

## Case Study: Connecticut

Connecticut Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell says that the state’s new “next generation” accountability model “moves beyond test scores and graduation rates to provide a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance. It also shows where we need to invest more time and resources to help kids in the greatest need and where we can celebrate and share school success stories.”

Connecticut developed this new accountability model through two years of stakeholder engagement. The result is a 12-indicator multiple measures system which includes various academic indicators and graduation rates as well as chronic absenteeism rates and physical fitness participation and performance rates.

The full list of indicators includes:

1. Academic achievement status measured by state assessments
2. Academic growth
3. Assessment participation rate
4. Chronic absenteeism
5. Preparation for postsecondary and career readiness—coursework
6. Preparation for postsecondary and career readiness—exams
7. Graduation—on track in ninth grade
8. Graduation—four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate—all students
9. Graduation—six-year adjusted cohort graduation rate—high needs
10. Postsecondary entrance rate—all students (college enrollment)
11. Physical fitness
12. Arts access

Each school will receive a score calculated using a formula that incorporates the accountability system indicators. There will be a tiered system of resources and supports for schools based on their score. Schools with low student performance and a low accountability score could be designated turnaround schools, meaning they would have to create and implement a plan for accelerating school improvement.

The Connecticut accountability system displays a forward-thinking approach in that it includes key “non-academic” indicators such as chronic absenteeism, physical fitness and arts access. Research shows that students who attend school on a daily basis and maintain a healthy lifestyle are more likely to graduate and succeed in college. Access to an engaging arts curriculum creates a more well-rounded educational experience.

*This document was prepared by Healthy Schools Campaign and Alliance for a Healthier Generation to support the resource State ESSA Plans to Support Student Health and Wellness: A Framework for Action. Learn more at [healthyschoolscampaign.org/state-essa-framework](https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/state-essa-framework).*