Connecticut State Department of Education

DISTRICT PROFILE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019–20



Ridgefield School District

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District Information

Grade Range	PK-12
Number of Schools/Programs	17
Enrollment	4,707
Per Pupil Expenditures ¹	\$20,130
Total Expenditures ¹	\$98,176,280

¹ Expenditure data reflect the 2018-19 school year.



Community Information

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

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Notes

Unless otherwise noted, all data are for 2019-20 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 edsight.ct.gov.

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 safeguard student confidentiality, or to ensure that statistics based on a very small sample size are not interpreted as equally representative as those based on a sufficiently larger sample size.

N/A is displayed when a category is not applicable for a district or school.

Students

October 1	. 2019	Enrollment ²
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		District	State
	Count	Percent of Total (%)	Percent of Total (%)
Female	*	*	48.4
Male	2,416	51.3	51.6
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	0.3
Asian	320	6.8	5.2
Black or African American	30	0.6	12.7
Hispanic or Latino of any race	363	7.7	26.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*	*	0.1
Two or More Races	179	3.8	3.8
White	3,806	80.9	51.1
English Learners	56	1.2	8.3
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	244	5.2	43.3
Students with Disabilities ³	656	13.9	16.0

NOTE: To protect student privacy, gender counts are suppressed (*) when fewer than 6 students enrolled in the district identify as non-binary.

Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension/Expulsion

	Chronic Absenteeism ⁴		Suspension	/Expulsion ⁵
	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)
Female	197	8.6	*	*
Male	199	8.4	*	*
Black or African American	*	*	*	*
Hispanic or Latino of any race	44	12.3	*	*
White	301	8.0	34	0.9
English Learners	7	11.5	0	0.0
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	38	13.6	*	*
Students with Disabilities	109	17.2	17	2.4
District	396	8.5	43	0.9
State		12.2		4.9

Number of students in 2018-19 qualified as truant under state statute: Fewer than 6 Number of school-based arrests: 0

NOTE: In the 2019-20 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person classes were cancelled in mid-March; all districts switched to fully remote instruction for the remainder of the school year. Chronic absenteeism calculations are based only on in-person school days.

² This table represents students in grades PK-12 reported by the district in the Public School Information System (i.e., PSIS Reporting District).

³ Students in this category are students with an individualized education program (IEP) only. This category does not include students with Section 504 plans or services plans.

⁴ A student is chronically absent if they miss 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.

⁵ This column displays 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	330.5
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	3.1
Special Education	
Teachers and Instructors	51.0
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	86.0
Administrators, Coordinators and Department Chairs	
District Central Office	8.5
School Level	23.4
Library/Media	
Specialists (Certified)	10.0
Support Staff	4.0
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers	16.1
Counselors, Social Workers and School Psychologists	29.6
School Nurses	11.0
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services/Support	226.6

¹ 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 (%)	Percent of Total (%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0	0.1
Asian	6	1.3	1.2
Black or African American	2	0.4	4.0
Hispanic or Latino of any race	9	1.9	4.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0.2	0.1
Two or More Races	0	0.0	0.1
White	454	96.2	90.4

Classroom Teacher Attendance: 2018-19

	District	State
Average Number of FTE Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	6.9	10.4

Instruction and Resources

11th and 12th Graders Enrolled in College-and-Career-Readiness Courses during High School²

	11th		12th	
	Count	Rate (%)	Count	Rate (%)
Black or African American	*	*	*	*
Hispanic or Latino of any race	26	78.8	30	85.7
White	279	79.7	296	91.9
English Learners	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	8	*	8	*
Students with Disabilities	28	62.2	33	63.5
District	337	79.7	370	91.4
State		75.8		84.8

² 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 Peers³

	Count	Rate (%)
Autism	60	63.8
Emotional Disturbance	41	66.1
Intellectual Disability	*	*
Learning Disability	213	89.1
Other Health Impairment	126	85.1
Other Disabilities	*	*
Speech/Language Impairment	30	96.8
District	480	79.9
State		67.8

³ This table represents students ages 6-21 for whom the district is fiscally responsible (i.e., Nexus District students with an IEP or services plan).

Students with Disabilities by Primary Disability¹

	Dis	State	
	Count	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
Autism	99	2.1	2.0
Emotional Disturbance	62	1.3	1.1
Intellectual Disability	13	0.3	0.5
Learning Disability	240	5.2	5.7
Other Health Impairment	149	3.2	3.3
Other Disabilities	26	0.6	1.1
Speech/Language Impairment	49	1.1	1.8
All Disabilities	638	13.7	15.6

¹ This table represents students in grades K-12 for whom the district is fiscally responsible (i.e., Nexus District students with an IEP or services plan).

Students with Disabilities Placed Outside of the District²

	Dis	State	
	Count	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
Public Schools in Other Districts	10	1.6	8.2
Private Schools or Other Settings	39	6.1	5.0

² This table represents students in grades K-12 for whom the district is fiscally responsible (i.e., Nexus District students with an IEP or services plan).

Overall Expenditures³: 2018-19

		Per I	Pupil
	Total (\$)	District (\$)	State (\$)
Instruction	\$60,914,342	\$12,490	\$10,923
Support services - students	\$5,638,072	\$1,165	\$1,277
Support services - instruction	\$6,217,391	\$1,285	\$682
Support services - general administration	\$1,204,420	\$249	\$467
Support services - school based administration	\$6,171,095	\$1,276	\$1,021
Central and other support services	\$1,655,807	\$342	\$679
Operation and maintenance of plant	\$9,738,392	\$2,013	\$1,718
Student transportation services	\$5,340,776	\$1,111	\$1,288
Food services			\$12
Enterprise operations	\$1,295,983	\$268	\$163
Minor school construction			\$59
Total	\$98,176,280	\$20,130	\$17,629

³ Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources.

Special Education Expenditures: 2018-19

	District		State
	Total (\$)	Percent of Total (%)	Percent of Total (%)
Teacher Salaries	\$6,188,386	31.6	28.5
Instructional Aide Salaries	\$2,312,083	11.8	10.1
Other Salaries	\$1,274,303	6.5	11.1
Employee Benefits	\$2,977,626	15.2	13.0
Purchased Services Other Than Transportation	\$1,833,840	9.4	5.7
Special Education Tuition	\$3,612,699	18.4	22.5
Supplies	\$61,628	0.3	0.6
Property Services	\$17,881	0.1	0.3
Purchased Services For Transportation	\$1,286,760	6.6	8.0
Equipment	\$21,284	0.1	0.2
All Other Expenditures	\$1,500	0.0	0.1
Total	\$19,587,991	100.0	100.0
Percent of Total Expenditures Used for Special Education		20.0	24.6

Expenditures by Revenue Source⁴: 2018-19

	Percent of Total (%)		
	Excluding		
	School		
	Construction		
Local	96.4		
State	2.3		
Federal	1.2		
Tuition & Other	0.2		

⁴ Revenue sources do not include state-funded Teachers' Retirement Board contributions, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) operations, CSDE-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.

NOTE: Due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Connecticut's request for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year was approved. Therefore, no table is shown here. For additional information, please view Connecticut's waiver response at: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/CT-Covid19-WaiverResponse.pdf

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Percent At or Above Proficient¹

	NAEP	NAEP 2013	
READING	Grade 4 Grade 8		Grade 12
Connecticut	40	41	50
National Public	34	32	36
MATH	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 12
Connecticut	45	39	32
National Public	40	33	25

¹ 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 performance on NAEP by student group, click here.

Physical Fitness Tests: Students Reaching Health Standard

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Cohort Graduation: Four-Year¹

	2018-19		
	Cohort Count ² Rate (%		
Black or African American	*	*	
Hispanic or Latino of any race	21	90.5	
English Learners	*	*	
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	16	*	
Students with Disabilities	60	73.3	
District	398	95.5	
State		88.5	

¹ 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

NOTE: Due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Connecticut's request for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year was approved. Therefore, no table is shown here. For additional information, please view Connecticut's waiver response at:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/CT-Covid19-Waiver Response.pdf

College Entrance and Persistence

	Class of 2019	Class of 2018
	Entrance ³	Persistence ⁴
	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
Female	87.6	96.5
Male	94.3	94.3
Black or African American	*	*
Hispanic or Latino of any race	*	85.0
White	91.5	96.0
English Learners	*	*
Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals	*	*
Students with Disabilities	76.4	78.8
District	90.9	95.5
State	71.5	87.5

³ 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

² Cohort count includes all students in the cohort as of the end of the 2018-19 school year.

⁴ 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.

NOTE: Due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Connecticut's request for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year was approved. Therefore, a modified table is shown below. All indicators that were not calculated for the 2019-20 school year (including overall Accountability Index) have been excluded and columns that referenced points have also been removed to avoid confusion. For additional information, please view Connecticut's waiver response at: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/CT-Covid19-WaiverResponse.pdf

Indicator		Index/Rate Target		State Average Index/Rate
Progress Toward English	Literacy	82.2%	100%	60.4%
Proficiency	Oral	70.0%	100%	57.6%
Chronic Absenteeism	All Students	8.5%	<=5%	12.2%
	High Needs Students	16.1%	<=5%	18.0%
Preparation for CCR % Taking Courses		85.4%	75%	80.4%
On-track to High School Graduation		97.5%	94%	88.4%
4-year Graduation All Students (2019 Cohort)		95.5%	94%	88.5%
6-year Graduation - High Needs Students (2017 Cohort)		86.0%	94%	84.5%
Postsecondary Entrance (Class of 2019)		90.8%	75%	71.5%
Arts Access		52.8%	60%	51.8%

NOTE: A dot (.) appears in the table above when there are fewer than 20 students in the student group or the indicator is not applicable based on grades served.

Gap Indicators	Non-High Needs Rate ¹	High Needs Rate	Size of Gap	State Gap Mean +1 Stdev ²	Is Gap an Outlier?2
Graduation Rate Gap	94.0%	86.0%	8.0%	10.9%	N

¹ 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.

NOTE: A dot (.) appears in the table above when there are fewer than 20 students in at least one of the student groups used to calculate the gap measure or the indicator is not applicable based on grades served.

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

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

Performance Index.

NOTE: Due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Connecticut's request for a waiver of statewide assessment, accountability and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year was approved. Therefore, no SIMR data are available. For additional information, please view Connecticut's waiver response at:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/ CT-Covid19-WaiverResponse.pdf

Supporting Resources:

Two-page FAQ

Detailed Presentation

Using Accountability Results to Guide Improvement

² If the size of the gap exceeds the state mean gap plus one standard deviation, the gap is an outlier.

Narratives

School District Improvement Plans and Parental Outreach Activities

The District has been successfully utilizing a variety of parent, student and community outreach tools (primarily "K-12 Insight-Engage" and "Google Forms") to solicit actionable feedback from Stakeholders. This process started before the pandemic, but has been expanded to gather Parent input, make programmatic adjustments and improve communication. In addition, three new websites have been launched from the RPS homepage to assist ALL stakeholders with the reopening of schools: 1) "RPS Reopening Website" (for Students and Parents); 2) "Updates from the Superintendent"; 3) "Teacher Resource Site." In addition, the District created and implemented a Title 1 grants policy (6172.4) that creates annual meetings whereby parents have the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program for the next school year.

Elementary (PreK-5): Some schools also engage in the following: Schools maintain an Instagram account for parents that features learning and events; Student performances at monthly school meetings where grade levels showcase their learning in academics, character education, and integrated arts; Parents and students celebrate learning in order to develop a sense of community and make statements about social issues; We showcase our child centered schools as an outreach with parents; PTAs sponsor a STEM Night to explore Science, Technology and Mathematics; Schools sponsor a Growth Mindset Night for parents in kindergarten and grade one to explore dispositions and research on intrinsic motivation (Carol Dweck, Mindset); Books Bind Us program - A collaboration between literacy and art departments to teach students and parents about the importance of emotional intelligence and self-regulation; At BMES, the culminating activity is a school tapestry representing emotions.

Secondary (6-12): Intentional focus on questioning/discussion strategies to leverage higher order thinking opportunities for students. Focusing on analysis, synthesis, problem-solving and reflection. The recent addition of Math Specialists (grades 6-8) for focused intervention and extension. Creating open, "agenda-less" parent coffees as a platform for parents to come with any questions and concerns. Hosting parent informational evenings on an array of topics; social media awareness, Google Classroom, middle school parent "tool-kit" for incoming grade parents.

Efforts to Reduce Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation

Ridgefield has made a comprehensive commitment to Districtwide professional development for all staff around issues of race, equity, inclusion and gender by utilizing National experts and trainers from True Colors ("Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services"), RE-Center ("Race and Equity in Education") and Gender Spectrum. In addition, Ridgefield has recently implemented RULER, a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) approach from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, at eight (8) of its nine (9) schools.

Elementary School (PreK-5): Every elementary school builds their school climate on the equity based, personal responsibility premises of RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM: Cooperation, Assertion, Respect, Responsibility, Empathy and Self Control. Within the schools, psychologists and teachers provide lessons in social emotional skills and behavior regulation using the Social Thinking and Choose Love materials. We strive to always welcome every child and care for the whole child. Our school and classroom libraries, and instructional practices routinely include multicultural books. Parent meetings, classroom, whole school and District survey results from student, teacher and parent communities help us refine and focus this work.

Confidential financial support for families is provided by the PTAs. The six (6) elementary schools engage in many of the following: Presentations about Integrating Restorative Practices; Presentations and field trips to The Prospector, a local organization whose mission is to support individuals with disabilities; Presentations from My Face, an organization that supports compassion, understanding, and anti-bullying for those that appear different or experience a facial difference; PTA School at home partnership features books that highlight the growth mindset.

Secondary (6-12): We host the Anti-Defamation League for lengthy programs for students and staff: "Step-Up" program promoting "Upstanders" instead of "Bystanders"; "Names Day"; "No One Sits Alone" program in the cafeteria to encourage students to engage with others and check-in with students who may appear to be alone; Social Justice Unit - which has featured a Holocaust survivor (Judith Altman); Advisory Program- An array of topics: Stereotyping, racism, and prejudice.

Equitable Allocation of Resources among District Schools

Over the past two years, Ridgefield has moved to a partial resource allocation based upon student enrollment which provides equity in terms of per student funding. We also use our limited Title I and Title II A funds to provide supplemental activities so that low-income and minority students have greater opportunity to master State standards. Since not all schools receive Title funds, we target those schools that can benefit from the following: Math and ELA tutors, intervention programs in Math and ELA, and professional development to help teachers reach all students. In addition, a common and consistent budget process (schools in partnership with Central Office) helps ensure the following: Staffing based on district guidelines; Instructional & Building Teams work with administration to help develop budgetary needs for all students across all curricular areas; The assignment of SPED personnel based on IEP's.