Student Attendance Rates in Connecticut from 2019-2022

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Overview of Project

For our third project, we decided to take a look at the attendance rates for kids between the school years K-12 by their school district

Our goal was to see if there were any interesting trends with the students in Connecticut and their attendance rates as well as how some other factors come into play when looking at the attendance for students.

These factors include: Race/Ethnicity , Students with/without high needs, and the detailed needs of Students.

Questions

1. How does the attendance rate of each student group compare to the overall attendance rate of students in Connecticut over the course of these three years?

2. With the national average attendance rate today being approximately 90%, how does the data from Connecticut compare to this threshold?

3. How did attendance rates changes from year to year? Were there any observable differences for any particular student groups when the pandemic began in 2020?

4. In a given school district, does the population of higher-need students correlate to a higher or lower attendance rate?

Student Groups

Students Grouped by Level of Need

- Students with high needs*
- Students without high needs

Students Grouped by Category of Need

- Students Experiencing Homelessness
- Students With Disabilities
- Free Meal Eligible
- Reduced Price Meal Eligible
- English Learners

Students Grouped by Race/Ethnicity

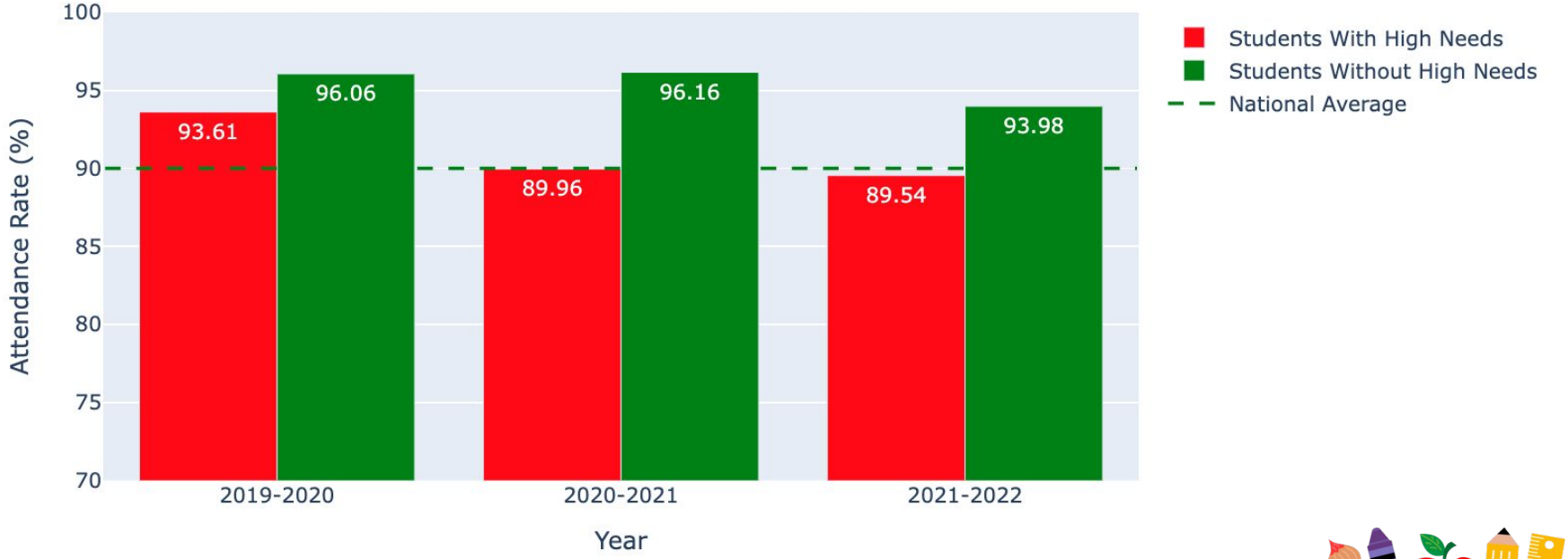
- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino of any race
- White
- All other races

* “Students with high needs” includes:

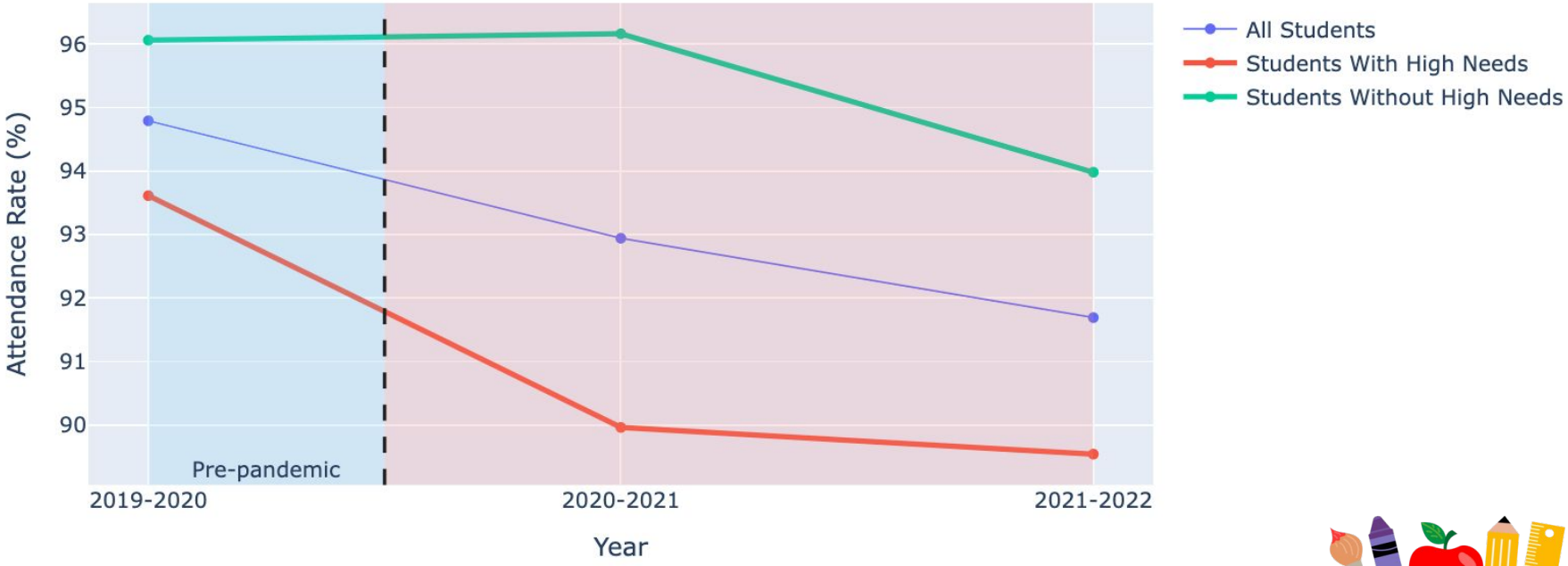
- English language learners
- Receive special education
- Qualify for free and reduced lunch

Attendance Rates by Level of Need

Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Student Level of Need



Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Student Level of Need

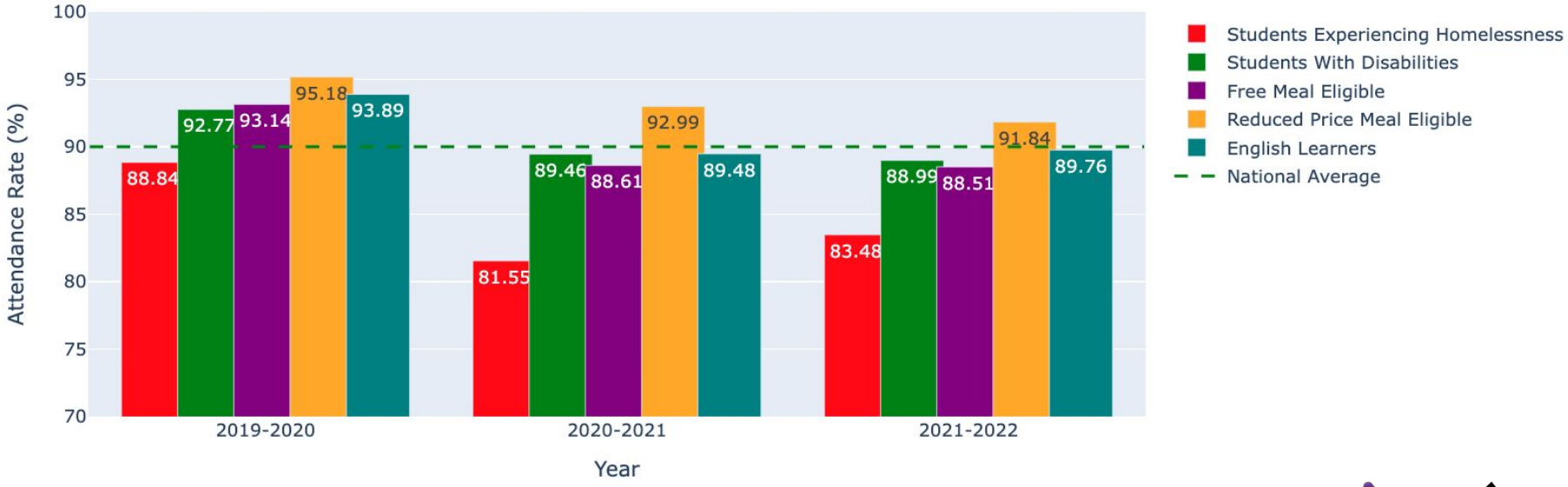


Conclusions

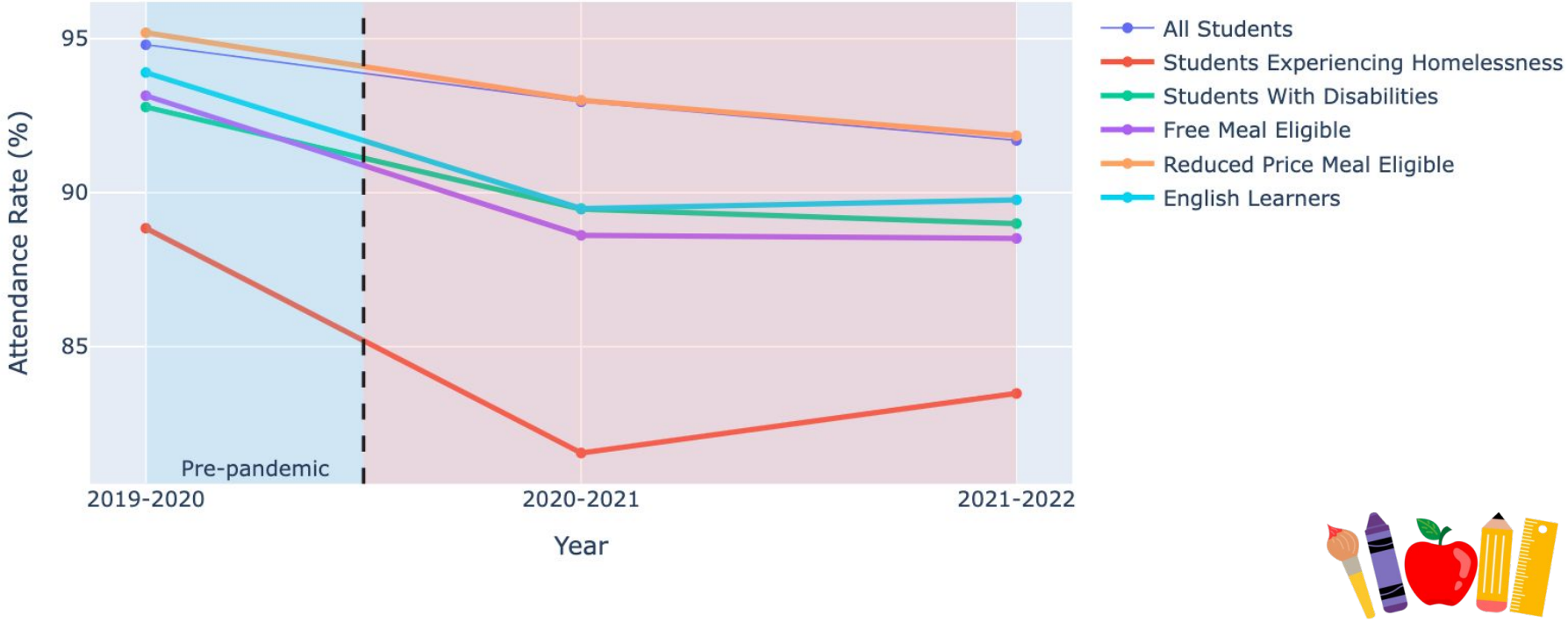
The attendance rates of students with high needs were consistently lower than that of students without high needs. This disparity especially increased following the onset of the covid-19 pandemic, as seen in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year data.

Attendance Rates by Category of Need

Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Student Need and Demographics



Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Student Category of Need



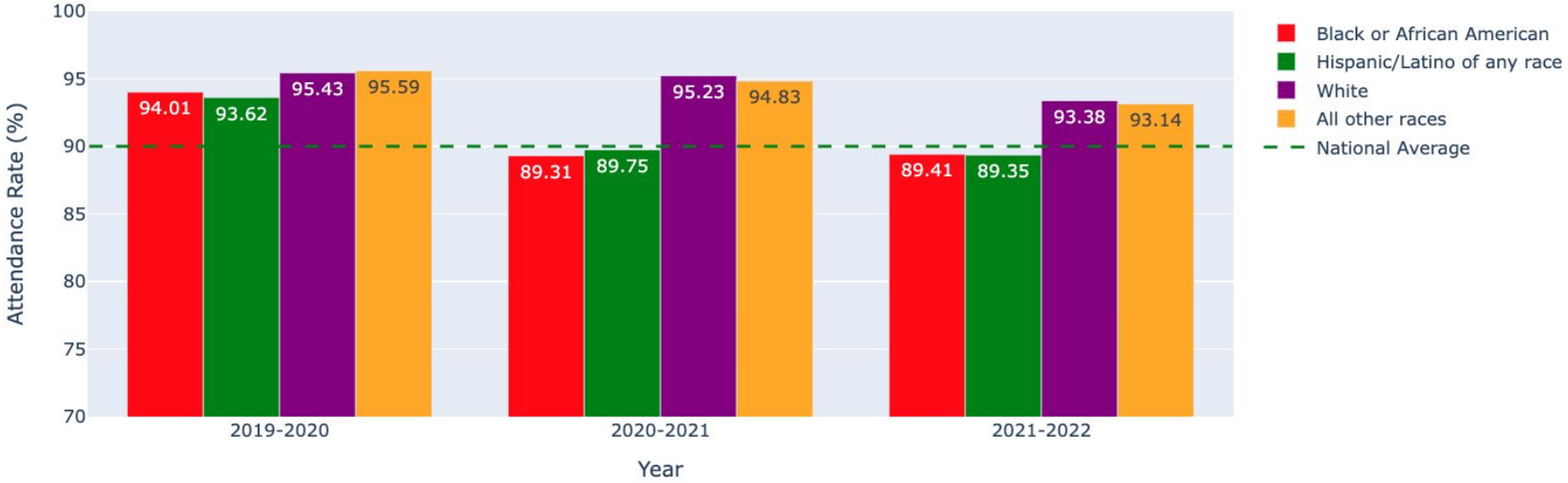
Conclusions

Students with all categories of need fall at our below the average attendance rate for students in Connecticut over the course of the three years of this data.

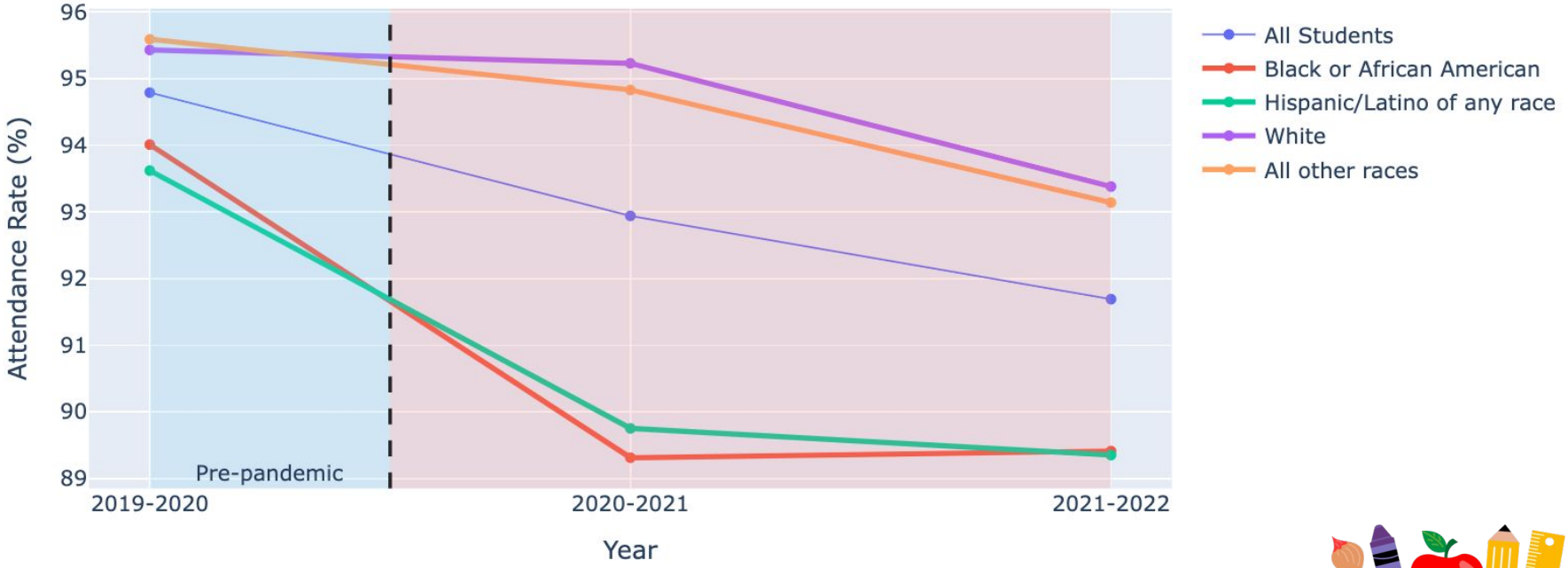
Students experiencing homelessness showed the lowest attendance rates of all the different categories ov need, and especially dropped with the onset of the covid-19 pandemic, as seen in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year data.

Attendance Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Race/Ethnicity



Attendance Rates in Connecticut by Student Race/Ethnicity



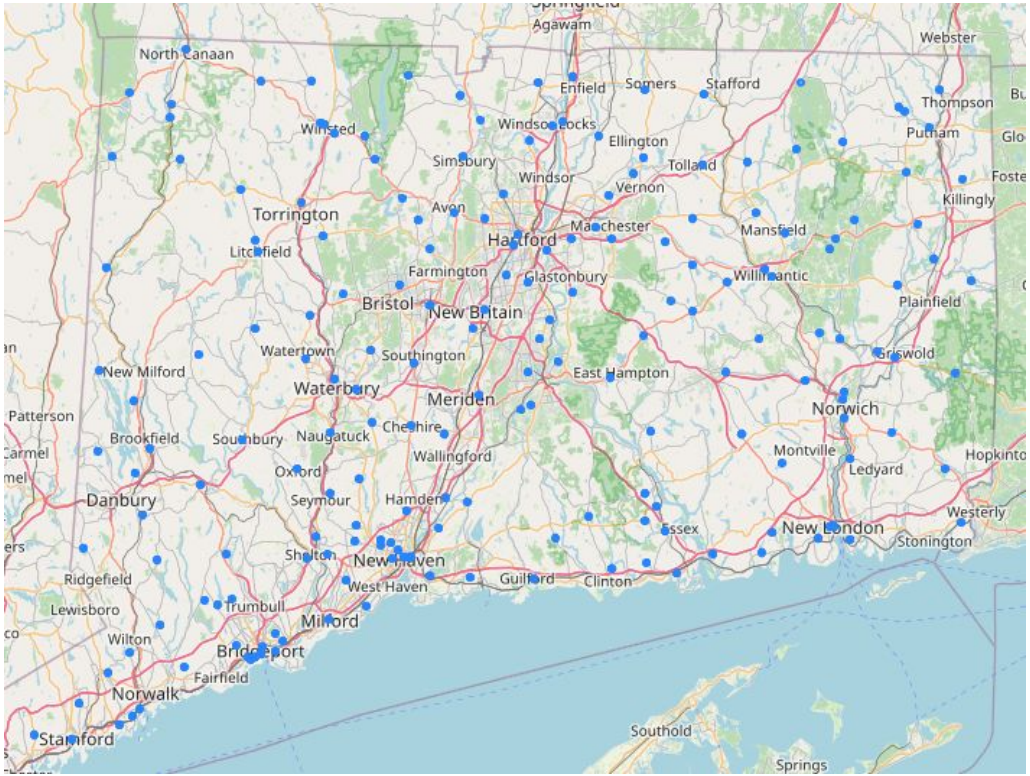
Conclusions

The attendance rates of students of Black/African American students and Hispanic/Latino students were consistently lower than that White students and students of all others races. This disparity especially increased following the onset of the covid-19 pandemic, as seen in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year data.

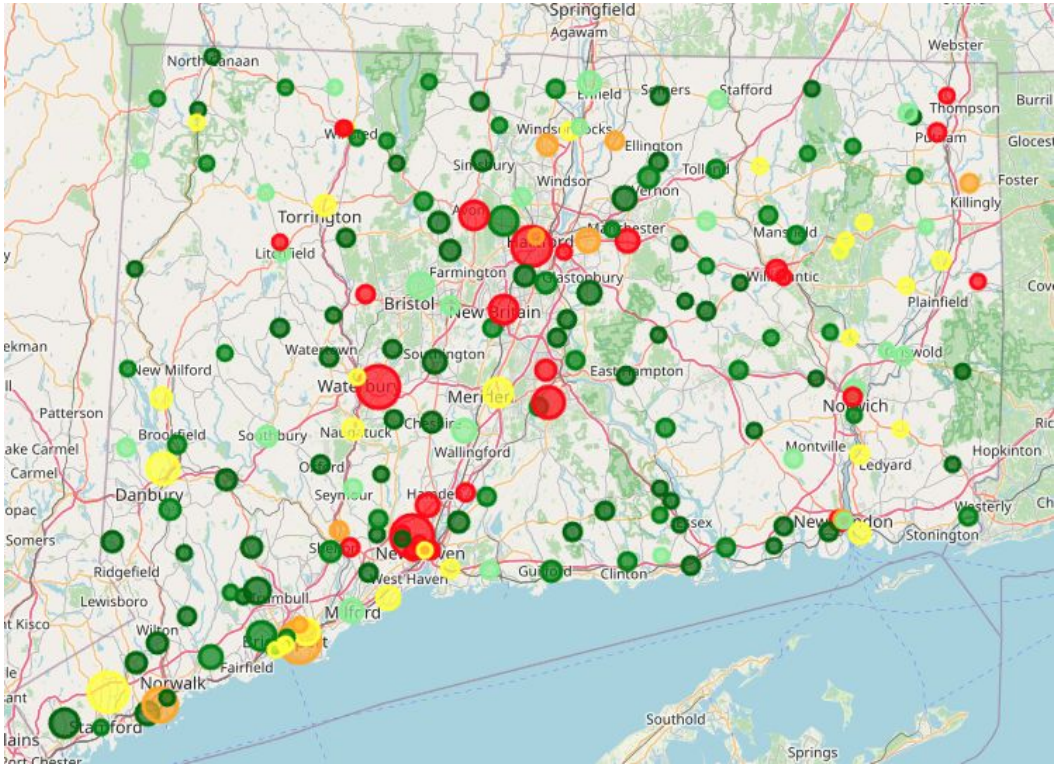
Mapping Attendance Rates by District

(2021-22 School Year)

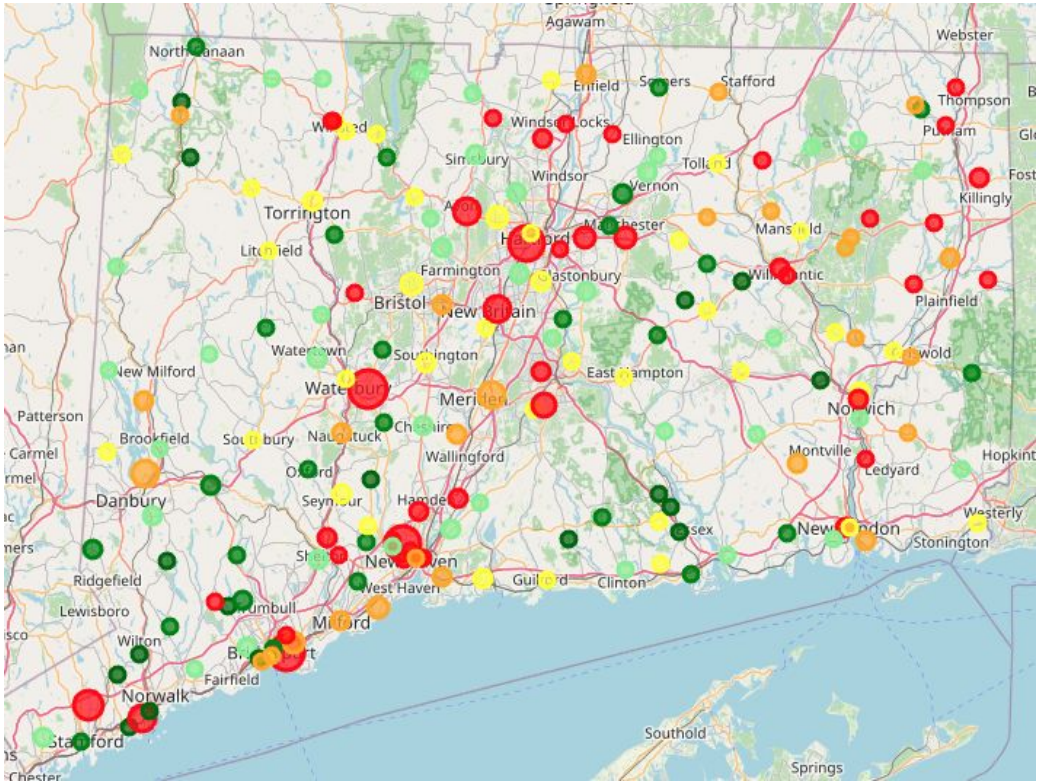
Overall Map of Each School District



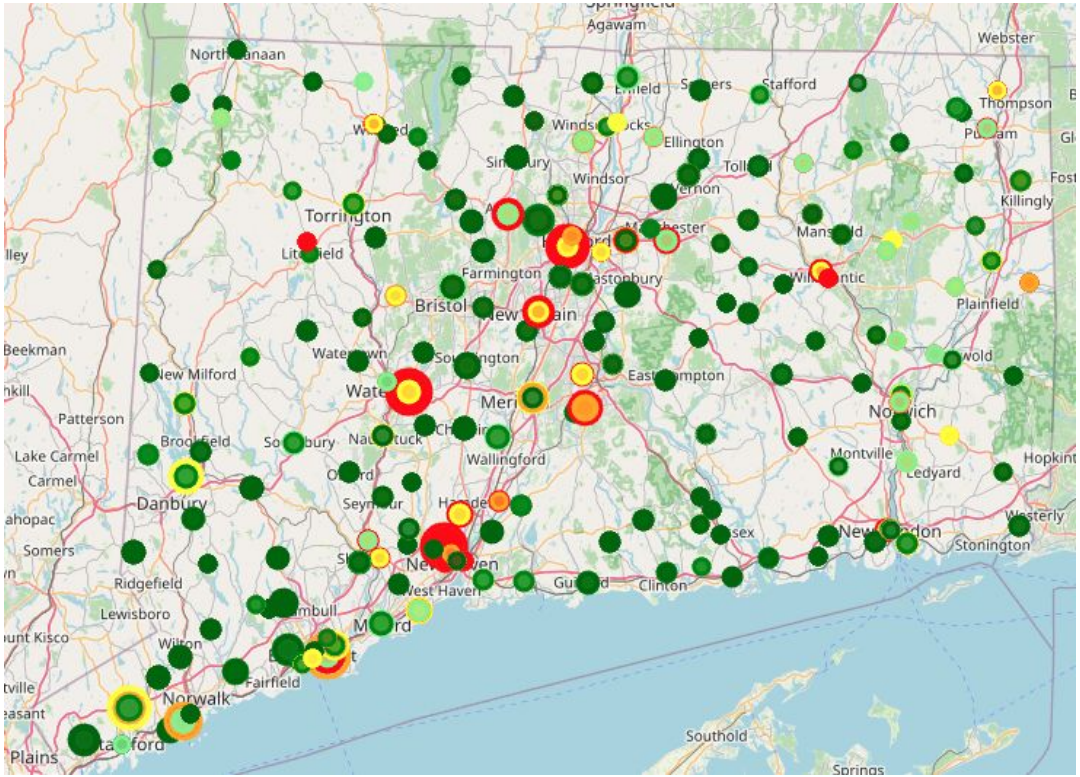
Attendance Rates – All Students



Attendance Rates – Students with High Needs



Attendance Rates – Students without High Needs



Conclusions

Districts that have more students with high needs also have a lower rate of school attendance.

District size also often correlates with attendance; the greater the student count, the lower the rate of attendance.

Interactive Displays!

- **Data Visualization Dashboard** – CT School Attendance Rates from 2019-2022
- **Interactive Map** – CT School Attendance Rates by District during the 2021-2022 School Year

Sources

Data sources:

1. Dataset that had the location for each school district:

Education Directory | Connecticut Data, data.ct.gov/Education/Education-Directory/9k2y-kqxn/data. Accessed 7 Jan. 2025.

2. Dataset for attendance rates by district:

“State of Connecticut - School Attendance by Student Group and District, 2021-2022.” Catalog, Publisher data.ct.gov, 19 Aug. 2023, catalog.data.gov/dataset/school-attendance-by-student-group-and-district-2021-2022.