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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ISAAC Middle School Receives Highest State Achievement Results in School History

**NEW LONDON, CT** - The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) has received its highest results in school history for its Next Generation Accountability Index. ISAAC Middle School, a choice public school comprised of 276 students grades 6 through 8 received an index of 65.5 which is 10.3 points higher than last year’s index results. This year’s index results put ISAAC towards the top of area middle schools in southeastern Connecticut. In 2018, ISAAC was last in results among area middle schools.

Each year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) releases results from its Next Generation Accountability System—a system where schools and districts earn points on a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers, and life. The system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates to provide a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

The Next Generation Accountability System allows school districts and the public to view the results for each school within each school district. Although 75.3% of students enrolled at ISAAC are from New London, ISAAC Middle School is not associated with New London Public Schools. ISAAC is an independent public charter school that acts as its own school district under the direction of a Board of Directors.

Over the past three years, ISAAC Middle School has transformed its core values and beliefs, curriculum, and instruction under the leadership of Executive Director, Dr. Nicholas Spera. These changes have resulted in the highest percentage of students reaching goal or above in mathematics and English Language Arts in school history on the state standardized performance test known as the SBAC. In 2018, ISAAC had the lowest Accountability Indexes in the area with a 50.6 index rating and was ranked lowest in the state in mathematics test scores.

“This is a huge moment for our students, parents, teachers, and staff at ISAAC.” Spera said. “These results show that regardless of your zip code, race, ethnicity, or checking account, all students can succeed. School improvement happens when you recruit and hire the best teachers and staff while developing a strategic approach to teaching and learning that promotes a positive culture of effort and a belief that all students can achieve high levels of success.”

This year’s results places ISAAC Middle School among the top of the area middle schools in southeastern Connecticut. Below are the Accountability Index results for area middle schools:

#	DISTRICTS	ACCT. INDEX	MINORITY	FREE/REDUCED
1	Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School <i>Region 18</i>	76.3	14.5%	11.7%
2	East Lyme Middle School <i>East Lyme Public Schools</i>	67.9	25.7%	22.1%
3	<b>ISAAC Middle School</b> <i>Interdistrict School for Arts &amp; Communication</i>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>71%</b>
4	Clark Lane Middle School <i>Waterford Public Schools</i>	64.7	26.4%	28.6%
5	Leonard J. Tyl Middle School <i>Montville Public Schools</i>	62.4	39.2%	43.1%
6	Stonington Middle School <i>Stonington Public Schools</i>	61.7	16.4%	21.2%
7	Ledyard Middle Schools <i>Ledyard Public Schools</i>	53.8	28.2%	25%
8	Groton Middle School <i>Groton Public Schools</i>	52.3	49.5%	49%
9	Kelly STEAM Middle School <i>Norwich Public Schools</i>	48	72.3%	64.9%
10	Bennie Dover Middle School <i>New London Public Schools</i>	46.5	92%	95.8%
11	New London Science and Technology Middle <i>New London Public Schools</i>	45.3	83.6%	92.2%
12	Teachers’ Memorial Middle School <i>Norwich Public Schools</i>	43.5	77%	65.3%

\* 2021-2022 Minority and Free/Reduced Lunch Data from [https://public-edsight.ct.gov/overview/profile-and-performance-reports?language=en\\_US](https://public-edsight.ct.gov/overview/profile-and-performance-reports?language=en_US)

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