## GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GROTON, CONNECTICUT

(\*Attachments are available upon request from the Superintendent's Office.)

### Committee of the Whole

**September 15, 2015** 

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Groton Board of Education was held on September 15, 2015 in multipurpose room of Charles Barnum School.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kim Watson, Board Chairperson, at 6:02 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

### **ABSENT**

Mrs. Kim Shepardson Watson, Chairperson

Mrs. Rita Volkmann, Vice Chairperson

Dr. Andrea Ackerman

Mrs. Katrina Fitzgerald

Ms. Mary Kelly

Mr. Jay Weitlauf

Mrs. Lee White

Mrs. Patricia Doyle Mrs. Elizabeth Gianacoplos

Dr. Michael Graner, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Michael Emery, Director of Teaching and Learning

Mr. Samuel Kilpatrick, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Joseph Arcarese, Principal, Fitch High School

Mr. Sean McKenna, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School

Mr. Adam Diskin, Dean of Students, Fitch High School

Ms. Erin McGuire, Assistant Principal, Fitch High School

### 1. Tour of Charles Barnum asbestos removal project

Mr. Kilpatrick took the Board on a tour of the asbestos removal project at Charles Barnum School.

### 2. Approval of minutes of August 10, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. Volkmann to approve the minutes of August 10, 2015.

### **PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3. SBAC results [ATTACHMENT #1 & 2]

Mr. Arcarese gave a PowerPoint presentation of FHS Standardized Data. Mr. Arcarese introduced Adam Diskin, the new Dean of Students at FHS.

The Board requested that Mr. Arcarese come back in December to give an update on the data.

Committee of the Whole September 15, 2015 Page 2

Dr. Graner and Mr. Emery gave a PowerPoint presentation on the SBAC results.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that the Board have further discussion at a COW on the SBAC results.

Dr. Ackerman requested research on teacher expectations of the students.

## 4. Discussion of the Board Meeting Template [ATTACHMENT #3]

Dr. Graner presented the Board Meeting Template and explained its purpose. He suggested that Board members review the template and forward any suggestions for inclusion to him.

The Board suggested that the Board hold its evaluation of itself at the Board Retreat.

It was suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be convened to update the Groton Yardstick.

## 5. Substitute Teacher follow-up [ATTACHMENT #4]

Ms. Austin reviewed the survey of teacher absences that she and Mrs. LePine generated. She noted that several categories needed further revision because they did not clearly indicate the absence. Ms. Austin stated that an Action Plan is being developed to better report absences for certified staff.

## 6. Technology Update [ATTACHMENT #5]

Ms. Austin reported:

- Middle school teachers have their laptops;
- ➤ Chrome Books 80% have been distributed; FHS teachers will be meeting with the Freshmen;
- > State Technology Grant waiting for information regarding funds to purchase computers for 11th graders;
- ➤ Promethean 46 have been installed;
- The Policy document will be on the website;
- > The new Pentamation has been rolled out and payroll occurred last week;
- There are new printers in the classroom laser black.

## 7. Discussion regarding a district Grant Writer

Dr. Graner explained the process of getting the grant writer, Shannon Weigle, for the DoD Grant. He explained the need for a grant writer or a communication coordinator. Ms. Weigle provided a job description for a grant writer which he will tweek and suggested calling the position a Freelance Grant Writer.

The Board was in favor of this position. It was suggested that this item be placed on the next Board agenda for a vote.

### 8. Review of Referral List

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Mrs. Fitzgerald referred to her suggestion that a representative from CABE (Patrice McCarthy) be invited to meet with the Board to discuss pending bills and their impact on Groton.

It was suggested that this occur after elections in November.

Mrs. Fitzgerald requested that the minutes from sub committees be placed in Board packets.

**REMOVED** – R2015-48 Longitudinal study of substitutes

## 9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Ackerman and seconded by Mrs. White to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

**PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY** 

# FHS STANDARDIZED DATA REVIEW

COMMITTEE OF WHOLE MEETING **BOARD OF EDUCATION** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

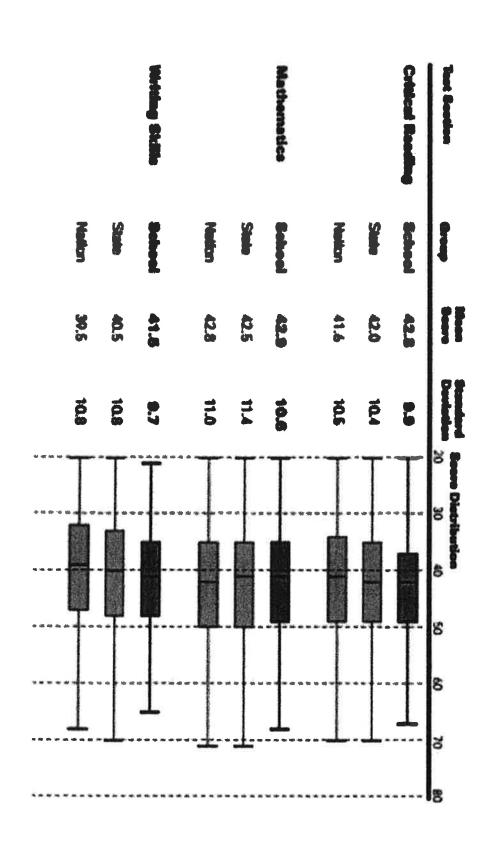
## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Data: CAPT, PSAT, SAT, AP & IB
- Next Level of Work

## **COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS** THE COLLEGE BOARD DATA &

- The College Board offers the following standardized tests:
- PSAT
- SAT
- AP

## **10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PSAT RESULTS** 2014



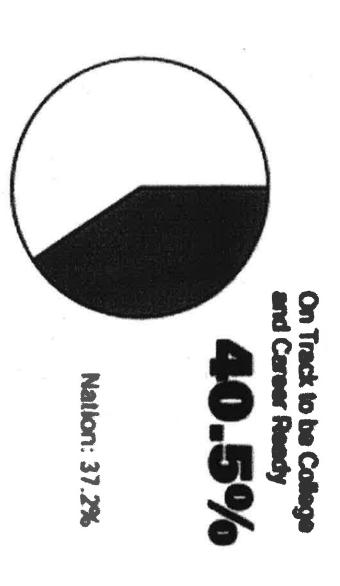
## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS COLLEGE BOARD BENCHMARK

THIS DATA BENCHMARK IS SET BY THE COLLEGE SUCCESSFUL IN COLLEGE AND IN CAREER **KNOWLEDGE THAT RESEARCH DICTATES** STUDENTS SHOULD POSSESS TO BE **BOARD BASED ON THE SKILLS AND** 

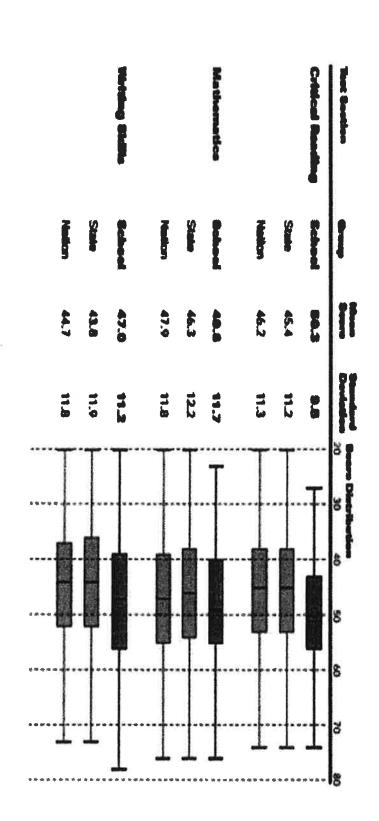
## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE "COLLEGE AND CAREER READY" **10TH GRADE PSAT SCORES** 3 YEAR OVERVIEW

26.4%	2012
35.4%	2013
40.5%	2014

## **10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PSAT RESULTS** 2014



## **GRADE PSAT RESULTS** 2014



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PSAT RESULTS



## SAT RESULTS

497
494
000
500
2014 FHS

## AP TEST RESULTS

		% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	AP Students With Scores 3+	Number of Exams	Total AP Students		% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	Scores 3+	Number of Exams	Total AP Students		
		74.3	20,3/1	50,148	27,435		53.6	90	295	179	Rob	2011
		74.7	21,999	54,281	29,458		51.2	TUS	365	201	ert E Fitch S	2012
		74.8	23,144	57,057	30,924	Connecticut	45.7	86	332	188	Robert E Fitch Senior High School (070435)	2013
		74.4	23,944	59,358	32,202		54.5	0.1.1	377	202	school (070	2014
		72.7	24,638	62,873	33,883		56.5	113	409	200	435)	2015

## **IB PARTICIPATION RATES**

2014

8 diploma candidates

73 students occupying 93 seats

2015

10 diploma candidates

79 students occupying 138 seats

## IB TEST RESULTS 7 point scale

SCC	7	6	5	4	ω	2	1
SCORE							
							esti di
ALL	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing			
ALL TESTS	ing	ing	ing	ing			
S							
						*	

# **AVERAGE SCORES SUMMARY, 2013**

SUBJECT	FHS AVERAGE SCORES	WORLD WIDE AVERAGE SCORES
English HL	4.11	4.78
Spanish SL	6.20	5.10
French SL	5.56	4.99
History of Americas HL	4.36	4.11
ITGS SL	5.00	4.45
Biology HL	3.17	4.35
Biology SL	4.40	4.29
Math Studies SL	5.20	4.65
Math HL	2.50	4.41
Visual Arts HL	4.40	4.84

# **AVERAGE SCORES SUMMARY, 2014**

SUBJECT	FHS AVERAGE SCORES	WORLD WIDE AVERAGE SCORES
English HL	4.83	4.78
Spanish SL	6.00	5.05
French SL	5.57	4.93
History of Americas HL	4.17	4.10
ITGS SL	5.25	4.30
Biology HL	4.00	4.32
Biology SL	4.13	4.27
Chemistry HL	2.33	4.53
Chemistry SL	3.00	4.01
Math Studies SL	5.33	4.52
Math HL	2.28	4.42
Visual Arts SL	4.50	4.88
Theater Arts HL	4.00	4.78

# **AVERAGE SCORES SUMMARY, 2015**

SUBJECT	FHS AVERAGE SCORES	WORLD WIDE AVERAGE SCORES
English HL	5.67	4.75
Spanish SL	6.20	5.03
French SL	5,50	4.89
History of Americas HL	4.50	4.21
ITGS SL	5.00	4.44
Psychology SL	2.67	4.37
Biology HL	4.17	4.35
Biology SL	4.50	4.25
Chemistry SL	2.50	4.05
Math Studies SL	4.29	4.449
Math HL	2.67	4.43
Visual Arts SL	3.5	4.58

## **NEXT LEVEL OF WORK**

- Continued implementation of NUA instructional strategies
- Re-organization of the high school
- Teacher Looping: AP, IB, & UCONN, select subjects
- Professional Development

## **NEXT LEVEL OF WORK**

- Continued Teacher Collaboration
- School-wide data team to analyze SAT, PSAT,
- & IB data
- Elimination of foundation courses
- SRBI: READ 180 & ST Math
- Encourage all students to take our most rigorous courses; honors, AP, IB and UCONN



OB.

## Groton SBAC Overview

# **SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT: NEW TEST. NEW RESULTS**

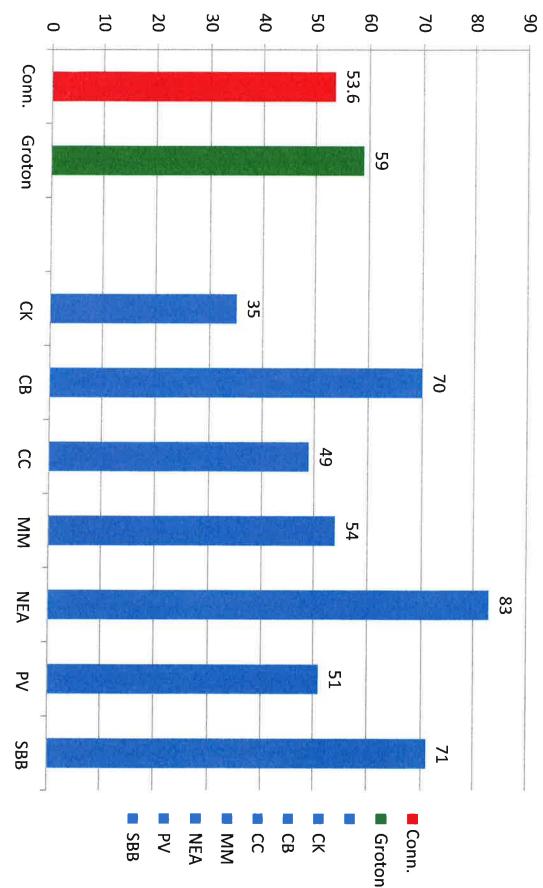
Scoring (continued)

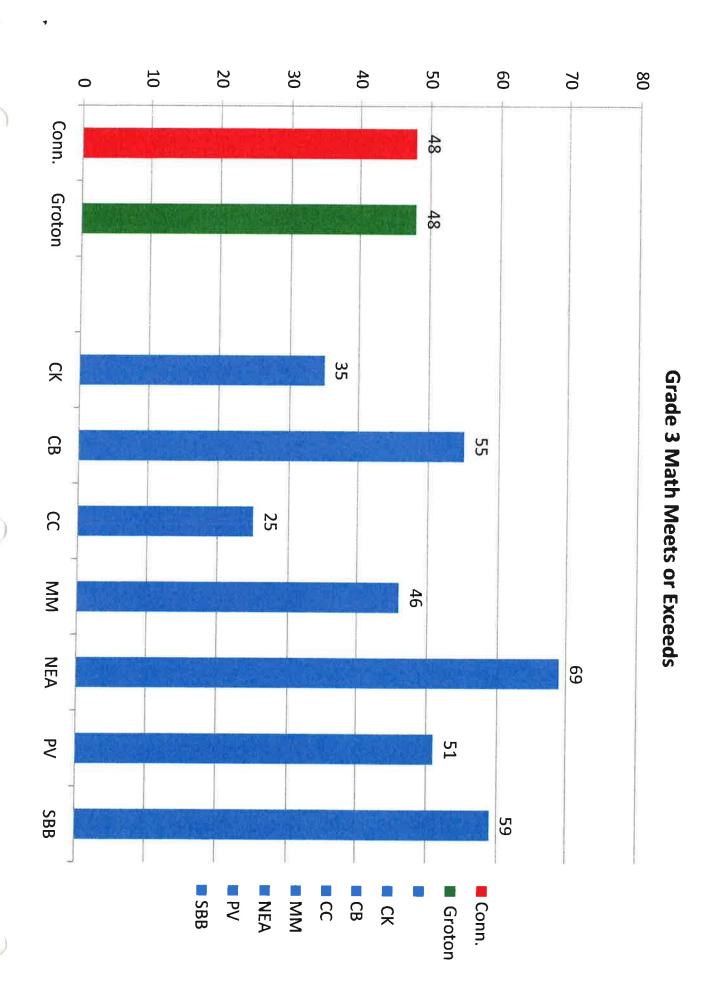
expected Level 2 = Approaching the achievement level Level 1 = Does not meet the achievement level

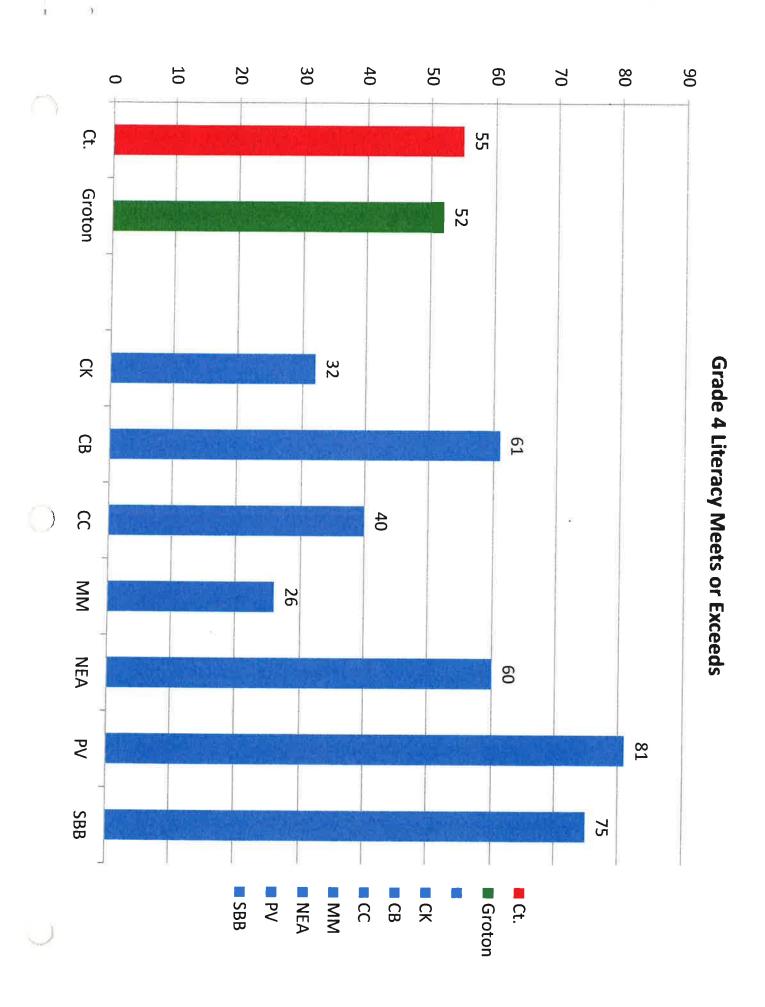
Level 3 = Meets the achievement level expected Level 4 = Exceeds the achievement level expected

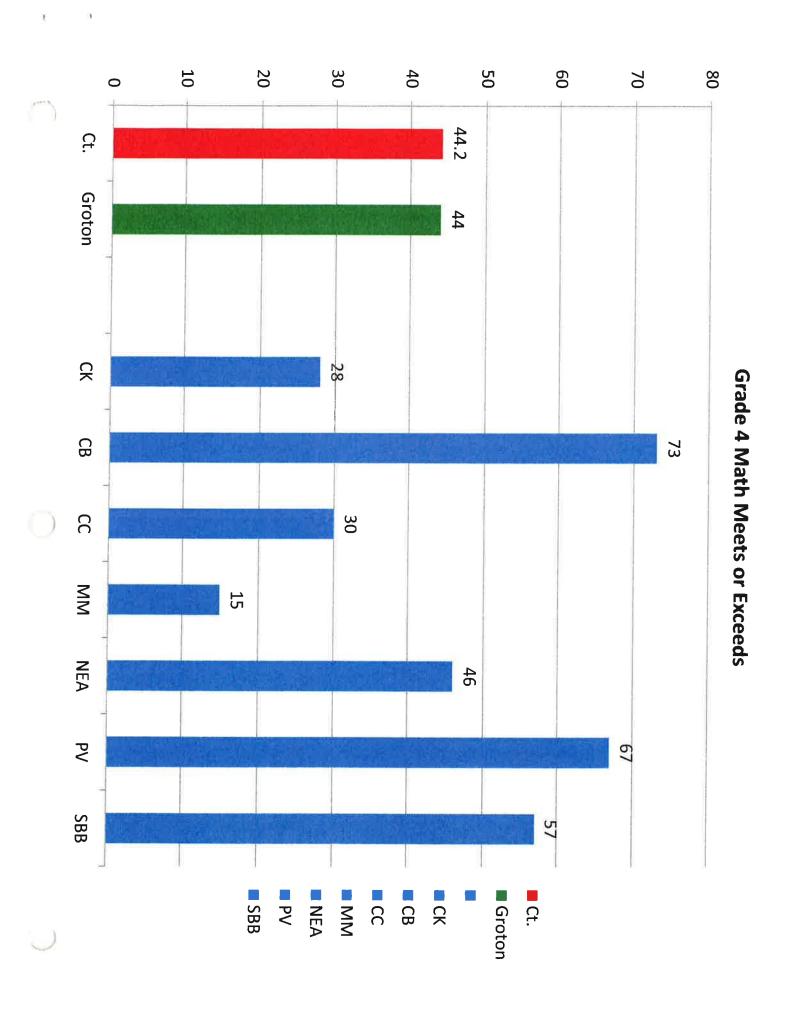
Note: These achievement levels have absolutely no relationship to CMT/CAPT achievement levels used previously.

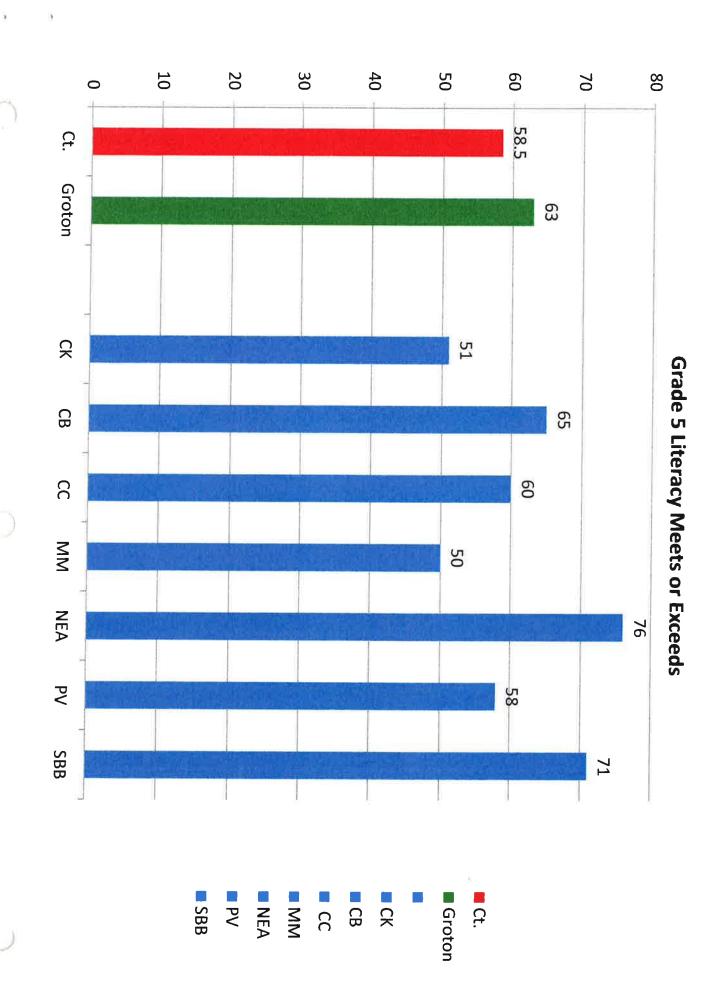
Grade 3 Literacy Meets or Exceeds



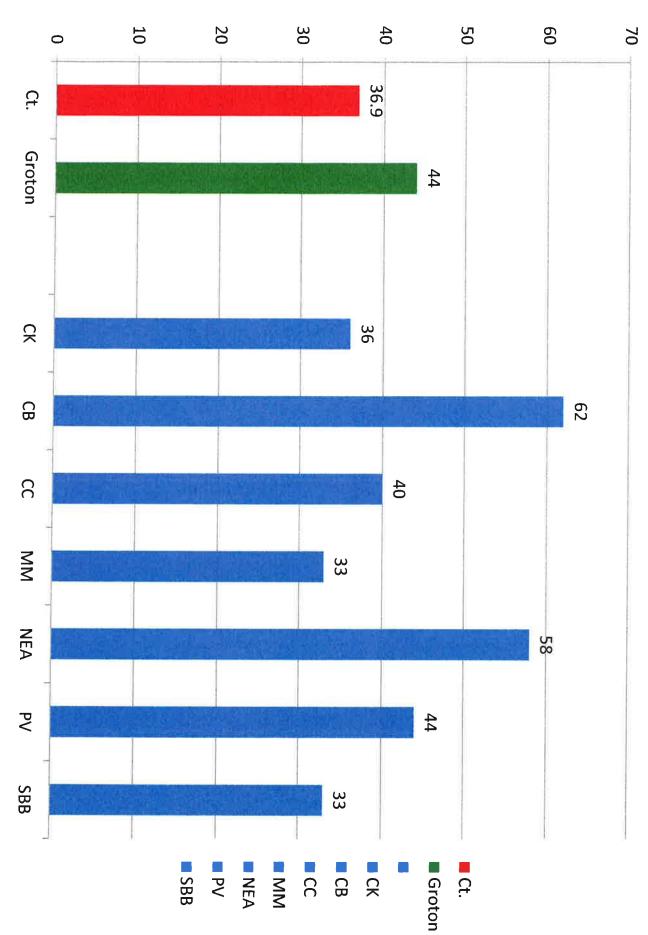




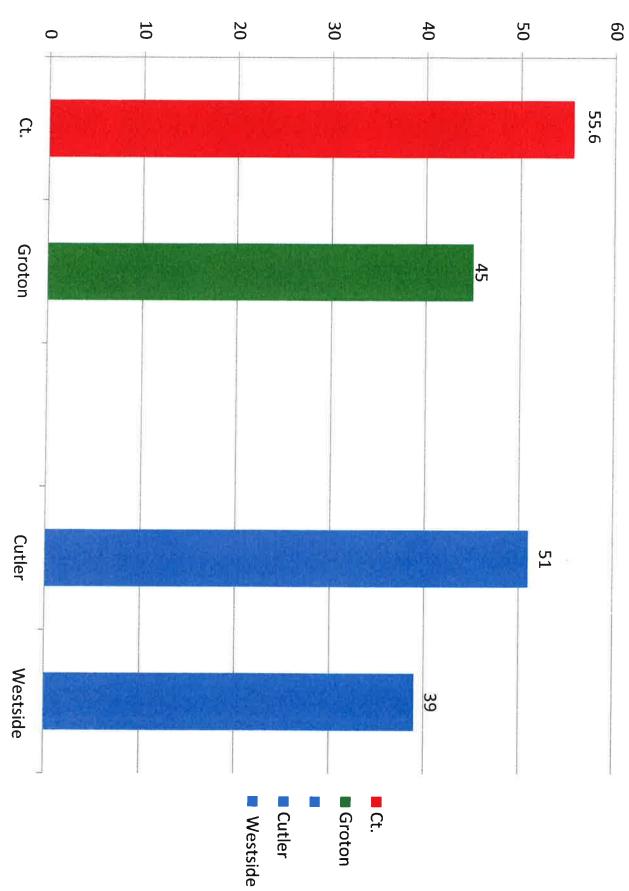




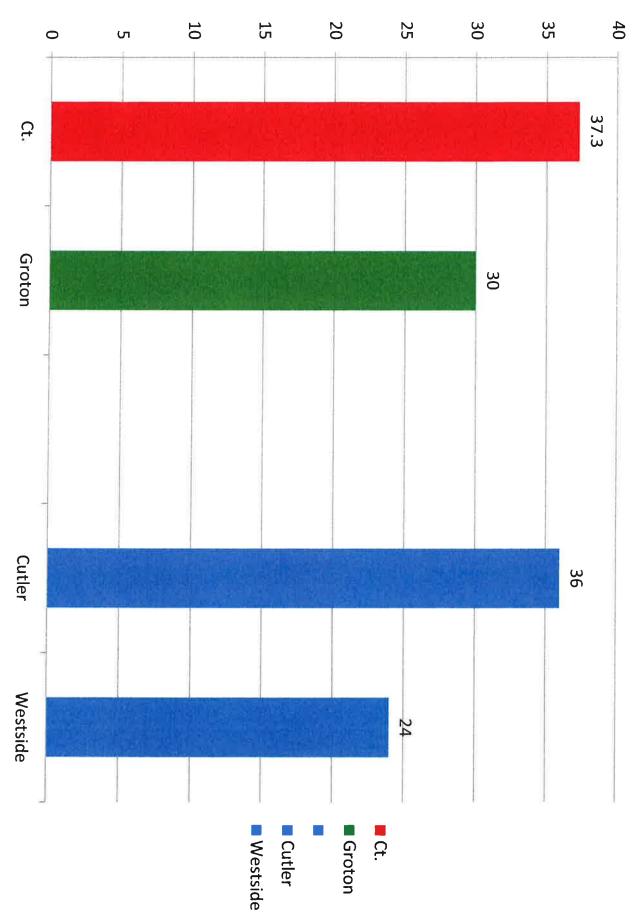
**Grade 5 Math Meets or Exceeds** 



**Grade 6 Literacy Meeting or Exceeding** 

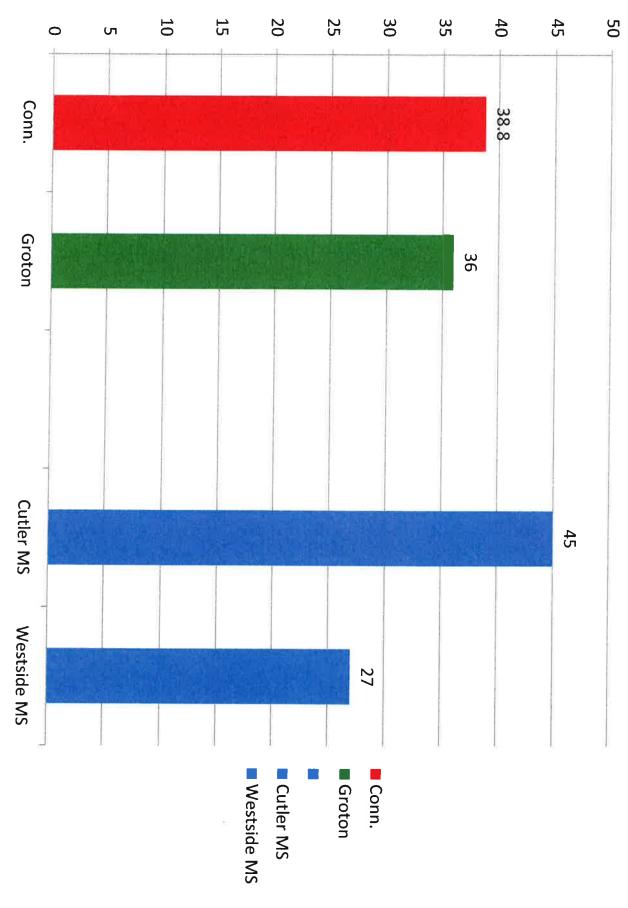


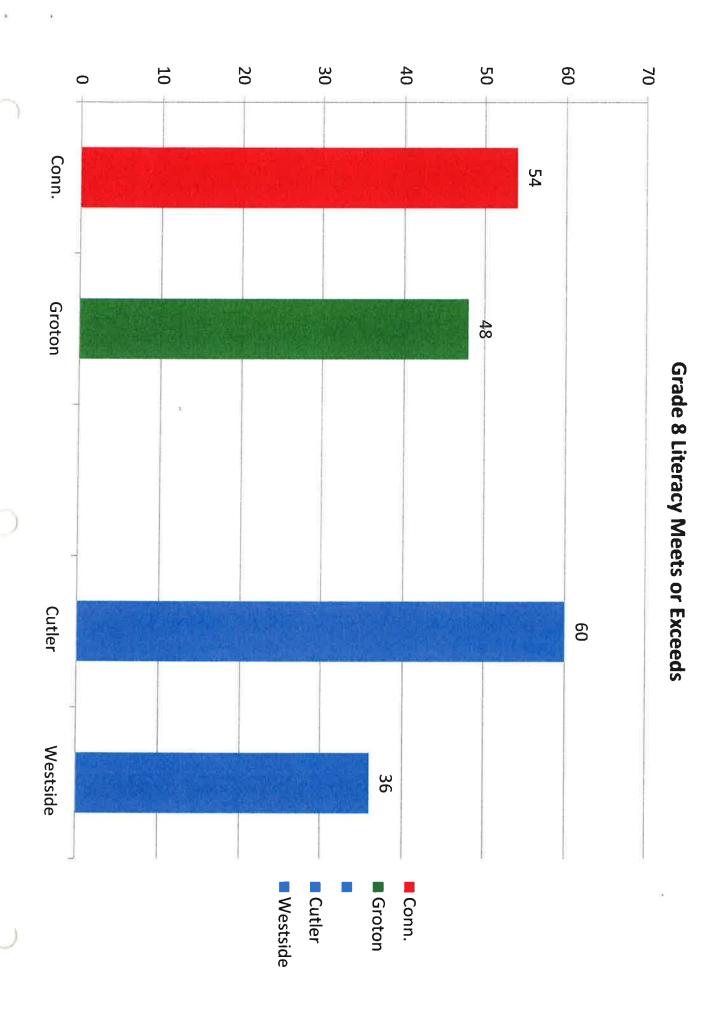
**Grade 6 Math Meeting or Exceeding** 

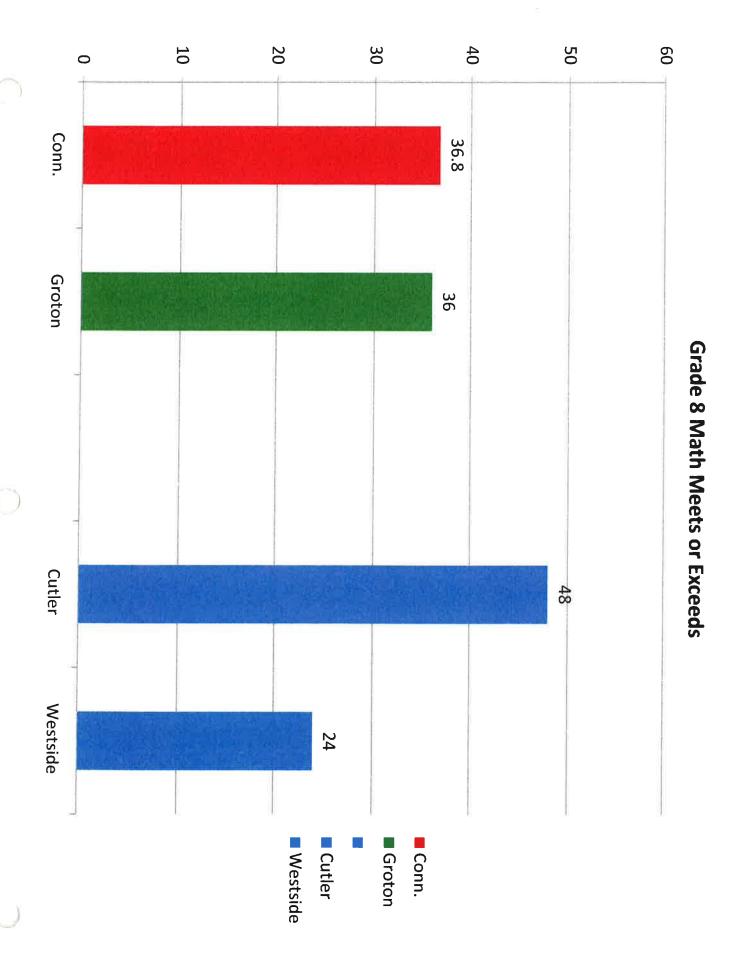


20 10 30 40 50 60 70 0 Conn. 57.1 Groton 53 **Grade 7 Literacy Meets or Exceeds** Cutler MS 59 Westside MS 47 Westside MS ■ Groton Conn. Cutler MS

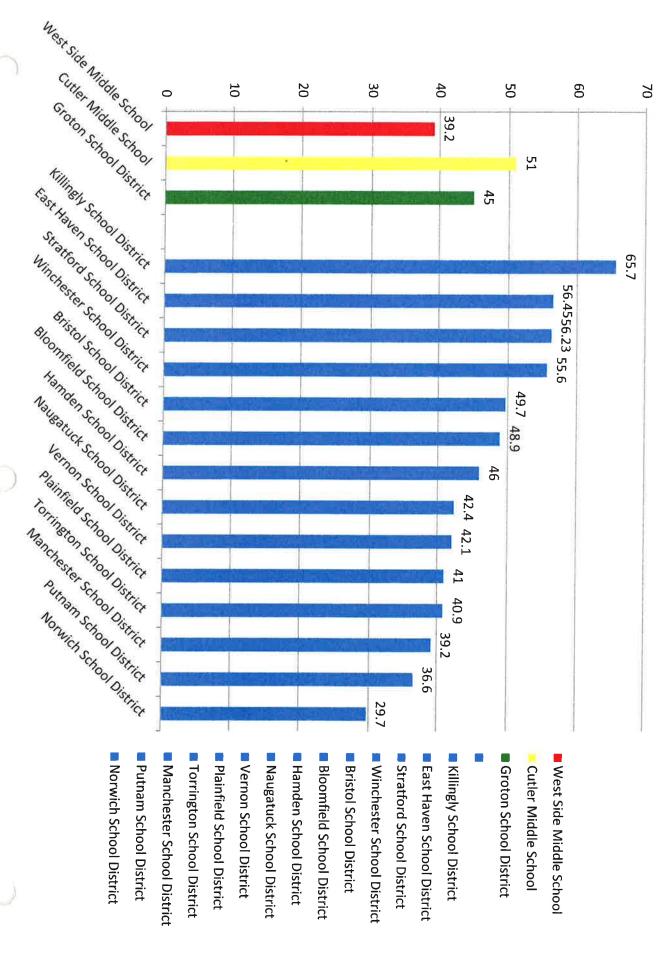
## **Grade 7 Math Meets or Exceeds**



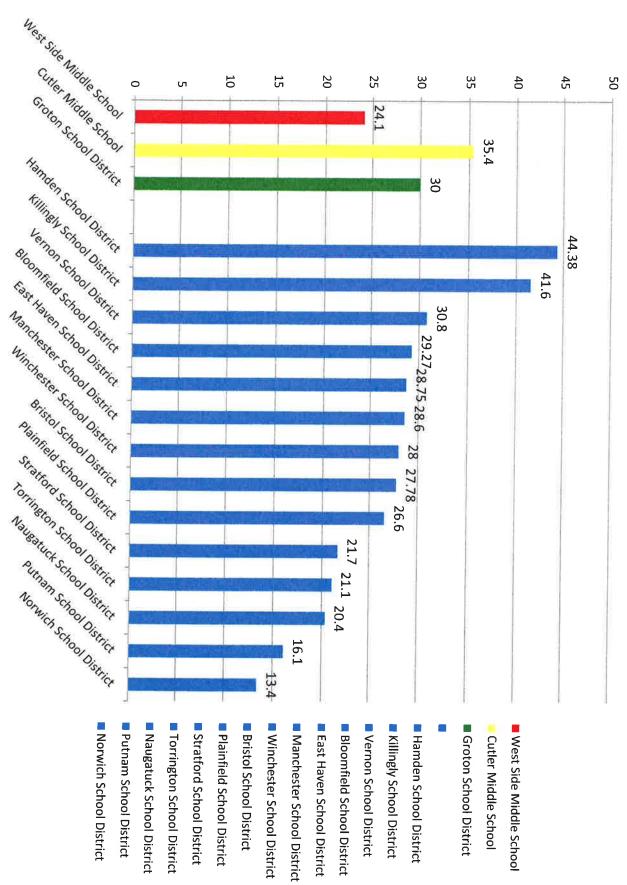




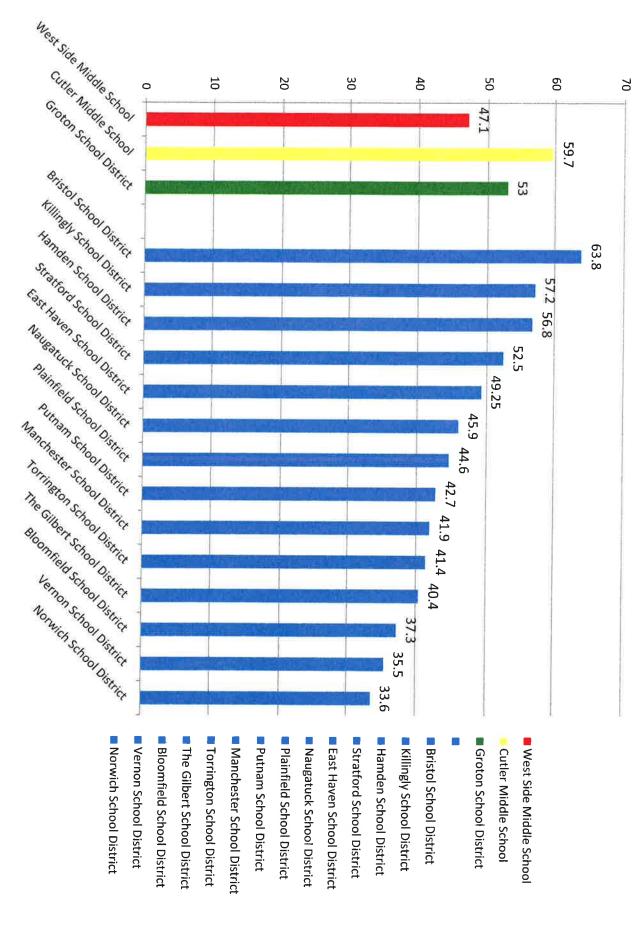
## SBAC Drg G 6th Grade Literacy



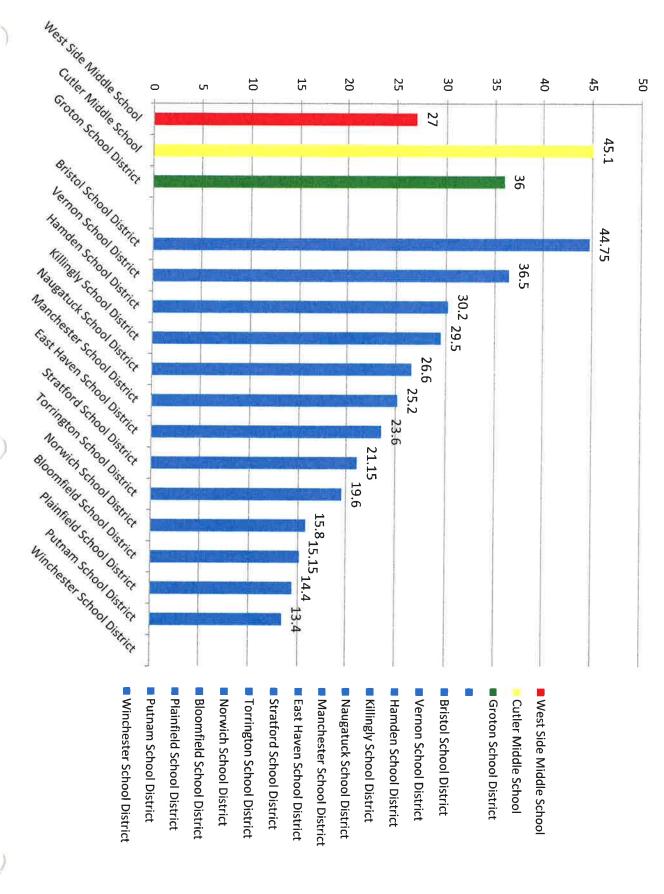
### SBAC Drg G 6th Grade Math



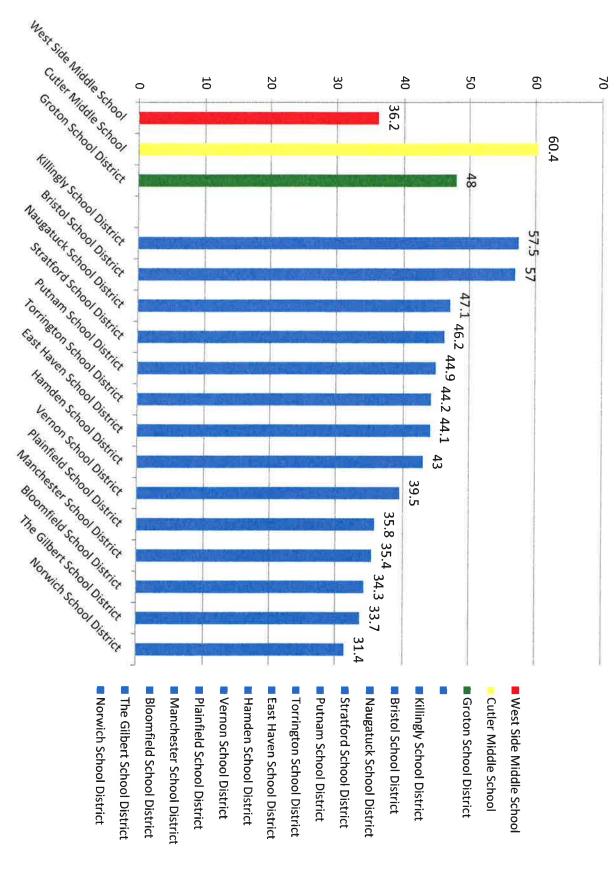
## SBAC Drg G 7th Grade Literacy



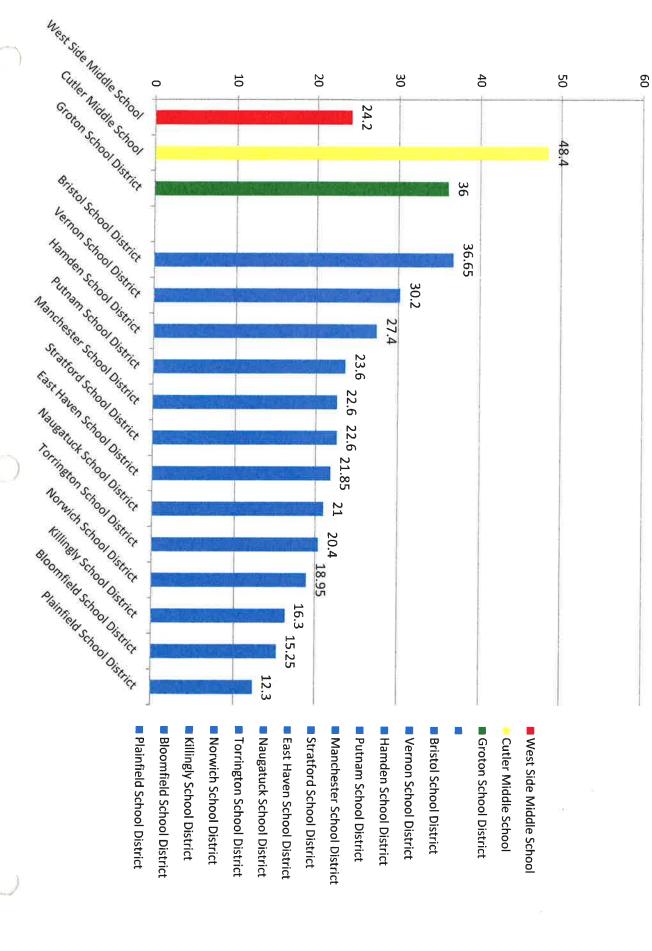
### SBAC Drg G 7th Grade Math



## SBAC Drg G 8th Grade Literacy



### SBAC Drg G 8th Grade Math



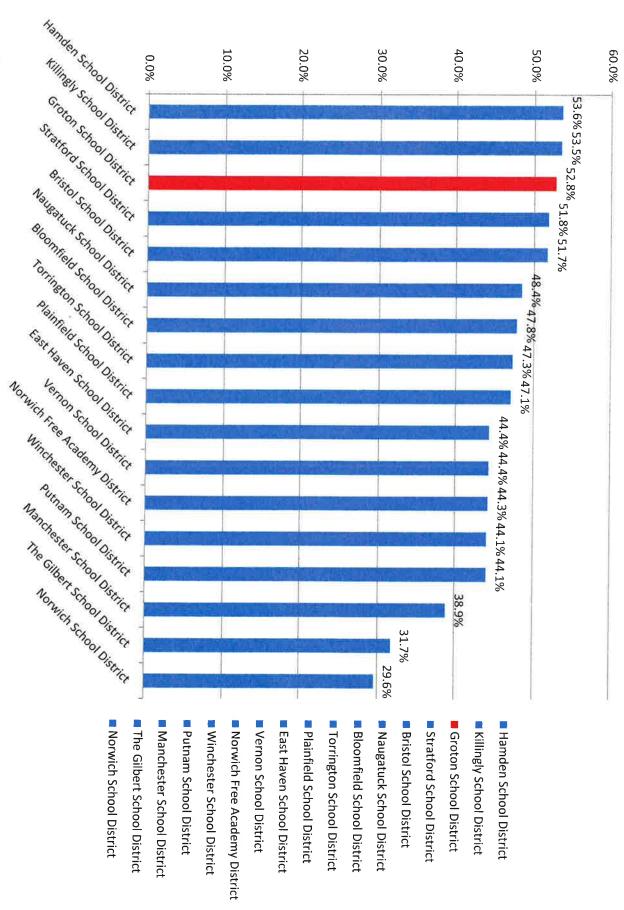
### DRG G

17 Schools

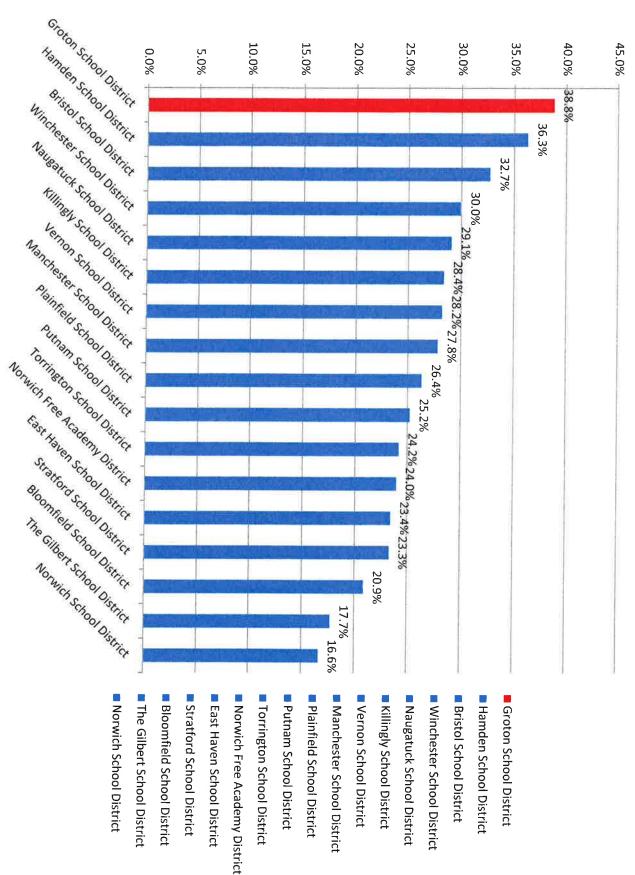
Groton- #3 in Literacy

Groton- #1 in Math

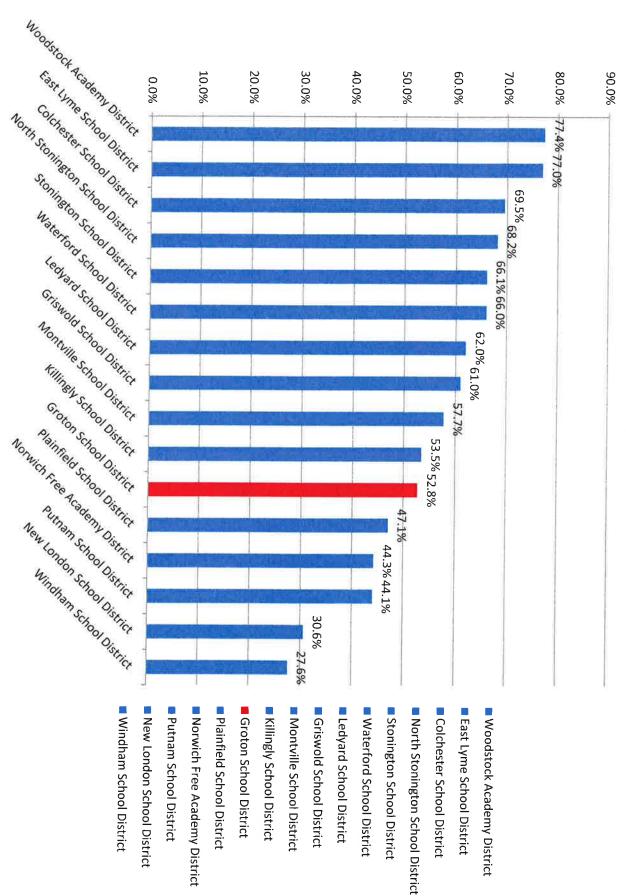
### Literacy DRG G 2015



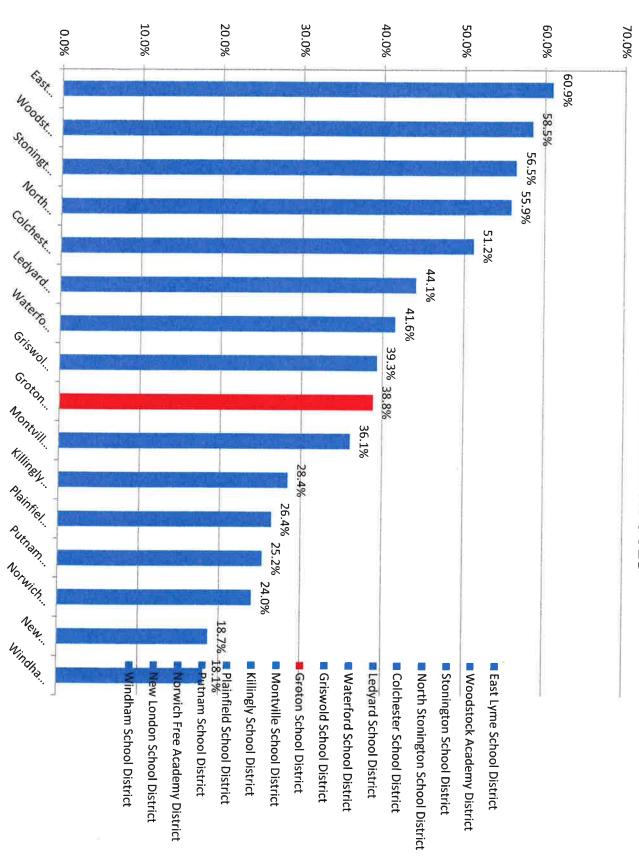
### SBAC DRG G Math 2015



# **SBAC Literacy ECC Districts 2015**



### **SBAC Math ECC Districts 2015**



State/National Student Data = Green Groton Yardstick = Goldenrod

		District Assessment = Yellow
	COW	ВОЕ
Aug.		
Sept.	Technology Update SBAC results update CMT/CAPT Science Score update SAT. ACT. AP, IB	Approval of class size parameters Adoption of Tuition Rates Approval of Custodial Workers Recognition Day
Oct.	After School enrichment program update Guidance Updates; College Application Info Update regarding District Improvement Plan Substitute coordination S.E. Update	Class Size Paramaters Establish schedule of annual BOE meetings (committees, COW, BOE)
Nov.	Quarterly Expulsion Report Sp. Ed. Program Updates Class sizes for budget process Budget prep; non-union salaries, wages, stipends Meeting with legislators	
Dec.	Sp. Ed. Update  Math Performance Tasks/SBAC Interims	
Jan.	Update of early release day PD results  LAS data  Literacy Performance Tasks	Adoption of School Calendar
Feb.	Sp. Ed. Update Quarterly Expulsion Report	Board Appreciation Month Adoption of Budget Groton Yardstick: Physical Fitness Data
March	After School enrichment program update	Approval of Healthy Food Certification Approval of Para Appreciation Day Approval of Administrative Professional Day and Week Groton Yardstick: Citizenship Indicator Groton Yardstick: Respect for Diversity
April	Sp. Ed. Update Technology Update Quarterly Expulsion Report	National Teacher Day and Week Approval of School Nurses' Day CABE Student Leadership Awards Groton Yardstick: Versatility Groton Yardstick: Problem Solving
	Update on Dept. Chairs	Friends of Education & Support Personnel Recognition  Groton Yardstick: 21st Century Skills Indicator
June	After School enrichment program update  Sp. Ed. Update  Report on Remedial College Courses Attendance  Update on early release PD results	Groton Yardstick: Creativity Indicator  Approval of Central Office Salaries  Groton Yardstick: Self-Advocacy Indicator
		Groton Yardstick: College & Career Reader Indicator Groton Yardstick: Character Developing Indicator

Teacher Absence Report Year over Year Trend Data

	14-15	14-15	13-14	13-14	12-13	12-13
Absence Reason Type	% of Total Absences	Total Absences (days)	% of Total Absences	Total Absences (days)	% of Total Absonces	Total Absonces (days)
Field Trin	1 30	178			יא פן יסנמו אסטכוונפט	Total Absences (udys)
Field High	1,39	128	1.02	76.5	0.66	52
Jury Duty	0.24	22	0.19	14.5	0.48	38
Other	3.14	288	2.94	221.5	4.09	374 5
Personal Bereavement	0.96	88	110	80	1	
			1.10	5	1.27	C:OOT
Personal Family	11.41	1047.5	12.48	939.5	10.74	851.5
Personal Legal	0.79	72.25	1	75.5	0.62	49.5
Personal Emergency	5.28	484.25	4.63	348.5	5.7	452
Personal Religious Obs.	0.14	13	0.13	10	0.34	27
Professional Leave	12.37	1135.25	13.6	1024	956	75.8
Sick Days	39.86	3657.75	39.14	2947	37.41	7966 5
Vacancy	24.42	2241	23.69	1784	29.13	2310
Totals	100	9177	100	7530	100	7929.5

a) Long Term Substitutes are used on average 40 - 50 times per school year that would be exceeding the 40 day limit and step to higher pay

b) Cost of Substitutes for Professional Development

	Sub Cost	Per Hour Cost for Teacher
Increase	\$90.00 per day @ 6 hrs	\$36.36 @ 6 hrs per day
\$128.16	\$90.00	\$218.16

### **Groton Public Schools**

### **Administrators' Update**

August 27, 2015 - September 11, 2015



### Welcome aboard!



### Message from Dr. Michael Graner Superintendent of Schools

Despite all the heat this week, I am happy to report that the schools seem to be off to a very positive school year. Susan Austin, Mike Emery, and I began our school walk-throughs this week with visits to Charles Barnum and Claude Chester Elementary Schools. It's clear that the instructional program is already in full swing; we viewed an excellent Writers' Workshop in the fifth grades at Charles Barnum and a math workshop at Claude Chester. The students and teachers looked like they were in "mid-season" form.

This week, the business office completed a very complex upgrade to our Pentamation Software System. We wanted to upgrade the financial software so that the system would operate on a more secure footing; however, the upgrade required a great deal of problem solving on the part of the business staff who have been working for weeks to implement the change. This week, the upgrade went "live," and I can't give enough praise to Gretchen Brautigam and Kim Petchark for successfully coordinating this week's payroll. Needless to say, there were some anxious moments as we approached the bank's deadline but thanks to the staff's hard work and dedication, the conversion was successfully implemented.

We had an excellent turnout of municipal leaders at the joint meeting for members of the RTM, Town Council, Board of Education, and the School Facilities Initiative Task Force. Following the meeting, I received some very positive feedback about the clarity of the plan, and I also heard a lot of sincere comments appreciating the hard work that was done by the Task Force. Task Force members are hoping to make a formal presentation sometime in the spring and request that the Town Council schedule a referendum for November 2016.

I wanted to let you know that Kevin LeMoi announced to his staff yesterday that he has decided to step down as our Director of Technology. He explained that he feels the need to work in a position where he could have more direct contact and "hands on" time with teachers and students. Kevin's Masters Degree is in Technology Education. In his previous school districts, he spent a great deal of time working directly with teachers to better integrate technology into their classrooms. We wish him well as he pursues what he is passionate about.

### Message from Susan Austin Assistant Superintendent of Schools

I attended the Old State House Community Conversation on Mental Health on January 14, 2014. As part of the audience in the live broadcast hosted by CT-N's Diane Smith, I gained insight to share back with the district I served in at the time, as we worked in collaboration with city and the health department to host the Stamford Mental Health Summit March 17, 2014. The statewide conversation, an out-growth of the White House's recent National Conference on Mental health, began with a compelling story from Mrs. Nebla Marquez-Greenhad, a family and marriage therapist and professor, director of the Sandy Hook Promise, who lost her daughter Ana Grace in the Sandy Hook shooting. Her message centered around mental health support for children and families so that a tragedy like this would never happen again. She founded the Ana Grace project "Love Wins", promoting love, community, and connection for every child and family. Nebla inspired us with her courageous story and her message was powerful; If we lose one child, we could lose many others. One child is too many!

This year, Groton Public Schools, The city and town of Groton, Children First Groton, and our community partners will be planning our own Mental Health Summit for April 7th, 2016, with key note speaker, Dr. Robert Franks. Our mission is to sustain collaborative efforts with community providers to enhance the mental, social, and behavioral health and well-being of our young children and school-aged youth. Our purpose is to bring a diverse group of stakeholders together with rich and extensive knowledge about child and adolescent mental health to review and prioritize available scientific information, raise awareness, improve public comprehension, and identify resources, services, and needs of the community in an effort to promote our students' mental health. The outcome will be to prioritize the needs and establish working groups that will provide education and supports to Groton's children and families. Your expertise and support are very much appreciated.

As we decide as a district, as a school, as a classroom, or individually what our goals should be for the year, they should help us focus on what is most important. As educators, our goals should always be about the growth and healthy development of our students, each and every one; encompassing physical, academic, and social-emotional learning.

"The highest-performing schools do not use value-added data for commendation or to name, blame, or shame, but to uncover, discover, and recover. Value-added data allow teachers and leaders to dig deeper and ask more questions about student learning."

a "Five Strategies for Creating a High-Growth School" from Battelle for Kids, August 2015 The Marshall Memo

Mother of Sandy Hook Victim Wrote This Letter to Teachers

Last week I met with John Dillard who is our liaison with the Navy Volunteer program and they would very much like to support Groton Public Schools.

NSSC New London Volunteer Program Outline

NAVY COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDEBOOK

OPNAVINST Navy Community Service Program 5350.6C

Thank you for all that you do for our students, especially on these hot summer days!

I realized there was an error on the calendar after a few people were asking about the electronic faculty meetings? The enclosed calendar has been revised to reflect regular faculty meetings on October 6th, 2015.

Also, please note in this revised calendar enclosed, and located on the GPS website, that our elementary spring conferences are re-scheduled for March 22, 23, and 24, 2016.

15-16 School Calendar - Staff

### **ALL DISTRICT NEWS**

Principals' Meetings: Tuesday 9/22 and 10/6, 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Administrative Council (CO/11): Thursday 9/17, 10/15, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

CO Administrators' Meeting: Thursday 9/14, 10/5, 1:00-1:45 p.m.

### **Technology Department:**

IT Department: The IT Department has been working hard to address teacher and staff needs as we start the new school year. Over the Summer the IT Department imaged well over 3300 devices including computer labs, COW computers, teacher desktops, student desktops, iPads, iMacs and student chromebooks. We also installed 46 new Interactive projectors, upgraded our iBoss infrastructure and inventoried many of the District computers and monitors. I would like to give my highest commendation to the IT department staff who worked tirelessly over the Summer to prepare for the opening of school, many without taking a vacation.

This week we began unboxing the new Middle School laptops and will begin deployment of those laptops in the coming weeks. The District has also started receiving the new classroom printers which we will begin to distribute as time permits. Lastly, I would like to welcome our new IT technician, Tim Candee to the District. Tim will primarily be working at MM, CB and PV and has already shown himself to be an excellent addition to the IT Department. If you see Tim in the hallway please take a moment to welcome him to the District.

### Teacher Evaluation/Support GEED:

GEED - State and BOE approved

### **Community Committees:**

### Groton Board of Education

**BOE Meeting Minutes 7/27/15** 

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

### **Catherine Kolnaski:**

CKMS is continuing its collaboration with the National Urban Alliance. All classroom teachers, interventionists and special education teachers are continuing their cohort trainings this year. NUA mentors will come to CKMS eight times this year with our first visit on September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> for cohorts 2 & 3.

CKMS is continuing to enhance our parental involvement through potluck dinners on curriculum nights. This week grades 4 & 5 combined for a potluck dinner followed by a presentation from the principal on school-wide initiatives and ending with a presentation by the grade level teams on what learning is like in the student's new grade level. Grade 2 & 3 will host their potluck dinner and curriculum night on September 15th. PreK, K and 1 will host theirs on October 13th. The potluck dinner is a great opportunity to enhance our relationship with families by sharing a meal and casual conversation.

### Claude Chester:

Among other new teachers and staff, Claude Chester welcomed Jackie Harvey and Karen Zota to CC as two part-time Math tutors. We are excited that we have two excellent retired elementary teachers to work with our students and share their expertise.

Through an awarded scholarship, students in the K-2 IBS classroom at CC will begin a series of weekly field trips to High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Inc. in Old Lyme. Students will benefit socially, behaviorally, emotionally, and academically from this great opportunity.

CC will be having a PBIS sponsored *Back to School Bash* on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm and a *Back to School Night* on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30pm. The CC PTO will be generously providing families with a pizza dinner at our Back to School Night.

Link to CC's September Newsletter

### **Pleasant Valley:**

PV Newsletter

### **Northeast Academy:**

**NEA Newsletter** 

### S.B.Butler:

We will celebrate our Summer Reading Challenge on Friday, September 11 with all students that participated. Students will play a few rounds of BINGO. Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Porter will call numbers and issue prizes to all.

S.B. Butler is having author Steve Swinburne visit on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Steve will share his love for writing through multiple grade level presentations. Students were also able to pre-purchase some of his books for him to sign during part of his visit. We are very grateful to the PTO for funding this event.

### **SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

### **West Side Middle School:**

West Side will be holding Open House for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade parents on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Open house for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**West Side turned 60 years old this year!** A dinner is being held at the ELKs Club in Groton on Saturday night September 19<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in attending should contact Andrew Ilvento at WSM. More events will follow throughout the year.

### **Cutler Middle School:**

Cutler held its annual Open House on Thursday, September 10. It was well attended despite the inclement weather.

**CMS** Newsletter