

September 21, 2016

To: Dr. Kate Carter, Superintendent of Schools

From: Sheryl L. Mortensen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Subject: Summary of 2016 Student Assessment Results – SBAC, CT SAT and CMT/CAPT Science

This report provides an overview and summary of district assessment results for standardized tests that were administered in the spring of 2016. While this report serves to provide a context for comparing district results to state and District Reference Group (DRG) B performance, at the Board of Education meeting on September 27, 2016, K-12 curriculum specialists Candice Irwin, Sharon Keegan and Arnica Sullivan will provide additional information pertaining to student performance and district level highlights in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science, respectively.

**I. Overview**

In 2015, the State of Connecticut introduced changes to annual standardized assessments administered to students, as required by law. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics were intended to align with the new Common Core state standards, and administered to students in grades 3-8, as well as grade 11. On October 7, 2015, the Connecticut State Board of Education adopted the SAT (created by the College Board) as the annual state assessment for eleventh graders in Connecticut in the areas of English language arts/literacy and mathematics in place of the SBAC. This move eliminated duplicate testing and eleventh grade students in Connecticut had the opportunity to take the SAT free of charge during the school day. The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) continue to be administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10 in the area of science.

To summarize the changes to state testing requirements, the following table illustrates each of the assessments administered to students in the spring of 2016:

	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
SBAC – English Language Arts/Math	X	X	X	X	X	X		
CMT – Science			X			X		
CAPT – Science							X	
CT SAT – Reading, Writing and Language, Math								X

**II. Smarter Balanced Assessment – Grades 3-8**

The SBAC assessments for ELA and mathematics were administered in the spring 2016 to students in Grades 3 through 8. Results are reported among performance levels 1 through 4 (from 1, “Does Not Meet the Achievement Level” to 4, “Exceeds the Achievement Level”). **Tables 1** and **Table 2** below provide the South Windsor data for English language arts and mathematics, respectively. (See DRG B comparisons in Appendices A and B.)

Table 1: English Language Arts 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results by Grade and Level						
Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Levels 3 and 4	
	% Does Not Meet Achievement Level	% Approaching Achievement Level	% Meets Achievement Level	% Exceeds Achievement Level	% Meets or Exceeds Achievement Level	
					2015	2016
3	4%	17%	24%	54%	70%	78%
4	7%	10%	31%	52%	73%	83%
5	8%	12%	36%	44%	76%	80%
6	8%	19%	39%	34%	77%	73%
7	10%	16%	41%	34%	80%	75%
8	10%	17%	44%	29%	65%	73%
SW avg	8%	15%	36%	37%	74%	77%
CT State avg					52%	56%

Table 2: Mathematics 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results by Grade and Level						
Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Levels 3 and 4	
	% Does Not Meet Achievement Level	% Approaching Achievement Level	% Meets Achievement Level	% Exceeds Achievement Level	% Meets or Exceeds Achievement Level	
					2015	2016
3	7%	12%	33%	48%	69%	81%
4	3%	22%	34%	40%	71%	74%
5	9%	28%	22%	41%	60%	63%
6	12%	27%	23%	38%	59%	61%
7	9%	21%	30%	41%	65%	71%
8	12%	18%	21%	49%	57%	70%
SW avg	9%	23%	27%	43%	64%	70%
CT State avg					40%	44%

The Smarter Balanced assessment results also provide important data regarding the performance of subgroup performance. **Table 3** provides SBAC data for subgroups based on ethnicity, students with disabilities and English learners.

Table 3: English Language Arts and Mathematics 2016 Smarter Balanced Results by Subgroup						
Subgroup	English Language Arts			Mathematics		
	% of Students at Levels 3 and 4			% of Students at Levels 3 and 4		
	SW 2015	SW 2016	State 2016	SW 2015	SW 2016	State 2016
All Students	71%	77%	56%	62%	70%	44%
Asian	86%	88%	75%	81%	89%	71%
Black or African American	42%	47%	31%	30%	33%	18%
Hispanic/Latino	52%	57%	33%	38%	51%	21%
White	73%	78%	69%	63%	69%	57%
Students with Disabilities		30%	16%		23%	10%
English Learners		50%	11%		59%	10%

### III. Connecticut SAT – Grade 11

The 2016 state assessments brought new changes to testing for high school students. The move to the SAT eliminated duplicative testing at the high school level and was part of a broader effort by the State Department of Education to reduce the testing burden on students in Connecticut. The results of the first administration of the Connecticut SAT show that of the Connecticut 11<sup>th</sup> grades who took the exam, 65 percent are meeting or exceeding the achievement standard in ELA, and 39.3 percent are meeting or exceeding the achievement standard in mathematics. South Windsor's participation rate was 99%. These results set a baseline year of data from which to measure future growth.

**Table 4** below provides the South Windsor data for ELA and mathematics, respectively. The table also provides comparative data for state results. (See DRG B comparisons in Appendix C.)

Table 4: South Windsor 2016 CT SAT Assessment Results English Language Arts and Mathematics – Grade 11 Students												
South Windsor	Total Number Scored Tests	Level 1 Not Met		Level 2 Approaching		Level 3 Met		Level 4 Exceeded		Level 3 and 4 Met or Exceeded		Average Score
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
		South Windsor ELA	326	17	5.2%	40	12.3%	197	60.4%	72	22.1%	
South Windsor Math	326	32	9.8%	99	30.4%	138	42.3%	57	17.5%	195	59.8%	550
CT State Avg. – ELA										65.0%	520	
CT State Avg. - Math										39.3%	502	

#### IV. Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Assessment (CAPT) - Science

The Science CMT and CAPT report student achievement within five student performance levels: *Advanced, Goal, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic*. The “Goal” level is the state target for all students. **Table 5** below provides data for the past 5 years related to the percentage of students performing “At or Above Goal.”

Year	CMT		CAPT
	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 10
2012	79.4%	87.2%	68.4%
2013	82.8%	74.3%	69.9%
2014	80.4%	81.0%	79.4%
2015	73.3%	81.0%	70.4%
<b>2016</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>78.4%</b>
State 2016	59.6%	60.2%	47.3%

Student performance statewide showed an increase in the percentage of students achieving goal or above in grades 5 and 10, and a slight decrease in grade 8. South Windsor’s student performance reflects an increase in all grade levels. (See *DRG B comparisons in Appendix D.*)

#### V. District Highlights and Summary

Overall, student performance on state assessments improved when looking at cohort data, and South Windsor students exceed state average performance in all areas tested. As noted in the past, South Windsor educators have worked tirelessly over the past several years to transition to the new Connecticut Core Standards. This has required extensive curriculum development, revision, and professional learning for all.

**SBAC - English Language Arts.** Overall, South Windsor students performed higher in ELA than in mathematics, which is consistent with all other districts in the state. The percentage of students meeting or exceeding achievement levels increased in each of Grades 3, 4 and 5; the percentage of students who “Exceeded” expectations increased as well. In grades 6 and 7, the percentage of students scoring at “Meet or Exceeding” decreased slightly; however, in grade 8 the percentage increased from 65% to 73%. (See Table 1 above.)

**SBAC - Mathematics.** Although South Windsor’s overall math performance is lower than ELA, our students’ performance far exceeds state performance and compares favorably with DRG B. In all grades 3-8, more students scored at Level 4 (Exceeding) than any of the other three individual levels. The percentage of students meeting or exceeding achievement level increased for all grades 3-8. (See Table 2 above.)

**SBAC - Subgroup Performance.** Subgroup data shows a continued gap between the “all students” cohort and the subgroups of Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, Students with Disabilities, and English Learners. Data shows the gap decreasing between these subgroups when compared with 2015 scores. It should be noted that the “High Needs” subgroup has been further broken down this year to separately reflect English Learners and Students with Disabilities in order to provide more information and help us to deliver focused instruction and strategies for these cohorts. We will continue to examine practices and develop strategies to help close these achievement gaps. (See Table 3 above.)

**SAT.** It is important to note that the results from the first statewide administration of the SAT cannot be compared to Connecticut SAT results from previous years because this was the first time students took the newly redesigned SAT which is more closely aligned to Common Core standards. The results of the CT SAT also reveal a dramatic increase in the percentage of students who took the newly designated 11th grade mastery exam. While many 11<sup>th</sup> graders opted not to participate in the SBAC assessment in 2015, this year, nearly 38,000 high school students took the state mastery exam, bringing the participation rate to about 94 percent. (See Table 4 above.)

**CMT and CAPT - Science.** The Science CMT and CAPT are not administered sequentially so it is not possible to look at cohort data. The scores do, however, provide overall program data, and all three grades (5, 8 and 10) show an increase in the percentage of students scoring at Goal or Advanced. (See Table 5 above.)

### **Next Steps for Curriculum & Instruction**

- Continue to provide opportunities for rich, engaging instruction
- Continue implementing our Connecticut Core-aligned ELA and mathematics curricula
- Incorporate more opportunities for K-5 students to employ keyboarding and computer skills as part of instructional tasks
- Highlight academic vocabulary to address subgroup deficiencies
- Include practice tests provided by College Board in curriculum at high school level to target areas of focus
- Continue the work to revise curriculum to align to new Social Studies standards
- Respond to the adoption of NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) through ongoing professional development for teachers and the development of new curriculum and assessments
- We anticipate the state adoption of new standards for health education and the arts (which will also include standards for digital and media arts)

### **South Windsor Strategic Plan Initiatives**

The following are examples of initiatives found within the 2015-2018 South Windsor Public Schools Strategic Plan that support enhanced opportunities for rich, engaging instruction:

- Continue to increase student access to a broader variety of elective courses at South Windsor High School with an emphasis on Career Pathway opportunities (8-period day was implemented for 2016-2017)
- Utilize one to one devices to promote collaboration, learning and authentic tasks in grades 9 and 10
- Continue to expand STEM pilot program at elementary schools, as well as STEM opportunities districtwide
- Put forth proposal for World Language program at elementary level
- Develop a plan to incorporate certified library media specialists at each elementary school
- Respond to federal and state mandates regarding curriculum enhancements and assessments
- Continue to provide training and support to further enhance Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) practices

**APPENDIX A**  
**DRG B COMPARISONS**

**Smarter Balanced Assessments – English Language Arts - Performance by Grade**  
**Percent at Levels 3 and 4 – “Meets or Exceeds the Achievement Level”**

<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>					
<i>Percent at Levels 3 and 4: “Meets or Exceeds the Achievement Level”</i>					
<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>
Farmington	83.0%	Guilford	84.9%	Monroe	87.1%
Madison	82.3%	Trumbull	84.6%	Cheshire	85.2%
Trumbull	81.1%	Avon	82.6%	Regional #15	85.2%
Glastonbury	79.8%	Monroe	82.5%	Simsbury	84.1%
Simsbury	79.4%	South Windsor	82.2%	Glastonbury	82.4%
Newtown	79.1%	Farmington	82.1%	Trumbull	81.6%
South Windsor	78.3%	Granby	81.7%	South Windsor	80.3%
Guilford	78.1%	Simsbury	81.5%	Guilford	79.5%
Cheshire	78.0%	Madison	80.6%	Farmington	79.4%
Avon	77.5%	Cheshire	78.3%	Greenwich	78.6%
Greenwich	76.4%	Regional #15	78.1%	Granby	78.1%
Regional #15	75.7%	Glastonbury	76.5%	Avon	77.9%
New Fairfield	75.6%	Newtown	75.9%	Fairfield	76.4%
Granby	73.3%	Greenwich	75.0%	West Hartford	76.0%
Monroe	72.6%	Fairfield	74.7%	Newtown	75.9%
West Hartford	71.6%	West Hartford	74.3%	Brookfield	74.7%
Fairfield	68.3%	New Fairfield	70.7%	New Fairfield	73.1%
Brookfield	65.0%	Brookfield	69.6%	Madison	72.0%
Regional #5	n/a	Regional #5	n/a	Regional #5	n/a

<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
Avon	84.1%	Avon	84.4%	Guilford	84.1%
Glastonbury	83.2%	Guilford	83.4%	Trumbull	81.7%
Granby	83.0%	Regional #5	81.4%	Simsbury	81.3%
Simsbury	81.7%	Trumbull	80.8%	Monroe	80.2%
Trumbull	80.9%	Regional #15	78.2%	Avon	79.7%
Guilford	79.8%	Monroe	78.0%	Glastonbury	78.3%
Cheshire	77.1%	Cheshire	77.2%	Farmington	77.2%
Fairfield	76.0%	Glastonbury	75.8%	Greenwich	76.5%
Farmington	75.5%	Simsbury	75.5%	Newtown	76.5%
Greenwich	73.9%	Greenwich	75.2%	Regional #15	76.3%
New Fairfield	73.7%	Farmington	74.8%	Granby	76.0%
South Windsor	72.6%	South Windsor	74.4%	Brookfield	75.9%
Regional #15	72.3%	Fairfield	74.2%	Regional #5	75.3%
Monroe	71.7%	Newtown	73.5%	Cheshire	75.1%
Newtown	70.8%	Granby	73.2%	Fairfield	74.3%
Madison	67.7%	New Fairfield	70.6%	South Windsor	72.8%
West Hartford	67.7%	West Hartford	70.5%	New Fairfield	69.2%
Brookfield	64.0%	Madison	62.8%	West Hartford	66.6%
Regional #5	n/a	Brookfield	62.7%	Madison	66.1%

**APPENDIX B**  
**DRG B COMPARISONS**

**Smarter Balanced Assessments – Mathematics - Performance by Grade**  
**Percent at Levels 3 and 4 – “Meets or Exceeds the Achievement Level”**

<b>MATHEMATICS</b>					
<i>Percent at Levels 3 and 4: “Meets or Exceeds the Achievement Level”</i>					
<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>
Avon	84.7%	Madison	79.9%	Glastonbury	71.3%
Monroe	81.6%	Avon	74.3%	Avon	64.4%
Trumbull	79.8%	South Windsor	71.8%	Fairfield	62.7%
Farmington	77.2%	Farmington	71.5%	Simsbury	62.5%
Glastonbury	76.5%	Simsbury	71.1%	Greenwich	62.3%
Madison	76.5%	Glastonbury	70.5%	Regional #5 (Orange)	60.5%
Guilford	76.5%	Monroe	70.2%	South Windsor	60.3%
Regional #15	75.8%	Guilford	70.1%	West Hartford	60.1%
Woodbridge	75.8%	Trumbull	69.1%	Trumbull	59.7%
Brookfield	72.4%	Brookfield	68.1%	Madison	56.6%
Simsbury	70.7%	Regional #5 (Orange)	67.3%	New Fairfield	55.3%
Greenwich	70.4%	Cheshire	67.3%	Monroe	54.2%
South Windsor	69.2%	Greenwich	66.9%	Granby	52.3%
Cheshire	68.4%	Granby	66.1%	Cheshire	51.7%
Newtown	67.6%	Woodbridge	64.4%	Newtown	50.6%
Granby	66.2%	Fairfield	63.3%	Guilford	49.0%
West Hartford	65.0%	Regional #15	63.3%	Farmington	48.8%
New Fairfield	64.8%	West Hartford	62.0%	Brookfield	45.9%
Regional #5 (Orange)	64.8%	Newtown	56.2%	Regional #15	45.7%
Fairfield	63.6%	New Fairfield	47.9%	Woodbridge	44.1%

<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>DRG B</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
Avon	75.8%	Avon	72.8%	Avon	76.6%
Newtown	70.3%	Newtown	70.8%	Farmington	74.3%
Regional #5 (Orange)	68.2%	Glastonbury	70.2%	Guilford	69.1%
Woodbridge	65.0%	South Windsor	65.1%	Regional #5 (Orange)	67.9%
Granby	64.1%	Farmington	65.0%	Simsbury	63.2%
Fairfield	64.1%	Greenwich	63.7%	Granby	62.3%
Guilford	62.2%	Madison	62.1%	Glastonbury	61.8%
Glastonbury	62.1%	Guilford	61.2%	Greenwich	61.2%
Farmington	61.1%	Simsbury	61.0%	Madison	60.5%
Cheshire	60.2%	Brookfield	60.8%	Cheshire	57.5%
South Windsor	59.2%	Regional #15	59.9%	South Windsor	57.4%
Trumbull	59.0%	Regional #5 (Orange)	58.4%	Regional #15	57.1%
Greenwich	58.7%	Fairfield	58.2%	Brookfield	56.0%
Brookfield	54.4%	Granby	57.2%	Newtown	55.8%
Simsbury	54.1%	Cheshire	57.2%	Fairfield	55.1%
Monroe	51.2%	Monroe	56.5%	New Fairfield	52.2%
West Hartford	50.6%	West Hartford	48.1%	West Hartford	49.3%
Regional #15	50.0%	Trumbull	48.1%	Monroe	49.0%
Madison	43.0%	New Fairfield	45.5%	Trumbull	48.3%
New Fairfield	28.8%	Woodbridge	n/a	Woodbridge	n/a

APPENDIX C

DRG B COMPARISONS

2016 Connecticut SAT Assessment for 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Percent at Levels 3 and 4 – “Meets or Exceeds the Achievement Level”

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
DRG B	Count	%	Average Score
Madison	276	93.2%	597
Avon	219	90.1%	607
Guilford	225	88.6%	587
Newtown	357	88.6%	577
Simsbury	316	87.5%	588
Glastonbury	412	85.3%	570
Cheshire	319	85.3%	567
Brookfield	189	84.8%	565
Fairfield	603	84.6%	572
New Fairfield	191	84.1%	564
Farmington	252	84.0%	576
Regional 5	287	83.4%	577
Granby	126	83.4%	565
Regional 15	254	82.7%	564
<b>South Windsor</b>	269	82.5%	557
Trumbull	408	82.4%	557
Monroe	220	81.5%	562
Greenwich	501	81.2%	575
West Hartford	576	76.6%	559

MATHEMATICS			
DRG B	Count	%	Average Score
Avon	187	76.6%	603
Simsbury	262	72.6%	588
Madison	206	69.6%	578
Glastonbury	335	69.4%	581
Newtown	264	65.5%	562
Greenwich	396	64.2%	575
Regional 5	220	64.0%	563
Guilford	161	63.6%	561
Fairfield	452	63.4%	557
Granby	95	62.9%	555
Cheshire	235	62.8%	562
Monroe	166	61.7%	552
Farmington	184	61.3%	568
Regional 15	188	61.2%	550
<b>South Windsor</b>	195	59.8%	550
Trumbull	289	58.4%	557
Brookfield	126	56.5%	542
West Hartford	422	56.2%	545
New Fairfield	107	47.1%	523

APPENDIX D

DRG B COMPARISONS

CMT and CAPT Science Performance by Grade  
Percent At or Above Goal

CMT				CAPT	
Grade 5 Science		Grade 8 Science		Grade 10 Science	
DRG B	% At/Above Goal	DRG B	% At/Above Goal	DRG B	% At/Above Goal
Monroe	90.8%	Glastonbury	87.0%	Simsbury	84.5%
Granby	90.3%	Granby	85.2%	Granby	81.4%
Farmington	87.7%	Simsbury	85.1%	Region 15	79.9%
Simsbury	87.5%	Newtown	84.4%	Newtown	78.6%
Glastonbury	86.7%	Monroe	83.9%	<b>South Windsor</b>	<b>78.2%</b>
Region 15	86.2%	Fairfield	83.2%	Monroe	77.0%
Bethany	86.0%	Farmington	83.0%	Farmington	76.9%
Trumbull	85.5%	Avon	82.0%	West Hartford	76.9%
Orange	85.3%	Greenwich	81.7%	Region 5	76.5%
Cheshire	83.2%	Cheshire	81.5%	Trumbull	76.4%
Avon	82.1%	Brookfield	81.4%	Guilford	73.4%
Brookfield	81.4%	<b>South Windsor</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	Avon	73.2%
Fairfield	80.3%	Madison	81.3%	Glastonbury	73.0%
<b>South Windsor</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	Region 15	80.8%	Greenwich	73.0%
Greenwich	79.3%	Guilford	80.6%	Madison	71.7%
Newtown	76.4%	Region 5	79.3%	Fairfield	70.7%
Madison	75.5%	Trumbull	78.1%	Cheshire	68.6%
Guilford	75.4%	New Fairfield	77.6%	Brookfield	67.1%
West Hartford	75.4%	West Hartford	73.5%	New Fairfield	60.7%
New Fairfield	68.2%	Bethany	n/a	Bethany	n/a
Region 5	n/a	Orange	n/a	Orange	n/a