

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

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Location: 22 Liberty Street  
Meriden,  
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](http://www.sde.ct.gov).

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**COMMUNITY DATA**

County: New Haven	Per Capita Income in 2000: \$20,597
Town Population in 2000: 58,244	Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: 22.8%
1990-2000 Population Growth: -2.1%	Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: 4.4%
Number of Public Schools: 12	District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: 91.3%

\*To view the Adult Education Program Profiles online, go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov) and click on Adult Education, then Reports.

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District Reference Group (DRG): H 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.

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**STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

Enrollment on October 1, 2007	8,815
5-Year Enrollment Change	0.8%

**DISTRICT GRADE RANGE**

Grade Range	PK-12
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**INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED**

Need Indicator	Number in District	Percent		
		District	DRG	State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	4,923	55.8	41.8	28.7
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	951	11.2	12.0	5.4
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented*	351	4.0	4.2	4.0
PK-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services in District	1,218	13.8	11.2	11.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	546	83.9	76.8	79.2
Homeless	14	0.2	0.2	0.2
Juniors and Seniors Working 16 or More Hours Per Week	195	19.2	23.3	20.2

\*43.0% of the identified gifted and/or talented students received services.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	18	0.2
Asian American	192	2.2
Black	1,157	13.1
Hispanic	3,753	42.6
White	3,695	41.9
Total Minority	5,120	58.1

**Percent of Minority Professional Staff:** 9.4%

**Non-English Home Language:** 30.0% 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 35.

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### EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

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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.

The socio-economic make-up of the Meriden Public Schools provides our students a rich and diverse environment. However, the school system recognizes the value of having our students interact with youngsters from other towns as a means of helping reduce the racial, ethnic and economic isolation that occurs in our state. In addition to many activities that occur in our individual schools, such as field trips, pen pals, and sister school arrangements, academic competition and student participation in state and national conventions, the Meriden schools on a district level participate in an inter-district magnet school.

Thomas Edison Middle School, a magnet school with a science/technology theme, was opened in September 2001. Edison Middle School is the result of a partnership with Middletown, Madison and Regional 13, and functions under the management of the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES). This school provides the opportunity for students from these towns to interact; it also provides an opportunity for staff to work with colleagues from other towns. At this point, Thomas Edison accepts 600 Meriden students and 200 students from our partner towns.

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## 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	31.5	52.0	6.7
Writing	50.1	63.4	10.4
Mathematics	38.1	60.0	7.4
Grade 4 Reading	37.2	55.9	8.9
Writing	45.4	62.9	6.9
Mathematics	46.9	60.3	16.4
Grade 5 Reading	41.2	62.2	9.3
Writing	44.8	64.5	8.6
Mathematics	47.0	65.9	10.5
Science	27.7	54.9	8.6
Grade 6 Reading	44.1	66.3	7.1
Writing	41.0	61.9	9.5
Mathematics	43.6	66.4	7.7
Grade 7 Reading	50.5	71.1	10.3
Writing	43.6	62.0	11.6
Mathematics	40.3	63.0	11.0
Grade 8 Reading	40.5	64.8	8.8
Writing	38.7	63.4	7.5
Mathematics	31.6	60.8	6.3
Science	30.9	58.6	10.1

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](http://www.ctreports.com).

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://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	22.9	45.5	11.5
Writing Across the Disciplines	30.5	57.9	8.5
Mathematics	25.7	50.1	13.1
Science	23.4	46.3	10.8

For more detailed CAPT results, go to [www.ctreports.com](http://www.ctreports.com).

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://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
	25.4	36.1	15.5

SAT® I: Reasoning Test Class of 2007		District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Scores
% of Graduates Tested		66.8	77.6	
Average Score	Mathematics	463	504	18.5
	Critical Reading	477	502	22.3
	Writing	479	503	21.5

**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	92.0	92.6	23.1
Cumulative Four-Year Dropout Rate for Class of 2007	5.8	6.2	27.1
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Grade 9 through 12	2.1	1.7	20.7

Activities of Graduates	District	State
% Pursuing Higher Education (Degree and Non-Degree Programs)	75.3	83.4
% Employed (Civilian Employment and in Armed Services)	13.8	12.3

## RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

### DISTRICT STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of District Staff	
General Education	
Teachers and Instructors	526.10
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	46.50
Special Education	
Teachers and Instructors	94.20
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	131.00
Library/Media Specialists and Assistants	12.33
Staff Devoted to Adult Education	1.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	
District Central Office	15.00
School Level	25.00
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	11.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	37.60
School Nurses	12.00
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	357.43

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	14.2	13.7	13.6
% with Master's Degree or Above	65.9	75.1	75.6

Average Class Size	District	DRG	State
Grade K	17.3	18.8	18.1
Grade 2	20.5	19.2	19.3
Grade 5	21.3	19.8	20.9
Grade 7	21.1	19.0	20.5
High School	20.1	21.3	18.6

Hours of Instruction Per Year*	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School	944	972	987
Middle School	982	1,003	1,017
High School	945	990	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*	3.6	3.1	3.4
Middle School	2.6	2.7	2.7
High School	4.0	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	\$59,150	\$6,675	\$7,153	\$7,736	\$7,159
Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$2,034	\$229	\$262	\$256	\$266
Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services	\$1,459	\$165	\$443	\$355	\$429
Student Support Services	\$7,882	\$889	\$764	\$772	\$761
Administration and Support Services	\$11,118	\$1,255	\$1,256	\$1,325	\$1,271
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$12,501	\$1,411	\$1,329	\$1,209	\$1,322
Transportation	\$4,675	\$465	\$605	\$542	\$601
Costs for Students Tuitioned Out	\$11,171	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	\$806	\$91	\$147	\$83	\$145
<b>Total</b>	\$110,796	\$11,501	\$12,203	\$12,324	\$12,151
<b>Additional Expenditures</b>					
Land, Buildings, and Debt Service	\$4,536	\$512	\$1,875	\$1,429	\$1,882

Special Education Expenditures	
Total Expenditures	\$26,203,507
Percent of Total PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education	23.7%

**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	46.4	48.6	4.6	0.4
Excluding School Construction	47.4	47.5	4.7	0.4

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**EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AMONG DISTRICT SCHOOLS**


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

The Meriden Board of Education takes great care to equitably allocate resources among the district schools. Resources for such areas as ongoing supplies and texts are distributed to schools on a per pupil basis. Major text adoptions are done on a district wide basis so all schools get adequate materials. Professional and support personnel are allocated based on enrollment projections. In addition, class sizes are monitored closely during the first few weeks of school and adjustments are made to compensate for the errors inherent in enrollment projections. Finally, the Office of Associate Superintendent maintains an emergency account that ensures all schools have necessary materials in cases where the building budget is unable to meet needs. The size of a building determines resource allocations for custodial supplies and manpower, and the age and condition of buildings are used to determine the priority list for major improvements and repairs.

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible	1,324
Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities	14.2%

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<b>Of All K-12 Students for Whom District is Financially Responsible, Number and Percentage with Disabilities</b>				
<b>Disability</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>District Percent</b>	<b>DRG Percent</b>	<b>State Percent</b>
Autism	64	0.7	0.6	0.7
Learning Disability	464	5.0	4.1	4.0
Intellectual Disability	61	0.7	0.5	0.5
Emotional Disturbance	125	1.3	0.9	1.0
Speech Impairment	225	2.4	2.4	2.4
Other Health Impairment*	258	2.8	1.8	2.1
Other Disabilities**	127	1.4	1.2	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>

\*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

<b>Graduation and Dropout Rates of Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>
% Who Graduated in 2006-07 with a Standard Diploma	78.6	77.2
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Students Aged 14 to 21	4.3	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	8.0	20.4	40.3	62.1
	Writing	10.3	19.3	44.3	63.0
	Mathematics	10.5	22.6	41.7	62.7
	Science	7.5	22.2	29.0	56.8
CAPT	Reading Across the Disciplines	1.3	11.4	22.9	45.5
	Writing Across the Disciplines	3.8	16.3	30.5	57.9
	Mathematics	5.1	14.7	25.7	50.1
	Science	5.1	14.4	23.4	46.3

For more detailed CMT or CAPT results, go to [www.ctreports.com](http://www.ctreports.com). To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://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	27.8
	% With Accommodations	72.2
CAPT	% Without Accommodations	27.1
	% With Accommodations	72.9
% Assessed Using Skills Checklist		11.3

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	40	3.0
Private Schools or Other Settings	145	11.0

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	951	71.8	69.8	71.6
40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time	151	11.4	15.8	16.6
0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time	222	16.8	14.4	11.8

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES**

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The following narrative was submitted by this district.

The Meriden Public School System is committed to an ambitious school improvement process that uses a formal examination of data to drive the development of curriculum, assessments, and professional development with the single focus of improving student learning. The district is in the process of revising the district language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies curriculum and is committed to having the highest of expectations for all students.

Meriden has developed an assessment system that incorporates various assessments tools, including the Meriden District Assessments (MDA), as a means of tracking student performance. Assessments are conducted regularly throughout the school year and school-based data teams examine the assessment data with the purpose of identifying areas where improvement is needed, as well as areas where significant progress has been made. School improvement plans are data-based and reflect the needs identified through the data analysis process with the ultimate goal of improving learning for all students.

In addition to these efforts, Meriden is also piloting a 9th grade teaming model as a means of reducing student failure in grade nine which may lead to students dropping out of school. Each high school has a team of four content area teachers (English, Math, Science and Social Studies) who collaborate with each other and a reading consultant regularly. The teams have been trained in how to examine student work as a means of identifying how instruction can be improved and in strategies for effective teaming.

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