

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2010-11**New Fairfield School District**

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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: Fairfield
 Town Population in 2000: 13,953
 1990-2000 Population Growth: 8.1%
 Number of Public Schools: 4

Per Capita Income in 2000: \$34,928
 Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: 7.5%
 Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: 0.7%
 District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: 96.1%

*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): B 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, 2010 2,919
 5-Year Enrollment Change -6.7%

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	264	9.0	8.4	34.1
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	20	0.7	2.0	5.6
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented*	138	4.7	6.4	4.0
PK-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services in District	334	11.4	10.1	11.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	132	94.3	91.3	80.2
Homeless	0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Juniors and Seniors Working 16 or More Hours Per Week	47	11.6	12.1	13.2

*73.2 % of the identified gifted and/or talented students received services.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	5	0.2
Asian American	76	2.6
Black	44	1.5
Hispanic	151	5.2
Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	2,641	90.5
Two or more races	2	0.1
Total Minority	278	9.5

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 1.6%

Non-English Home Language:

0.7% 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 6.

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.

The New Fairfield Public Schools on both a districtwide and schoolwide basis continue to make efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation. These efforts include using grants and local resources. At Consolidated School (PreK-2), we teach students to respect and value people of all colors, abilities, ages, nationalities and religions. We look for opportunities to develop an awareness of people and customs from around the world in order to benefit from the wisdom and experience of others. Special area educators teach students about the art, music, literature and recreational choices of different cultures. Meeting House Hill School (3-5) is a community that welcomes parental involvement in their child's educational experience and academic development. The entire staff is committed to working closely with the community and providing a wide variety of opportunities for our parents. Administration reaches out to educate community members by writing monthly newsletters that are focused around educating parents on curriculum, instruction, and childhood development. The PTO meets monthly to discuss how funds can be allocated through mini-grants and gifts to the school so that tools such as Child's Play, High Touch-High Tech, and author visits can enrich the students' education. At New Fairfield Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12), motivational speaker Ed Gerety discussed the importance of honoring and celebrating each person's individual strengths, interests, and talents. Through developmental guidance classes at each grade level of the middle school, the topics of stereotyping, bias, discrimination, and bullying were addressed. The world language department sponsored a cultural heritage day and some students also visited the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the United Nations. At New Fairfield High School students participate in a variety of traditional cocurricular club and sports activities, including a number of state and national competitions. These activities—State Latin Day, DECA and FBLA state and national competitions, Model United Nations conferences at Yale and Cornell—expose the students to a diverse group of young people. Students participated in Virtual High School (VHS), taking semester or yearlong courses, interacting with and learning from students throughout the country and around the world. In addition, New Fairfield High School held its annual Day of Silence sponsored by Students and Teachers Advocating Respect and Tolerance (START). The mission of the high school includes the expectation that every student every year will have the opportunity to understand varying opinions, diverse beliefs, and cultural differences. Student groups at all schools also participated in various fundraisers throughout the year to support local charities and non-profit groups. All schools also participated in the town-wide event, Building Bridges, an event in its second year, with the purpose of increasing cultural awareness while enjoying time spent together as a community.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % 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	<p>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.</p> <p>For more detailed CMT results, go to www.ctreports.com.</p> <p>To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."</p>
Grade 3 Reading	64.9	58.4	48.1	
Writing	75.3	61.1	68.3	
Mathematics	75.9	63.0	70.2	
Grade 4 Reading	72.7	62.5	57.1	
Writing	79.1	65.5	65.9	
Mathematics	86.1	67.0	83.5	
Grade 5 Reading	67.2	61.4	45.4	
Writing	72.9	66.8	44.8	
Mathematics	78.9	72.5	49.7	
Science	80.4	59.9	77.9	
Grade 6 Reading	84.6	76.0	52.4	
Writing	85.8	65.2	89.3	
Mathematics	87.8	71.3	75.6	
Grade 7 Reading	90.0	77.8	73.9	
Writing	81.4	58.9	86.7	
Mathematics	85.0	68.4	73.7	
Grade 8 Reading	83.9	74.7	52.9	
Writing	71.5	64.8	42.7	
Mathematics	83.9	66.6	73.2	
Science	76.2	63.1	52.9	

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 scorable 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	<p>For more detailed CAPT results, go to www.ctreports.com.</p> <p>To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."</p>
Reading Across the Disciplines	59.8	44.7	68.9	
Writing Across the Disciplines	82.5	61.2	83.5	
Mathematics	61.1	49.5	62.4	
Science	67.7	47.0	78.9	

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
	65.2	51.0	79.9

SAT® I: Reasoning Test Class of 2010		District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Scores
% of Graduates Tested		76.7	70.6	
Average Score	Mathematics	534	510	70.2
	Critical Reading	534	505	73.3
	Writing	531	510	68.7

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, Adjusted Cohort Rate 2010	92.8	81.8	78.6
2009-10 Annual Dropout Rate for Grade 9 through 12	0.2	2.8	85.6

Activities of Graduates	District	State
% Pursuing Higher Education (Degree and Non-Degree Programs)	88.9	84.8
% Employed (Civilian Employment and in Armed Services)	6.1	9.1

RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of School Staff	
General Education	
Teachers and Instructors	178.10
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	26.00
Special Education	
Teachers and Instructors	30.90
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	46.50
Library/Media Specialists and/or Assistants	5.00
Staff Devoted to Adult Education	0.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	
District Central Office	4.00
School Level	12.00
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	1.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	16.14
School Nurses	4.00
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	105.80

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	15.0	14.4	13.9
% with Master's Degree or Above	80.9	86.1	79.0

Average Class Size	District	DRG	State
Grade K	14.0	17.5	18.4
Grade 2	18.4	19.8	19.9
Grade 5	22.3	22.1	21.2
Grade 7	19.7	21.3	20.6
High School	22.7	20.2	19.3

Hours of Instruction Per Year*	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School	1,004	992	992
Middle School	1,008	1,019	1,017
High School	1,000	987	1,010

*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*	3.1	3.1	3.1
Middle School	2.9	2.3	2.4
High School	2.5	2.5	2.2

*Excludes schools with no grades above kindergarten.

DISTRICT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES, 2009-10

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	\$21,527	\$7,107	\$8,232	\$7,924	\$8,237
Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$845	\$279	\$299	\$277	\$300
Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services	\$984	\$325	\$477	\$512	\$463
Student Support Services	\$2,756	\$910	\$875	\$936	\$872
Administration and Support Services	\$4,005	\$1,322	\$1,433	\$1,373	\$1,459
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$3,480	\$1,149	\$1,421	\$1,384	\$1,410
Transportation	\$1,407	\$469	\$701	\$623	\$692
Costs for Students Tuitioned Out	\$807	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	\$507	\$167	\$161	\$162	\$159
Total	\$36,318	\$12,054	\$13,878	\$13,518	\$13,780
Additional Expenditures					
Land, Buildings, and Debt Service	\$2,289	\$756	\$1,622	\$1,178	\$1,616

Special Education Expenditures	District Total	Percent of PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education		
		District	DRG	State
	\$7,366,831	20.3	20.5	21.5

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	82.7	12.2	4.0	1.1
Excluding School Construction	83.0	11.6	4.2	1.1

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.

The Board of Education believes that at all times the schools should be well equipped, appropriately staffed, and properly maintained using the existing financial resources. Each school, beginning at the teacher level, is required to submit an annual budget request to the Principal and then to the Superintendent of Schools. Principals and district administrators are charged with the responsibility of addressing students' needs while preparing their school or department requests. Individual meetings are held with central office personnel to determine budgetary priorities. Additional meetings are conducted with the administrative council to prioritize district needs and to ensure that the allocation of resources spread across all schools and programs is equitable. Before the Superintendent's budget is finalized the Superintendent meets with the administrative council to discuss any impact to schools and programs. The Superintendent prepares an annual budget for consideration by the Board of Education. Many workshops are conducted as the Board examines the budget recommendations to ensure that all programs and departments are treated equitably. After approval of the Board of Education the process continues to the Board of Finance and the budget is voted on by the taxpayers at referendum. New Fairfield has been a community that has received tremendous legislative and community support with grants, bonding for school projects, and contributions that have helped support growth throughout the district.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible	297
Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities	10.5%

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	18	0.6	1.2	1.1
Learning Disability	108	3.8	3.3	3.9
Intellectual Disability	5	0.2	0.3	0.4
Emotional Disturbance	17	0.6	0.5	1.0
Speech Impairment	51	1.8	1.8	2.2
Other Health Impairment*	64	2.3	2.2	2.1
Other Disabilities**	34	1.2	0.7	0.9
Total	297	10.5	10.0	11.6

*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 2009-10 with a Standard Diploma	89.3	62.5
2009-10 Annual Dropout Rate for Students Aged 14 to 21	N/A	3.9

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	28.4	33.0	78.1	68.6
	Writing	25.8	19.3	77.7	63.7
	Mathematics	30.9	33.4	83.2	68.2
	Science	20.9	21.2	78.0	61.5
CAPT	Reading Across the Disciplines	14.3	14.1	59.8	44.7
	Writing Across the Disciplines	42.3	17.3	82.5	61.2
	Mathematics	16.7	15.8	61.1	49.5
	Science	29.6	13.1	67.7	47.0

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	5.8
	% With Accommodations	94.2
CAPT	% Without Accommodations	14.8
	% With Accommodations	85.2
% Assessed Using Skills Checklist		4.9

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	0	0.0
Private Schools or Other Settings	3	1.0

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	233	78.5	78.0	74.1
40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time	61	20.5	14.9	14.9
0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time	3	1.0	7.1	11.0

SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this district.

Each of the New Fairfield Public Schools' principals and district administrators are required to submit a school/department improvement plan that includes steps to improve student achievement. This document is the basis of the administrator's annual evaluation by the Superintendent of Schools. The district three-to-five year goal was updated in the fall of 2009 to ensure continuous improvement and measurable achievement for all students through implementation of Response to Instruction (RtI)/Scientifically Research-Based Instruction (SRBI). A districtwide RtI/SRBI committee including parents, teachers, and administrators guided the district's third year of implementation. In an effort to raise student achievement, our staff has continued to function as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to ensure that ALL of our students achieve high levels of learning, that we focus on student academic results by using relevant data and information to promote continuous improvement, and that we create a collaborative culture through high-performing teams. Our Reading Consultant works with Consolidated School staff to increase benchmarks in language arts for K-2nd grade. In kindergarten, on the June assessment, 82% of our students read at Level 4 C or better. Eighty-one percent of our first graders were reading at the DRA benchmark of Level J or better on the end-of-the-year assessment. Our second graders excelled this year, with 86% reading at or above the DRA benchmark of Level M. Eighty-three percent of the first graders scored 80% or higher on the end-of-the-year math common formative assessment. Eighty-six percent of the second graders scored 80% or higher on the spring math test. Our PLC teams meet weekly to assess student progress, to analyze data, and to plan specialized instruction. Meeting House Hill School (grades 3-5) is undergoing a twenty-eight million dollar building renovation project to provide a complete renovation to the school. PLCs and grade level data discussions provided dedicated time to discuss improvements in all academic areas, and a master schedule change brought increased literacy instructional time. Use of Blue Ribbon, a midyear DRP, and DRA2 assessments assisted the staff in maintaining focus on achievement. At the middle school our RtI initiative continued for all grades and subjects. In August, teams reviewed 2010 CMT data and identified students needing remediation or enrichment. In September, all students took the reading, math, and language arts sections of NWEA, and teams met with the principal to develop SMART Goals and Action Plans for each student who fell below goal in reading, writing, and/or math on the 2010 CMT and/or whose NWEA scores were of concern. Goals and plans were implemented by October through use of differentiated instruction and/or small focused skills groups held before or after school or during X-time. Enrichment was provided by Unified Arts and World Language teachers during X-time. NWEA was administered again in January, and then goals and plans were revised. Transition goals and plans were written in June based on NWEA results from the June administration. Language! and Lexia remedial reading programs were used for struggling readers. Safety Web, an alternative education program for regular and special education students, helped those students struggling to attain grade level skills to meet academic expectations for organizational, social/emotional, and/or behavioral reasons. Staff also trained in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which will be fully implemented in 2011-2012. At New Fairfield High School the goal of the high school is in alignment with the district, to continue implementing the principles of RtI. A nearly five million dollar renovation of the science wing was completed to start the school year. State-of-the-art science lab technology in all rooms includes new lighting and ventilation systems to benefit students. Data teams worked to improve instruction and student achievement. Twenty-two new computers assist teachers to implement improvement plans. The world language department continued to use an iPod language lab. New Fairfield's state-of-the-art Wellness Center includes TechnoGym equipment with software to individualize instruction. The senior capstone continues to thrive, offering students the opportunity to participate in the Senior Enrichment Experience (SEE). Students completed community service projects, embarked on entrepreneurial ventures, were interns in public and private organizations, and chose internships as teacher assistants. All schools are committed to providing a broad spectrum of programs and support services to address student needs.
