### Connecticut State Department of Education

### DISTRICT PROFILE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2016–17



### **Bolton School District**

Mrs. Kristin Heckt, Superintendent • 860-643-1569 • http://www.boltonpublicschools.com

#### **District Information**

| Grade Range                         | PK-12        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Schools/Programs          | 3            |
| Enrollment                          | 820          |
| Per Pupil Expenditures <sup>1</sup> | \$17,174     |
| Total Expenditures <sup>1</sup>     | \$14,512,150 |

<sup>1</sup>Expenditure data reflect the 2015-16 year.



### **Community Information**

<u>CERC Town Profiles</u> provide summary demographic and economic information for Connecticut's municipalities

### **Related Reports/Publications**

CT Reports (CMT/CAPT)

Special Education Annual Performance Reports
SAT®, AP®, PSAT® Report by High School (Class of 2017)
(2017® The College Board)

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#### **Notes**

Unless otherwise noted, all data are for 2016-17 and include all grades offered by the district.

In most tables, data are displayed only for the three major race/ethnicity categories. For additional race/ethnicity categories, please visit <a href="edsight.ct.gov">edsight.ct.gov</a>.

State totals are not displayed as they are not comparable to district totals.

Special Education tables reflect only students for whom the district is fiscally responsible.

\* When an asterisk is displayed, data have been suppressed to ensure student confidentiality. N/A is displayed when a category is not applicable for a district or school.

### **Students**

| October 1, 2016 Enrollment               |       |                         |                         |  |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|  |       | District                | State                   |  |
|  | Count | Percent of Total<br>(%) | Percent of Total<br>(%) |  |
| Female                                   | 427   | 52.1                    | 48.4                    |  |
| Male                                     | 393   | 47.9                    | 51.6                    |  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native         | 0     | 0.0                     | 0.3                     |  |
| Asian                                    | 19    | 2.3                     | 5.1                     |  |
| Black or African American                | 57    | 7.0                     | 12.9                    |  |
| Hispanic or Latino                       | 55    | 6.7                     | 24.0                    |  |
| Pacific Islander                         | 0     | 0.0                     | 0.1                     |  |
| Two or More Races                        | 22    | 2.7                     | 2.9                     |  |
| White                                    | 667   | 81.3                    | 54.8                    |  |
| English Learners                         | 8     | 1.0                     | 6.8                     |  |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 118   | 14.4                    | 35.9                    |  |
| Students with Disabilities <sup>1</sup>  | 94    | 11.5                    | 14.3                    |  |

<sup>1</sup>Students in this category are students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) only. This category does not include students with Section 504 Plans.

#### Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension/Expulsion

|  | Chronic                  |          | Suspe | ension/  |
|--|--------------------------|----------|-------|----------|
|  | Absenteeism <sup>2</sup> |          | Expu  | ılsion³  |
|  | Count                    | Rate (%) | Count | Rate (%) |
| Female                                   | 21                       | 5.0      | 9     | 2.1      |
| Male                                     | 11                       | 2.8      | 15    | 3.8      |
| Black or African American                | 7                        | 12.7     | 6     | 10.9     |
| Hispanic or Latino                       | *                        | *        | *     | *        |
| White                                    | 15                       | 2.3      | 13    | 1.9      |
| English Learners                         | *                        | *        | 0     | *        |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 17                       | 13.8     | 13    | 10.1     |
| Students with Disabilities               | 9                        | 9.7      | *     | *        |
| District                                 | 32                       | 3.9      | 24    | 2.9      |
| State                                    |                          | 9.9      |       | 6.7      |

Number of students in 2015-16 qualified as truant under state statute: 23

Number of school-based arrests: Fewer than 6

<sup>2</sup>A student is chronically absent if he/she misses ten percent or greater of the total number of days enrolled in the school year for any reason. Pre-Kindergarten students are excluded from this calculation.

<sup>3</sup>The count and percentage of students who receive at least one in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

### **Educators**

### Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)1 Staff

|  | FTE  |
|--|------|
| General Education  |      |
| Teachers and Instructors                                 | 63.6 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants                | 5.6  |
| Special Education  |      |
| Teachers and Instructors                                 | 10.0 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants                | 14.4 |
| Administrators, Coordinators and Department Chairs       |      |
| District Central Office                                  | 4.0  |
| School Level   | 3.8  |
| Library/Media  |      |
| Specialists (Certified)                                  | 2.0  |
| Support Staff  | 1.6  |
| Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers           | 2.0  |
| Counselors, Social Workers and School Psychologists      | 6.7  |
| School Nurses  | 2.4  |
| Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services/Support | 48.5 |

<sup>1</sup>In the full-time equivalent count, staff members working part-time in the school are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in a school contributes 0.50 to the school's staff count.

### **Educators by Race/Ethnicity**

|                                     |       | District                | State                   |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                                     | Count | Percent of Total<br>(%) | Percent of Total<br>(%) |  |
| American Indian or<br>Alaska Native | 0     | 0.0                     | 0.1                     |  |
| Asian                               | 1     | 1.1                     | 1.0                     |  |
| Black or African<br>American        | 0     | 0.0                     | 3.6                     |  |
| Hispanic or Latino                  | 2     | 2.2                     | 3.6                     |  |
| Pacific Islander                    | 0     | 0.0                     | 0.0                     |  |
| Two or More Races                   | 0     | 0.0                     | 0.1                     |  |
| White                               | 90    | 96.8                    | 91.4                    |  |

Classroom Teacher Attendance: 2015-16

|   | District | State |
|---|----------|-------|
| Average Number of FTE Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time | 8.4      | 9.6   |

### **Instruction and Resources**

# 11th and 12th Graders Enrolled in College-and-Career-Readiness Courses during High School<sup>3</sup>

|  | 11th  |          | 1     | 2th      |
|--|-------|----------|-------|----------|
|  | Count | Rate (%) | Count | Rate (%) |
| Black or African American                | *     | *        | *     | *        |
| Hispanic or Latino                       | *     | *        | *     | *        |
| White                                    | 41    | 58.6     | 63    | 92.6     |
| English Learners                         | N/A   | N/A      | N/A   | N/A      |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 7     | *        | 7     | *        |
| Students with Disabilities               | *     | *        | 8     | *        |
| District                                 | 47    | 58.0     | 71    | 93.4     |
| State                                    |       | 63.6     |       | 77.5     |

<sup>3</sup>College-and-Career-Readiness Courses include Advanced Placement®(AP), International Baccalaureate®(IB), Career and Technical Education(CTE), workplace experience and dual enrollment courses.

# Students with Disabilities Who Spend 79.1 to 100 Percent of Time with Nondisabled Peers<sup>4</sup>

|                            | Count | Rate (%) |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Autism                     | *     | *        |
| Emotional Disturbance      | *     | *        |
| Intellectual Disability    | *     | *        |
| Learning Disability        | 25    | 89.3     |
| Other Health Impairment    | 11    | *        |
| Other Disabilities         | *     | *        |
| Speech/Language Impairment | 9     | *        |
| District                   | 56    | 68.3     |
| State                      |       | 68.2     |

<sup>4</sup>Ages 6-21

### Students with Disabilities by Primary Disability<sup>1</sup>

|                               | Dis   | State    |          |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
|                               | Count | Rate (%) | Rate (%) |
| Autism                        | 8     | 1.0      | 1.7      |
| Emotional Disturbance         | *     | *        | 1.0      |
| Intellectual Disability       | 8     | 1.0      | 0.5      |
| Learning Disability           | 28    | 3.6      | 4.9      |
| Other Health Impairment       | 18    | 2.3      | 2.9      |
| Other Disabilities            | *     | *        | 1.1      |
| Speech/Language<br>Impairment | 13    | 1.7      | 1.8      |
| All Disabilities              | 86    | 11.1     | 13.9     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Grades K-12

### Overall Expenditures: 2015-16

|   |                 | Per Pupil     |            |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|
|   | Total (\$)      | District (\$) | State (\$) |
| Instructional Staff and Services                          | 7,696,435       | 9,455         | 9,663      |
| Instructional Supplies and Equipment                      | 277,049         | 340           | 321        |
| Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services | 599,318         | 736           | 578        |
| Student Support Services                                  | 954,515         | 1,173         | 1,103      |
| Administration and Support Services                       | 2,098,624       | 2,578         | 1,861      |
| Plant Operation and Maintenance                           | 1,533,013       | 1,883         | 1,637      |
| Transportation  | 633,667         | 819           | 877        |
| Costs of Students Tuitioned Out                           | 524,011         | N/A           | N/A        |
| Other   | 195,518         | 240           | 201        |
| Total   | 14,512,150      | 17,174        | 16,236     |
| Additiona   | al Expenditures |               |            |
| Land, Buildings, and Debt Service                         | 903,207         | 1,110         | 1,749      |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources.

### **Special Education Expenditures: 2015-16**

|                            | Dist       | State                   |                         |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                            | Total (\$) | Percent of<br>Total (%) | Percent of<br>Total (%) |
| Certified Personnel        | 918,130    | 33.2                    | 34.6                    |
| Noncertified Personnel     | 571,386    | 20.6                    | 14.6                    |
| Purchased Services         | 132,324    | 4.8                     | 5.8                     |
| Tuition to Other Schools   | 458,674    | 16.6                    | 21.8                    |
| Special Ed. Transportation | 160,273    | 5.8                     | 8.5                     |
| Other Expenditures         | 527,732    | 19.1                    | 14.7                    |
| Total Expenditures         | 2,768,519  | 100.0                   | 100.0                   |

## Expenditures by Revenue Source:4 2015-16

|                 | Percent of Total (%) |              |  |  |  |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
|                 | Including Excluding  |              |  |  |  |
|                 | School               | School       |  |  |  |
|                 | Construction         | Construction |  |  |  |
| Local           | 67.9                 | 66.1         |  |  |  |
| State           | 25.6                 | 27.0         |  |  |  |
| Federal         | 1.5                  | 1.6          |  |  |  |
| Tuition & Other | 5.0                  | 5.3          |  |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Revenue sources do not include state-funded Teachers' Retirement Board contributions, vocational-technical school operations, SDE budgeted costs for salaries and leadership activities and other state-funded school districts (e.g., Dept. of Children and Families and Dept. of Correction).

### Performance and Accountability

### **District Performance Index (DPI)**

A District Performance Index (DPI) is the average performance of students in a subject area (i.e., ELA, Mathematics or Science) on the state summative assessments. The DPI ranges from 0-100. A DPI is reported for all students tested in a district and for students in each individual student group. Connecticut's ultimate target for a DPI is 75.

|  | English Language Arts(ELA) |      | Mat   | h    | Scien | ce   |
|--|----------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
|  | Count                      | DPI  | Count | DPI  | Count | DPI  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native             | 0                          | N/A  | 0     | N/A  | 0     | N/A  |
| Asian  | 13                         | *    | 13    | *    | 7     | *    |
| Black or African American                    | 34                         | 61.6 | 34    | 53.2 | 17    | *    |
| Hispanic or Latino                           | 24                         | 65.4 | 24    | 56.0 | 13    | *    |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander    | 0                          | N/A  | 0     | N/A  | 0     | N/A  |
| Two or More Races                            | *                          | *    | *     | *    | *     | *    |
| White  | 365                        | 76.5 | 365   | 71.1 | 155   | 61.9 |
| English Learners                             | 10                         | *    | 10    | *    | *     | *    |
| Non-English Learners                         | 430                        | 74.8 | 430   | 68.8 | 192   | 60.2 |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals     | 69                         | 62.8 | 69    | 54.0 | 31    | 51.6 |
| Not Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 371                        | 76.7 | 371   | 71.5 | 164   | 61.4 |
| Students with Disabilities                   | 48                         | 49.9 | 48    | 41.0 | 19    | *    |
| Students without Disabilities                | 392                        | 77.5 | 392   | 72.1 | 176   | 61.2 |
| High Needs                                   | 111                        | 60.0 | 111   | 51.8 | 45    | 49.9 |
| Non-High Needs                               | 329                        | 79.4 | 329   | 74.4 | 150   | 62.8 |
| District                                     | 440                        | 74.5 | 440   | 68.7 | 195   | 59.9 |

# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Percent At or Above Proficient<sup>1</sup>

|                 | NAEP    | NAEP 2013 |          |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| READING         | Grade 4 | Grade 8   | Grade 12 |
| Connecticut     | 43%     | 43%       | 50%      |
| National Public | 35%     | 33%       | 36%      |
| MATH            | Grade 4 | Grade 8   | Grade 12 |
| Connecticut     | 41%     | 36%       | 32%      |
| National Public | 39%     | 32%       | 25%      |

<sup>1</sup>NAEP is often called the "Nation's Report Card." It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. This table compares Connecticut's performance to that of national public school students. Performance standards for state assessments and NAEP are set independently. Therefore, one should not expect performance results to be the same across Smarter Balanced and NAEP. Instead, NAEP results are meant to complement other state assessment data. To view student subgroup performance on NAEP, click here.

### Physical Fitness Tests: Students Reaching Health Standard<sup>2</sup>

|                      | Percent of Students by Grade <sup>3</sup> (%) |      |      |      | All Teste | ed Grades |
|----------------------|---|------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | 4   | 6    | 8    | 10   | Count     | Rate (%)  |
| Sit & Reach          | 71.7  | 54.3 | 62.1 | 84.1 | 252       | 67.5      |
| Curl Up              | 52.8  | 54.3 | 83.3 | 93.7 | 252       | 71.4      |
| Push Up              | 47.2  | 51.4 | 60.6 | 76.2 | 252       | 59.1      |
| Mile Run/PACER       | 94.3  | 85.7 | 78.8 | 87.3 | 252       | 86.1      |
| All Tests - District | 28.3  | 35.7 | 43.9 | 65.1 | 252       | 43.7      |
| All Tests - State    | 52.8  | 51.4 | 51.4 | 50.6 |           | 51.6      |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) is administered to all students in Grades 4, 6, 8 and 10. The health-related fitness scores gathered through the CPFA should be used to educate and motivate children and their families to increase physical activity and develop lifetime fitness habits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Only students assessed in all four areas are included in this calculation.

Cohort Graduation: Four-Year<sup>1</sup>

|  | 2015-16                   |          |  |
|--|---------------------------|----------|--|
|  | Cohort Count <sup>2</sup> | Rate (%) |  |
| Black or African American                | *                         | *        |  |
| Hispanic or Latino                       | *                         | *        |  |
| English Learners                         | 0                         | 0        |  |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | *                         | *        |  |
| Students with Disabilities               | *                         | *        |  |
| District                                 | 85                        | 91.8     |  |
| State                                    |                           | 87.4     |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The four-year cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of first-time 9th graders who earn a standard high school diploma within four years.

## 11th and 12th Graders Meeting Benchmark on at Least One College Readiness Exam<sup>5</sup>

|   | Participation <sup>6</sup> | Meeting B | enchmark |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
|   | Rate (%)                   | Count     | Rate (%) |
| Female                                      | 97.7                       | 52        | 60.5     |
| Male  | 95.8                       | 30        | 42.3     |
| Black or African American                   | *                          | 0         | *        |
| Hispanic or Latino                          | *                          | *         | *        |
| White                                       | 96.4                       | 79        | 57.2     |
| English Learners                            | N/A                        | N/A       | N/A      |
| Eligible for Free or<br>Reduced-Price Meals | 95.2                       | *         | *        |
| Students with Disabilities                  | 75.0                       | 0         | 0.0      |
| District                                    | 96.8                       | 82        | 52.2     |
| State                                       | 96.1                       |           | 43.5     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>College readiness exams and benchmark scores are as follows:

- SAT® meets benchmark score on SAT, Revised SAT or Connecticut School Day SAT
- ACT® meets benchmark score on 3 of 4 exams (benchmark score varies by subject)
- $\bullet~\mbox{AP}^{\circledast}$  3 or higher on any one  $\mbox{AP}^{\circledast}$  exam
- IB® 4 or higher on any one IB® exam
- Smarter Balanced Level 3 or higher on both ELA and math

<sup>4</sup>Participation Rate equals the number of test-takers in 11th and 12th grade divided by the number of students enrolled in those grades, as a percent. Sources:

SAT® and AP® statistics derived from data provided by the College Board.

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ACT® statistics derived from data provided by ACT, Inc.

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IB® statistics derived from data provided by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

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### **College Entrance and Persistence**

|   | Class of 2016         | Class of 2015            |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Entrance <sup>7</sup> | Persistence <sup>8</sup> |
|   | Rate (%)              | Rate (%)                 |
| Female                                      | 92.9                  | 100.0                    |
| Male  | 77.5                  | 77.8                     |
| Black or African American                   | *                     | *                        |
| Hispanic or Latino                          | *                     | *                        |
| White                                       | 87.8                  | 84.6                     |
| English Learners                            | N/A                   | N/A                      |
| Eligible for Free or<br>Reduced-Price Meals | *                     | *                        |
| Students with Disabilities                  | *                     | *                        |
| District                                    | 85.4                  | 86.4                     |
| State                                       | 72.0                  | 88.5                     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>College entrance refers to the percent of high school graduates from the year who enrolled in college any time during the first year after high school.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Cohort count includes all students in the cohort as of the end of the 2015-16 school year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>College persistence refers to the percent of students who enrolled in college the first year after high school and returned for a second year (Freshman to Sophomore persistence).

#### **Next Generation Accountability Results**

Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a district/school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life. It moves beyond test scores and graduation rates to provide a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance.

| Indicator                                     |                           | Index/Rate    | Target | Points<br>Earned | Max<br>Points | % Points<br>Earned | State Average<br>Index/Rate |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|--------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ELA Performance Index                         | All Students              | 74.5          | 75     | 49.7             | 50            | 99.4               | 67.1                        |
| ELA Performance index                         | High Needs Students       | 60.0          | 75     | 40.0             | 50            | 80.0               | 55.9                        |
| Math Performance Index                        | All Students              | 68.7          | 75     | 45.8             | 50            | 91.6               | 62.2                        |
| Math Performance muex                         | High Needs Students       | 51.8          | 75     | 34.5             | 50            | 69.1               | 50.5                        |
| Science Performance                           | All Students              | 59.9          | 75     | 39.9             | 50            | 79.8               | 55.3                        |
| Science Performance                           | High Needs Students       | 49.9          | 75     | 33.3             | 50            | 66.6               | 45.2                        |
| ELA Academic Growth                           | All Students              | 52.1%         | 100%   | 52.1             | 100           | 52.1               | 55.4%                       |
| ELA ACAGEMIC GIOWIN                           | High Needs Students       | 48.5%         | 100%   | 48.5             | 100           | 48.5               | 49.8%                       |
| Math Academic Growth                          | All Students              | 57.8%         | 100%   | 57.8             | 100           | 57.8               | 61.7%                       |
| Math Academic Growth                          | High Needs Students       | 34.6%         | 100%   | 34.6             | 100           | 34.6               | 53.7%                       |
| Chronic Absenteeism                           | All Students              | 3.9%          | <=5%   | 50.0             | 50            | 100.0              | 9.9%                        |
| Chronic Absenteeism                           | High Needs Students       | 10.4%         | <=5%   | 39.3             | 50            | 78.5               | 15.8%                       |
| Dranavation for CCD                           | % Taking Courses          | 75.2%         | 75%    | 50.0             | 50            | 100.0              | 70.7%                       |
| Preparation for CCR                           | % Passing Exams           | 52.2%         | 75%    | 34.8             | 50            | 69.6               | 43.5%                       |
| On-track to High School G                     | raduation                 | 94.3%         | 94%    | 50.0             | 50            | 100.0              | 87.8%                       |
| 4-year Graduation All Stud                    | dents (2016 Cohort)       | 91.8%         | 94%    | 97.6             | 100           | 97.6               | 87.4%                       |
| 6-year Graduation - High Needs Students (2014 |                           | N/A           | 94%    | 0.0              | 0             | 0.0                | 82.0%                       |
| Postsecondary Entrance (Class of 2016)        |                           | 85.4%         | 75%    | 100.0            | 100           | 100.0              | 72.0%                       |
| Physical Fitness (estimated                   | d part rate) and (fitness | 95.8%   43.7% | 75%    | 29.1             | 50            | 58.2               | 92.0%   51.6%               |
| Arts Access                                   |                           | 58.2%         | 60%    | 48.5             | 50            | 97.1               | 50.5%                       |
| Accountability Index                          |                           |               |        | 935.6            | 1250          | 74.9               |                             |

| Gap Indicators                | Non-High Needs Rate <sup>1</sup> | High Needs Rate | Size of Gap | State Gap Mean +1 Stdev <sup>2</sup> | Is Gap an Outlier? <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Achievement Gap Size Outlier? |                                  |                 |             |                                      | Υ                               |
| ELA Performance Index Gap     | 75.0                             | 60.0            | 15.0        | 16.7                                 |                                 |
| Math Performance Index Gap    | 74.4                             | 51.8            | 22.6        | 18.7                                 |                                 |
| Science Performance Index Gap | 62.8                             | 49.9            | 12.9        | 16.6                                 |                                 |
| Graduation Rate Gap           |                                  | •               |             | 12.0%                                | N                               |

<sup>1</sup> If the Non-High Needs Rate exceeds the ultimate target (75 for Performance Index and 94% for graduation rate), the ultimate target is used for gap calculations.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ If the size of the gap exceeds the state mean gap plus one standard deviation, the gap is an outlier.

| Sul     | oject/Subgroup      | Participation Rate (%) <sup>3</sup> |                                |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ELA     | All Students        | 98.2                                | <sup>3</sup> Minimum           |
| ELA     | High Needs Students | 99.1                                | participation standard is 95%. |
| Math    | All Students        | 98.2                                |                                |
| IVIALII | High Needs Students | 99.1                                |                                |
| Science | All Students        | 100.0                               |                                |
| Science | High Needs Students | 100.0                               |                                |

## Connecticut's State Identified Measurable Goal for Children with Disabilities (SIMR)

Increase the reading performance of all 3rd grade students with disabilities statewide, as measured by Connecticut's English Language Arts (ELA) Performance Index.

Grade 3 ELA Performance Index for Students with Disabilities:

District: \* State: 50.2

#### **Supporting Resources**

Two-page FAQ

**Detailed Presentation** 

Using Accountability Results to Guide Improvement: comprehensive documentation and supports

### **Narratives**

### **School District Improvement Plans and Parental Outreach Activities**

Bolton Public Schools is committed to a continuous improvement process. The vision of the Bolton Public Schools is to educate students to become capable, ethical, healthy, responsible, and thoughtful citizens. Bolton High School is the only high school in Connecticut to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2016. The Bolton Public Schools Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020 serves as the blueprint of student outcomes designed to promote learning skills that are essential in the 21st century including creativity, leadership, innovation, digital literacy, collaboration, and problem-solving. The five year district goals are aligned to the Strategic Plan and are supported by building and administrator goals, teacher professional growth goals, and student learning outcomes. Particular emphasis is placed on the successful incorporation of state and national standards in all content areas, the development of mastery-based learning at all levels, authentic assessment, and analysis of student data to drive instruction across the district to improve student achievement. Focused, on-going, job-embedded professional development supports the aligned individual, team, school, and district goals.

Student attendance is closely monitored, tracked, and recorded throughout the district with set procedures. Although we have a very low truancy rate, we utilize attendance data to identify students who have attendance issues and work with the students and their families to improve their attendance rate.

The continuous examination of data informs our decisions regarding allocation of resources, instructional decisions, and the implementation of interventions. Bolton Public Schools is committed to supporting students in their least restrictive environment. The district has expanded programming for students with significant needs. Special educators and related services staff participate in professional development regarding data analysis, reading interventions, meeting the social and emotional needs of students, executive functioning, secondary transition, and effective use of instructional support in the general education classrooms. The district BCBA supports our students with behavioral challenges as well as collaborates with staff regarding how to best meet the needs of these students in the general education classrooms. We continue to implement a comprehensive team approach to address the unique learning needs of the students through a continuum of services.

Bolton Public Schools utilizes a variety of supports to engage families in student learning. These efforts include regular PTA, Booster Club, and Scholarship Committee meetings with parents and staff, a parent communication goal for all teachers in which they demonstrate how they communicate with parents, and training for incoming kindergarten parents on how to read to their children. Both schools and the Board of Education utilize a number of communication tools including the website, School Messenger, and quarterly newsletters which include school information, updates, and ways to support parents in working at home with their children on learning activities. We have an extremely active PTA which, through the efforts of many parents and the support of the entire community, raises thousands of dollars to enhance the curriculum offerings for our students.

### Efforts to Reduce Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation

Bolton Public Schools is committed to fostering understanding of various groups in our society and world, promoting equity and respect among people, and providing learning experiences for students to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation. Equity and respect among students are promoted through the learning experiences in academic programs as well as extra-curricular and athletic offerings. Both schools utilize PBIS which promotes a healthy school climate through numerous events and activities that foster positive behavior, respect of self and others, tolerance, and acceptance of differences.

Our schools continue to provide a host of learning experiences that actively engage our learners while respecting their cultural integrity. Bolton continues to participate in the Hartford Open Choice program for the last fifteen years with 63 students attending Bolton schools in 2016-2017. Looking in Theater presents skits to our middle school students on difficult topics and encourages them to examine issues like bullying and racism. As an active member of the CT Youth Forum, our students join a diverse population from around the state to discuss issues of equality and social justice. The Unity Team coordinates students in non-standard groupings across grade levels to participate in activities that promote acceptance and inclusion. In addition, Deacon Arthur Miller, a civil rights activist, spent a day with high school students and staff talking about social justice, inclusion, and empowerment. As part of the Social Justice Club, students actively engage in community service stocking shelves, sorting products, and assisting visitors with their groceries through our partnership with the MACC Food Pantry. Students also help organize the 10,000 Meals program. At this event, club members and the community come together with the help of the Stop Hunger Now organization to package thousands of meals in one afternoon. Student organizations and staff regularly collect items for area food banks, shelters, and families in need in the Bolton community. In the Bolton Public Schools, we believe that an understanding of and respect for diverse beliefs, cultures, backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives enrich the lives and learning environments for all our students.

### **Equitable Allocation of Resources among District Schools**

The Bolton Board of Education is committed to ensuring an equitable allocation of resources among its schools. The budgets are specifically designed to support building goals that in turn support district goals. Expanding access to technology, moving forward with curriculum renewal, providing high quality professional learning for staff, and maintaining core programs are the priorities that guide decision making about resource allocation. The budget process entails four critical steps: 1) public and staff commentary on budget needs; 2) program area/building level budget preparation; 3) district budget development; and 4) budget presentation and work sessions. Each step of the process is designed to encourage participation and input. In addition to the operational budget, the district prepares and updates a five-year plan for capital improvements that is submitted to the town's Capital Expenditure Committee for approval. Enrollment figures are closely monitored to ensure the appropriate distribution of staff and resources. The Board receives additional monies from both State and Federal sources to help finance remedial and special education programs.