

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2007-08**Vernon School District**

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Location: 30 Park Street
Vernon,
Connecticut

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This profile was produced by the Connecticut State Department of Education in accordance with CT General Statutes 10-220(c) using data and narratives provided by the school district, testing services, or the US Census. Profiles and additional education data, including longitudinal data, are available on the internet at www.sde.ct.gov.

COMMUNITY DATA

County: Tolland	Per Capita Income in 2000: \$25,150
Town Population in 2000: 28,063	Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: 15.1%
1990-2000 Population Growth: -6.0%	Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: 1.3%
Number of Public Schools: 7	District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: 93.4%

*To view the Adult Education Program Profiles online, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on Adult Education, then Reports.

District Reference Group (DRG): G DRG is a classification of districts whose students' families are similar in education, income, occupation, and need, and that have roughly similar enrollment. The Connecticut State Board of Education approved DRG classification for purposes of reporting data other than student performance.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment on October 1, 2007 3,693
5-Year Enrollment Change -10.7%

DISTRICT GRADE RANGE

Grade Range PK-12

INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

Need Indicator	Number in District	Percent		
		District	DRG	State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	1,021	27.6	31.0	28.7
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	57	1.6	3.1	5.4
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented*	1	0.0	3.3	4.0
PK-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services in District	363	9.8	11.8	11.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	202	73.5	74.1	79.2
Homeless	0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Juniors and Seniors Working 16 or More Hours Per Week	108	22.0	24.8	20.2

*0.0% of the identified gifted and/or talented students received services.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	24	0.6
Asian American	198	5.4
Black	406	11.0
Hispanic	327	8.9
White	2,738	74.1
Total Minority	955	25.9

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 4.0%

Open Choice: 37 students attended this district as part of the Open Choice program. Open Choice brings students from urban areas to attend school in suburban or rural towns, and students from non-urban areas to attend city schools.

Non-English Home Language: 5.9% of this district's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is not the primary language. The number of non-English home languages is 22.

EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

Below is the description submitted by this school of how it provides educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

Schools in Vernon continue to provide a variety of programs and experiences which are designed to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. The administration of the Vernon Public Schools is continually encouraged with the positive response to its efforts provide a variety of programs and experiences which are designed to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. Curriculum initiatives reflect cultural diversity, particularly in the areas of language arts, social studies, and the arts. While the district has been a long time participant in Project Open Choice, and is committed to expanding this participation whenever possible, assuming, of course, that space and resources are available to support this expanded participation. For example, it is our desire to increase the number of seats offered to students at the elementary school level and evidence of this commitment is found by observing that we have enrolled, for the first time, four students in grade three at Lake Street School. The district's schools also participate in sister school partnerships with schools from other communities.

The Vernon Public Schools continue to be a member of the CREC Minority Teacher Recruitment program and actively seek minority applicants for both administrative and teaching positions within the district. Despite these efforts the success in attracting new minority educators has met with somewhat limited success, although it is still a major priority of the district's administrators.

Finally, each of our district's seven schools has maintained efforts to increase the number of learning activities offered to students, which are primarily designed to promote diversity.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % Meeting State Goal. The Goal level is more demanding than the Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards.

Grade and CMT Subject Area	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Grade 3 Reading	48.0	52.0	27.0
Writing	61.6	63.4	28.2
Mathematics	57.5	60.0	27.6
Grade 4 Reading	53.3	55.9	31.0
Writing	64.9	62.9	39.0
Mathematics	50.4	60.3	22.6
Grade 5 Reading	62.7	62.2	31.5
Writing	65.4	64.5	33.3
Mathematics	69.6	65.9	42.6
Science	55.5	54.9	30.2
Grade 6 Reading	66.6	66.3	29.2
Writing	54.0	61.9	22.6
Mathematics	62.9	66.4	26.8
Grade 7 Reading	72.4	71.1	32.3
Writing	57.2	62.0	28.4
Mathematics	57.7	63.0	27.1
Grade 8 Reading	54.5	64.8	18.2
Writing	49.5	63.4	16.4
Mathematics	57.4	60.8	27.7
Science	51.1	58.6	23.9

These results reflect the performance of students with scoreable tests who were enrolled in the district at the time of testing, regardless of the length of time they were enrolled in the district. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

For more detailed CMT results, go to www.ctreports.com.

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Third Generation, % Meeting State Goal. The CAPT is administered to Grade 10 students. The Goal level is more demanding than the state Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards. The following results reflect the performance of students with scoreable tests who were enrolled in the school at the time of testing, regardless of the length of time they were enrolled in the school. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

CAPT Subject Area	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Reading Across the Disciplines	38.7	45.5	31.5
Writing Across the Disciplines	52.1	57.9	26.9
Mathematics	45.3	50.1	30.0
Science	47.0	46.3	39.2

For more detailed CAPT results, go to www.ctreports.com.

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Physical Fitness. The assessment includes tests for flexibility, abdominal strength and endurance, upper-body strength and aerobic endurance.

Physical Fitness: % of Students Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Reaching Standard
	44.0	36.1	69.0

SAT® I: Reasoning Test Class of 2007		District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Scores
% of Graduates Tested		84.2	77.6	
Average Score	Mathematics	489	504	30.8
	Critical Reading	500	502	42.3
	Writing	497	503	36.9

SAT® I. The lowest possible score on each SAT® I subtest is 200; the highest possible score is 800.

Graduation and Dropout Rates	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Less Desirable Rates
Graduation Rate, Class of 2007	94.6	92.6	36.2
Cumulative Four-Year Dropout Rate for Class of 2007	4.0	6.2	38.3
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Grade 9 through 12	1.7	1.7	29.6

Activities of Graduates	District	State
% Pursuing Higher Education (Degree and Non-Degree Programs)	85.7	83.4
% Employed (Civilian Employment and in Armed Services)	12.5	12.3

RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of District Staff	
General Education	
Teachers and Instructors	254.10
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	39.31
Special Education	
Teachers and Instructors	36.50
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	55.20
Library/Media Specialists and Assistants	8.00
Staff Devoted to Adult Education	1.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	
District Central Office	9.30
School Level	12.80
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	7.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	21.70
School Nurses	8.10
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	151.63

In the full-time equivalent (FTE) count, staff members working part-time in the school district are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in the district contributes 0.50 to the district's staff count.

Teachers and Instructors	District	DRG	State
Average Years of Experience in Education	13.4	14.6	13.6
% with Master's Degree or Above	70.5	76.5	75.6

Average Class Size	District	DRG	State
Grade K	18.5	17.1	18.1
Grade 2	18.1	18.2	19.3
Grade 5	18.7	19.9	20.9
Grade 7	17.1	19.7	20.5
High School	20.1	20.4	18.6

Hours of Instruction Per Year*	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School	976	983	987
Middle School	1,004	1,006	1,017
High School	1,004	997	1,006

*State law requires that at least 900 hours of instruction be offered to students in grade 1-12 and full-day kindergarten, and 450 hours to half-day kindergarten students.

Students Per Academic Computer	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School*	4.0	4.3	3.4
Middle School	3.7	3.0	2.7
High School	2.3	3.0	2.7

*Excludes schools with no grades above kindergarten.

DISTRICT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES, 2006-07

Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources. DRG and state figures will not be comparable to the district if the school district does not teach both elementary and secondary students.

Expenditures All figures are unaudited.	Total (in 1000s)	Expenditures Per Pupil			
		District	PK-12 Districts	DRG	State
Instructional Staff and Services	\$27,116	\$7,168	\$7,153	\$7,108	\$7,159
Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$777	\$205	\$262	\$235	\$266
Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services	\$1,431	\$378	\$443	\$365	\$429
Student Support Services	\$2,876	\$760	\$764	\$785	\$761
Administration and Support Services	\$3,721	\$984	\$1,256	\$1,216	\$1,271
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$4,524	\$1,196	\$1,329	\$1,287	\$1,322
Transportation	\$2,300	\$563	\$605	\$613	\$601
Costs for Students Tuitioned Out	\$2,847	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	\$471	\$124	\$147	\$147	\$145
Total	\$46,063	\$11,943	\$12,203	\$12,064	\$12,151
Additional Expenditures					
Land, Buildings, and Debt Service	\$3,406	\$900	\$1,875	\$2,074	\$1,882

Special Education Expenditures	
Total Expenditures	\$10,548,767
Percent of Total PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education	22.9%

Revenue Sources, % of Expenditures from Source. 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 Corrections).

District Expenditures	Local Revenue	State Revenue	Federal Revenue	Tuition & Other
Including School Construction	54.4	41.2	3.2	1.2
Excluding School Construction	57.8	37.6	3.4	1.3

EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AMONG DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Below is the description submitted by this district of how it allocates resources to insure equity and address needs.

For the past several years, the budget appropriation authorized for the Vernon Public Schools significantly challenged the district to maintain its high quality services and programs. The fair and equitable allocation of resources has become a growing challenge, considering dwindling available resources. While multiple budget referenda in our community have resulted in final budget appropriations which are usually far less than what is needed to maintain previously offered programs, the fact that there was only one budget referendum this year is a somewhat encouraging sign. It has been the practice of the Vernon Board of Education and its central office administration that each school in the district should have comparable resources. Needless to say, it must also be recognized that certain factors such as expensive scientific equipment and specialized supply needs at the district's secondary schools are often inherently more expensive. Sufficient funds are budgeted so the students in each class in each school have an adequate supply of paper, pencils, textbooks, supplies, materials and access to technology. Equity in terms of staffing is also maintained based upon the Board of Education class size policy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible	345
Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities	9.5%

Of All K-12 Students for Whom District is Financially Responsible, Number and Percentage with Disabilities				
Disability	Count	District Percent	DRG Percent	State Percent
Autism	22	0.6	0.7	0.7
Learning Disability	101	2.8	3.7	4.0
Intellectual Disability	33	0.9	0.6	0.5
Emotional Disturbance	28	0.8	1.2	1.0
Speech Impairment	89	2.4	2.6	2.4
Other Health Impairment*	52	1.4	2.2	2.1
Other Disabilities**	20	0.5	1.0	0.9
Total	345	9.5	12.1	11.5

*Includes chronic health problems such as attention deficit disorders and epilepsy

**Includes hearing, visual, and orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and developmental delay

Graduation and Dropout Rates of Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible	District	State
% Who Graduated in 2006-07 with a Standard Diploma	77.8	77.2
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Students Aged 14 to 21	4.2	2.8

STATE ASSESSMENTS

Percent of Students with Disabilities Meeting State Goal. The Goal level is more demanding than the Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards. These results are for students attending district schools who participated in the standard assessment with or without accommodations for their disabilities. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

- **Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), Fourth Generation.** The CMT reading, writing and mathematics tests are administered to students in Grades 3 through 8, and the CMT science test to students in Grades 5 and 8.
- **Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), Third Generation.** The CAPT is administered to Grade 10 students.

State Assessment		Students with Disabilities		All Students	
		District	State	District	State
CMT	Reading	13.9	20.4	59.3	62.1
	Writing	14.8	19.3	58.6	63.0
	Mathematics	11.7	22.6	59.3	62.7
	Science	16.3	22.2	53.2	56.8
CAPT	Reading Across the Disciplines	8.7	11.4	38.7	45.5
	Writing Across the Disciplines	4.2	16.3	52.1	57.9
	Mathematics	15.4	14.7	45.3	50.1
	Science	16.0	14.4	47.0	46.3

For more detailed CMT or CAPT results, go to www.ctreports.com. To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Participation in State Assessments of Students with Disabilities Attending District Schools		
CMT	% Without Accommodations	37.7
	% With Accommodations	62.3
CAPT	% Without Accommodations	39.3
	% With Accommodations	60.7
% Assessed Using Skills Checklist		14.9

Accommodations for a student's disability may be made to allow him or her to participate in testing. Students whose disabilities prevent them from taking the test even with accommodations are assessed by means of a list of skills aligned to the same content and grade level standards as the CMT and CAPT.

Federal law requires that students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers as much as is appropriate. Placement in separate educational facilities tends to reduce the chances of students with disabilities interacting with non-disabled peers, and of receiving the same education.

K-12 Students with Disabilities Placed in Educational Settings Other Than This District's Schools		
Placement	Count	Percent
Public Schools in Other Districts	1	0.3
Private Schools or Other Settings	25	7.2

Number and Percentage of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible by the Percentage of Time They Spent with Their Non-Disabled Peers				
Time Spent with Non-Disabled Peers	Count of Students	Percent of Students		
		District	DRG	State
79.1 to 100 Percent of Time	242	70.1	66.9	71.6
40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time	50	14.5	15.0	16.6
0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time	53	15.4	18.1	11.8

SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this district.

The Vernon Public Schools have been most aggressive in developing and implementing School Instructional Plans and a District Improvement Plan based upon the results of student achievement data. The district has fully embraced Connecticut's Accountability for Learning Model based upon the work of Dr. Douglas B. Reeves and the Center for Performance Assessment. The district's improvement plan is in full compliance with the Connecticut's Accountability for Learning Model and is supported by current research and best practice. The District Improvement Plan is reviewed and revised annually. The district recognizes the need to coordinate instruction not only across grade levels but also across its schools. The district also realizes the need to close the gap of achievement between its regular education and special education population. In addition, as a direct response to a recent focused monitoring report intended to decrease the number of students in all disability categories who are suspended or expelled, the district is currently reviewing all administrative practices and procedures.

While the district recently received some disappointing news regarding compliance with NCLB standards, the fact is that the district is extremely proud of its successes regarding student achievement.

As part of its efforts to develop effective school improvement plans, it must be emphasized several times that parent involvement is critical to the success of any such improvement. Our schools have very strong and involved parent groups. To reinforce the value of these relationships, the superintendent and school administrators meet on a regular schedule from leadership from all of these valuable school organizations.

One major emphasis of the Vernon Public Schools has been to work diligently to increase, whenever and wherever possible, the inclusion of all students with disabilities into the regular education classroom. Of course, to support successful inclusion programs, professional development activities have to be offered in order to assist the staff develop and master a varied number of instruction practices. The planning and scheduling of successful professional development activities is quite often, for a variety of reasons, a very challenging task. Recently, teachers and administrators in our community agreed to "pilot" a new schedule for professional development with the hopes of providing more enriching, rewarding and challenging activities. The district also has placed added emphasis to embed professional development activities into daily schedules and responsibilities through professional conversations centered on student performance, study groups, research, coaching and mentoring and data teams to name just a few.
