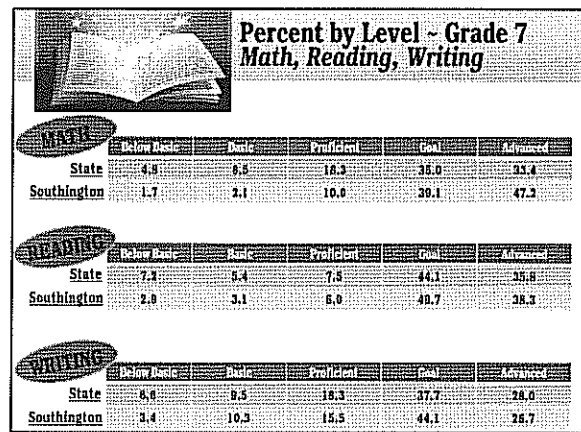
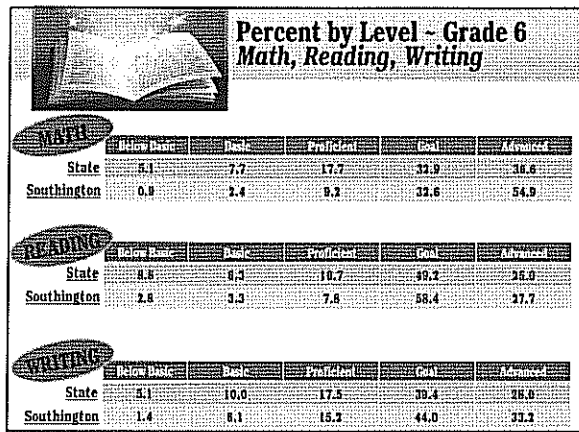
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	12.7	7.8	12.8	45.2	21.9
Southington	5.2	5.4	8.1	48.6	31.7

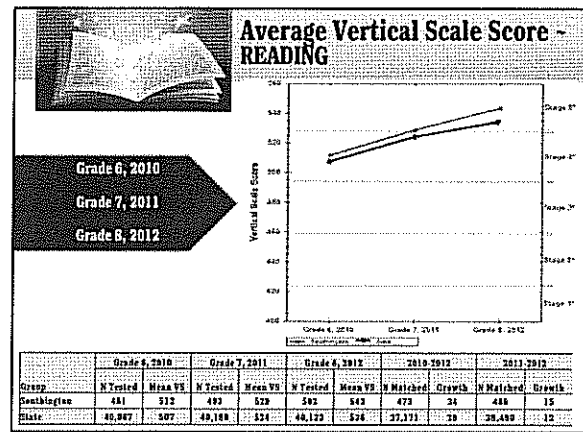
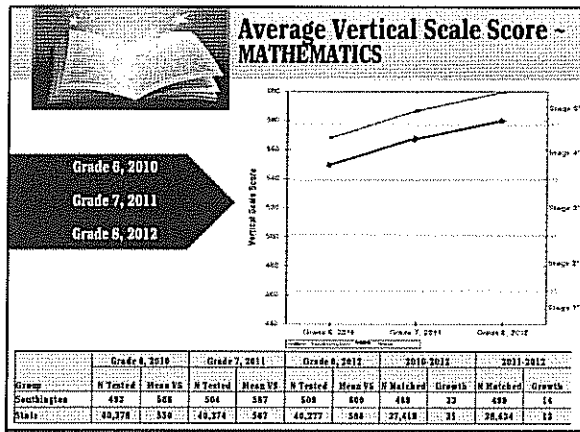
WRITING

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	3.8	7.7	20.4	45.7	22.6
Southington	1.2	3.1	14.8	46.8	34.3

SCIENCE

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
State	7.1	18.4	18.5	40.9	23.5
Southington	0.8	5.8	13.0	50.8	29.5





Connecticut State Department of Education

Connecticut's New Accountability System:

Metrics and School Classification

Why CT needs a new system of accountability:

- We should value improvement at all levels.
- We should use metrics that give us a fuller picture of performance.
- We should set meaningful goals for schools.
- We should set the bar higher...the goal is 'GOAL'.

Elements of school performance to capture in future years:

- Cohort Growth
- College and Career Readiness
- Civics
- Arts
- Fitness/Wellness
- School Climate

Major Shifts

NCLB	CTs NEW INDICATORS
Target is Proficient	→ Target is...on average...at GOAL
Get to 100% by 2014	→ Halfway to target by 2018
Only math and reading count	→ Math, reading, writing, and science count
Only capture progress from Basic to Proficient	→ Count progress between ALL levels
School progress only measured by standardized test scores	→ School progress also measured by high school graduation rates (4-yr and extended)
Accountable for subgroups of students, "n" size = 40	→ Still accountable for subgroups of students, "n" size = 20; majority of subgroups approach

NCLB vs NEW INDICATORS

NCLB	CTs NEW INDICATORS
ADVANCED	ADVANCED
GOAL	GOAL ★
PROFICIENT ★	PROFICIENT
BASIC	BASIC
BELOW BASIC	BELOW BASIC

Performance Index

- Index between 0 and 100
- Counts performance in all tested grade levels
- Captures performance across performance bands
- Includes all tested subjects: reading, writing, math, and science
- Incorporates all tested students, including students who take the MAS and the Skills Checklist
- Provides subject-specific indices and overall index
- Calculated for 'all students' groups and subgroups: ELL, SWD, Black, Hispanic, F/R Lunch

Performance Index

Students who take CMT/CAPT

Level of Performance	"Credit"
Goal/Advanced	1.0
Proficient	0.67
Basic	0.33
Below Basic	0.0

Performance Index

Students who take MAS/Skills Checklist

MAS	Skills Checklist	"Credit"
Goals	Independent	1.0
Proficient	Proficient	0.50
Basic	Basic	0.0

Calculating Performance Index

District/School/Subgroup

STEP 1:
Calculate an Individual Performance Index (IPI) for each student.

EXAMPLE - 5th Grader

Reading - G	1.0	→ Average these values (x100) to get Individual Performance Index: 67
Writing - P	.67	
Science - B	.33	
Math - P	.67	


EXAMPLE - 4th Grader

Reading - B	.33	→ Average these values (x100) to get Individual Performance Index: 33
Writing - P	.67	
Math - BB	.0	

STEP 2:
Calculate the District/School/Subgroup Performance Index.

EXAMPLE

5 th Grader IPI	67	→ Average all students IPIs (in the relevant group) to get the Performance Index = 30
4 th Grader IPI	33	

 School Classification	
✦ Excelling	Met all state targets
✦ Progressing	Meeting annual targets
✦ Transition	Not meeting annual targets
✦ Review (inc. Focus)	Need the most support: eligible for Commissioner's Network; otherwise, district-led interventions and redesign
✦ Turnaround	

District and School Profile Metrics - new School/District Accountability System

- Connecticut has a new accountability system beginning with the 2012-2013 year. Each district is receiving a District Profile and a School Profile that is based upon the last three years of CMT/CAPT results. This year's District and School Profiles will serve as BASELINE data for future performance indices.
- Subgroups will be assigned a performance index. Groups with 20 or more students will 'count' as a subgroup (AYP determined 40 as the number). Subgroups are: Special Ed, FIR Eligibility, Black, Hispanic, ELL
- Schools will receive their Baseline District Performance Index (3 year average). Each school then receive a DPI target for the new school year, 2012-13. The DPI will be given for each area of the CMT/CAPT. There is a formula that compiles all this information for students, schools, the district, and the state.

Example

Writing School Performance Index (SPI) is a 78.1. The district performance target for 2012-13 is 80.5. The 80.5 will be your goal for 2012-13 in writing.

An example of the formula that is used for computing the school performance indices is:

Example

Performance level values for CMT or CAPT students:

- GOAL or ABOVE GOAL, a value of 1.0 is assigned.
- PROFICIENT, a value of .67 is assigned.
- BASIC, a value of .33 is assigned.
- BELOW BASIC, a value of 0.0 is assigned.

Performance level values for MAS/Skills Checklist students:


- GOAL, a value of 1.0 is assigned.
- PROFICIENT, a value of .50 is assigned.
- BASIC, a value of 0.0 is assigned.

ALL STUDENTS COUNT!

"There is a subgroup Performance Index" "There is a Graduation & Participation Rate formula"

CT State Targets

- School/Subject/Subgroup Performance Indices = 88%
- 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate = 94%
- Extended Graduation Rate = 96%

 CMT District Targets 2012-13				
Indicator	Participation Rate	DPI	Baseline DPI	DPI Perf. Target
	2011-12	2011-12	3-yr Avg	2012-13
District Performance Index (DPI)	99.9%	82.3	88.7	Maintain
DPI - Students with Disabilities	100.0%	59.3	60.1	61.4
DPI - Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	100.0%	79.7	77.3	76.7
DPI - Black	100.0%	70.0	72.4	73.7
DPI - Hispanic	100.0%	70.7	78.0	80.3
DPI - English Language Learners	100.0%	63.7	62.7	64.2
DPI Subject: Reading	99.9%	87.7	86.9	86.8
DPI Subject: Mathematics	99.9%	93.1	93.2	Maintain
DPI Subject: Writing	99.9%	87.7	89.9	87.0
DPI Subject: Science	99.9%	87.0	87.4	87.5