

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Weitlauf – Chairperson, Beverly Washington – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Dean Antipas, Adrian Johnson, Matthew Shulman, Ian Thomas, Jennifer White, Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Lauren Casini, Matt Brown, Carmita Hodge, Laura Johnson

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Jay Weitlauf, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- II. REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – The minutes were reviewed and no corrections were submitted.
- III. REVIEW OF FHS DATA, ACTION PLANS, AND INTERVENTION SUPPORT
(Attachment #1)

Mr. Brown gave an overview of the PowerPoint presentation of FHS data, action Plans, and Intervention Support.

- IV. DISCUSSION RE: STATE LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

Mr. Whitney suggested that State funding for schools should be raised.

Mrs. White suggested that funding for districts wanting out of being an Alliance District.

Mr. Thomas suggested:

- Wants clarity on what classified Groton as an Alliance District.
- The seeking State level opinion or proposed legislature to address concerns regarding Impact Aid.
- Address Research and Transparency issues.

Mr. Shulman made comments on 2 issues.

Mr. Antipas suggested a look at the ECS calculation.

Mr. Whitney suggested a look at funding for student transportation.

Mr. Whitney suggested a look at unfunded mandates.

V. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Mr. Thomas made a referral to study IB and update on Robotics.

Mrs. Washington made a referral to look at the Math curriculum.

Mrs. White added looking at adding 2 Math Tutors to MRMS.

REMOVE:

- R2023-10 Discussion re: Going to Electric School Busses
- R2021-6 Purchase of vans to transport students

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Washington:

To adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Fitch High School Data Reporting: Goals and Action Steps

November 18, 2024



School Enrollment	942
Special Programming	● AP, ECE, IB (MYP, DP & CP) ● Pathways: (NJROTC, Nursing/EMT, EdRising, Engineering (PLTW), Manufacturing)
Student Makeup	● 49% Free/Reduced Eligible ● 15% Special Education ● 5% Limited English Proficiency 
Chronic Absenteeism Trend	● 2022- 32.5% ● 2023- 25.8% ● 2024- 24.9%
Noteworthy Happenings	● Partnerships with Equal Opportunity Schools ● Impactful PD through Inspirational DEI Committee, NUA, IB & Amplified Student Voice

School Year	IB Course Enrollment	AP Course Enrollment	Dual Credit Course Registrations
2023-2024	270	628	248
2022-2023	201	535	152
2021-2022	173	376	198
2020-2021	411	455	168
2019-2020	426	424	194
2018-2019	275	419	196

This year, we have over 450 Dual Credit Course Registrations!



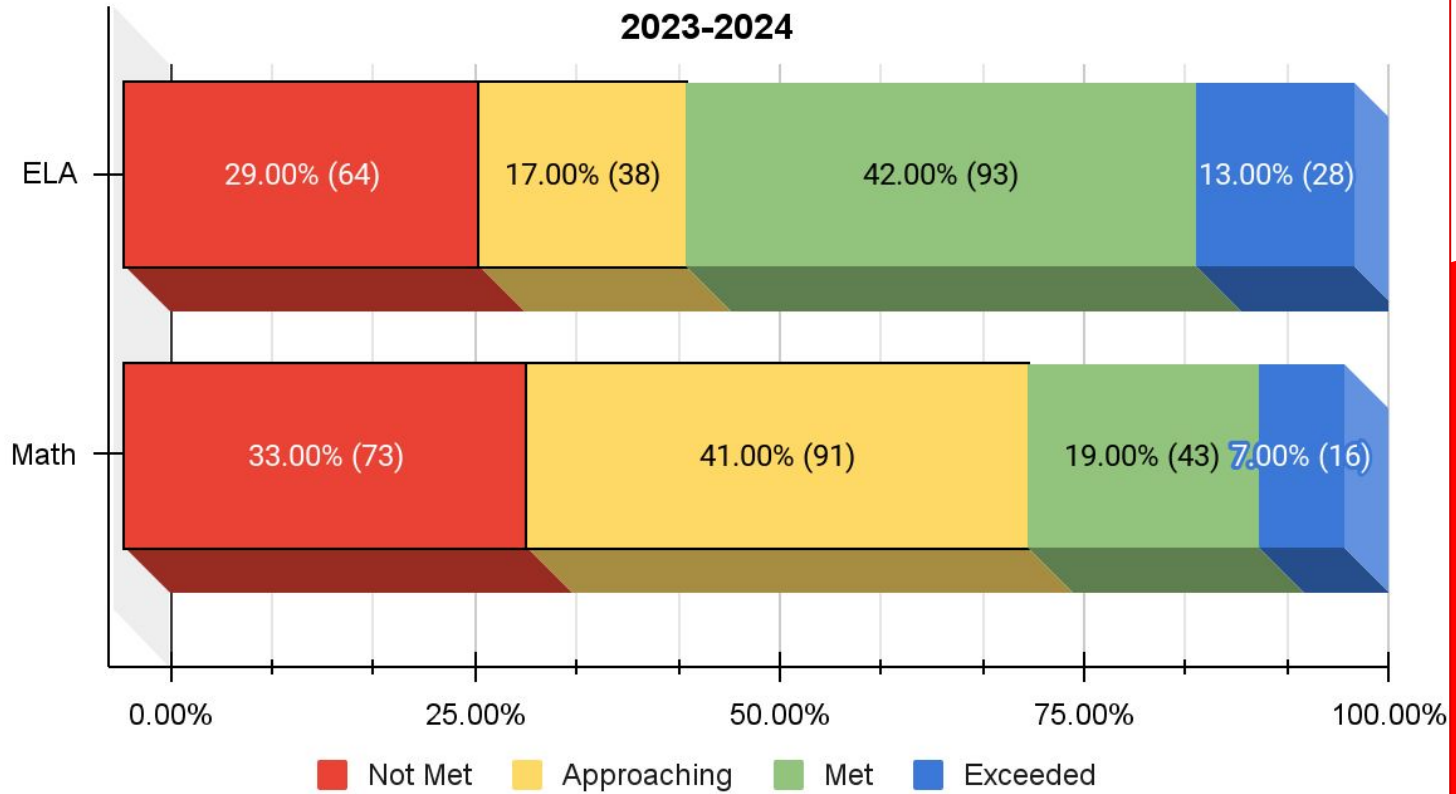
Accomplishments of Fitch HS Class of 2024

- The First NJROTC and EMT Class in Fitch Falcon History. EMT Class outperformed all other high schools in the state. All earned certification.
- 30 Multilingual Seniors Earned their Seal of Biliteracy
- Band - 3rd Nationally and State champs
- Robotics placed 9th in New Englands
- Athletics: Seniors had 43 All ECC & 5 All State Award Winners, ECC Champs in football, boys and girls swim, and had the best ECC record for Boys and Girls' Lacrosse. Our cheerleaders were State Champs
- This class was rewarded over \$250,000 in scholarships plus seven students were offered full tuition scholarships

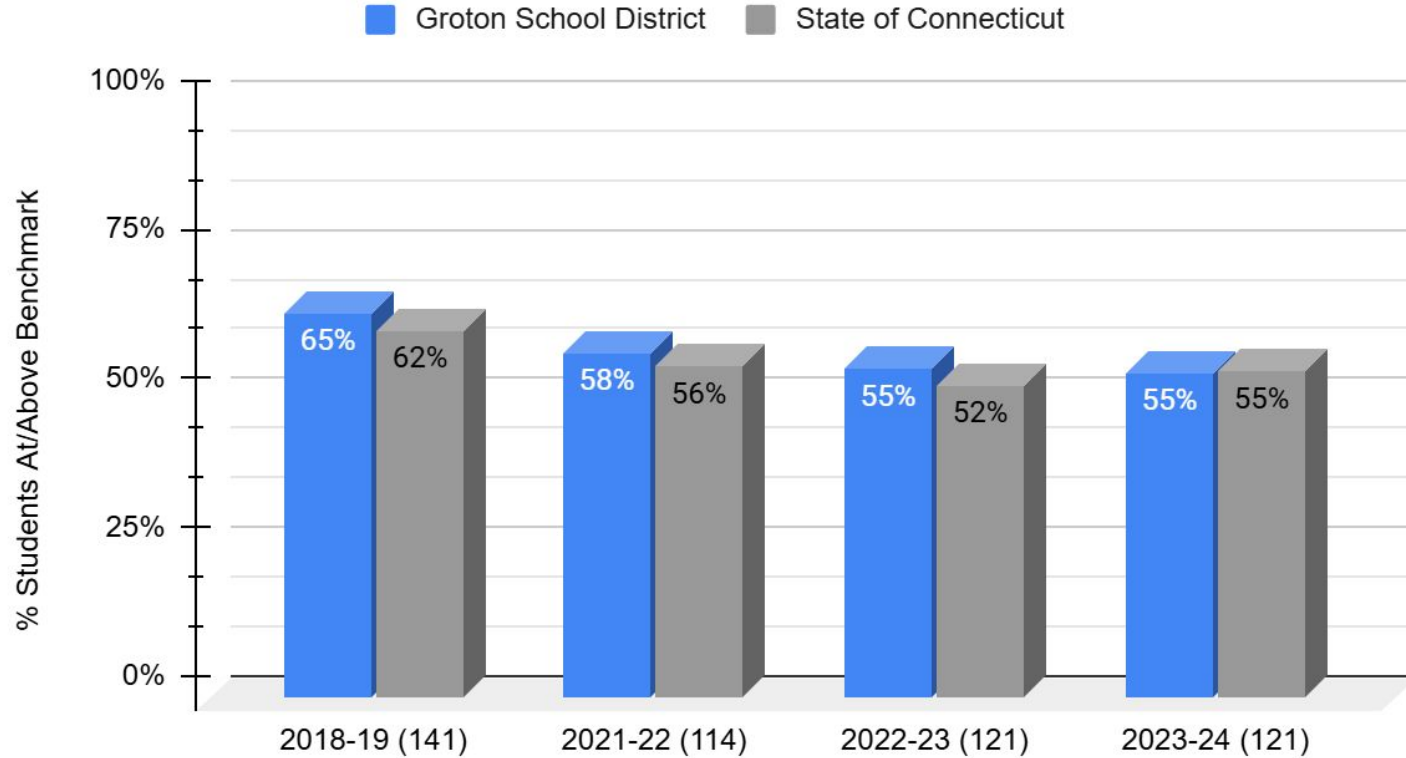


SAT- Grade 11

2023-2024

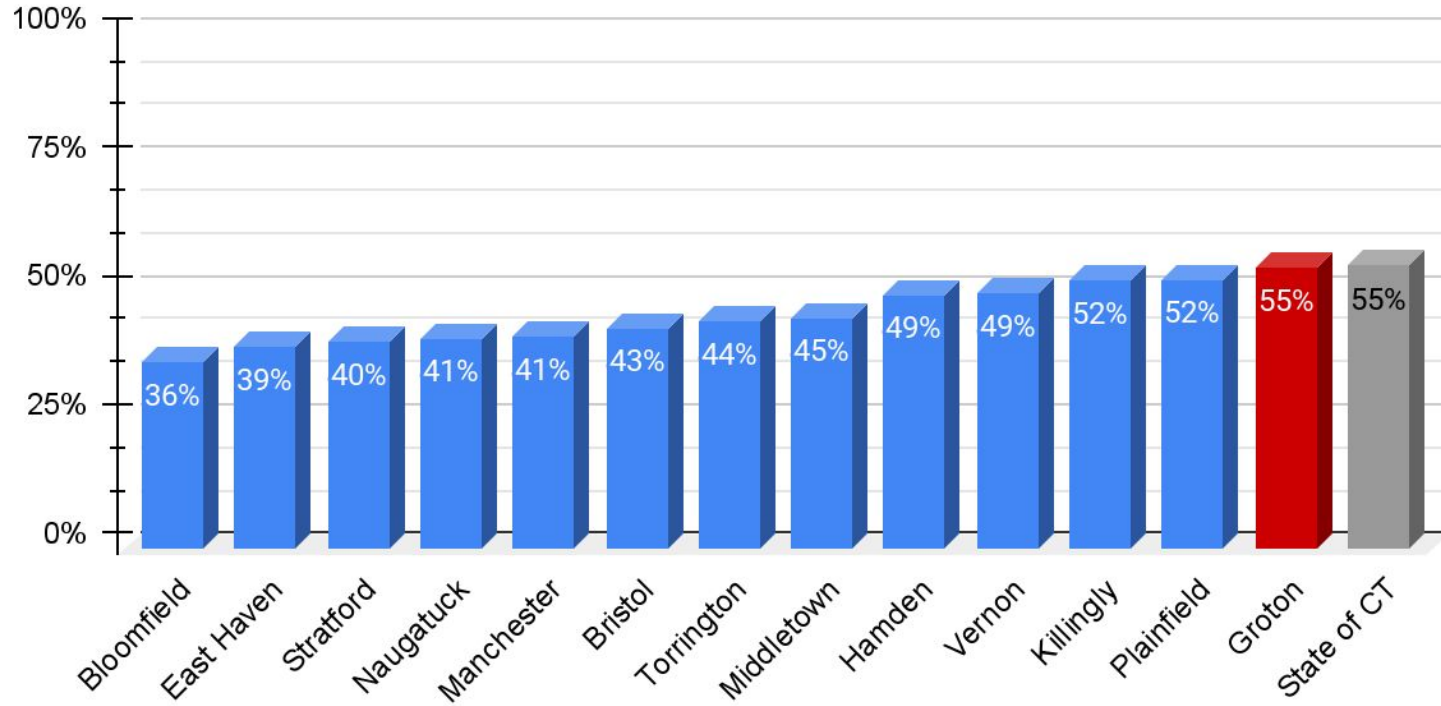


SAT: ELA Performance



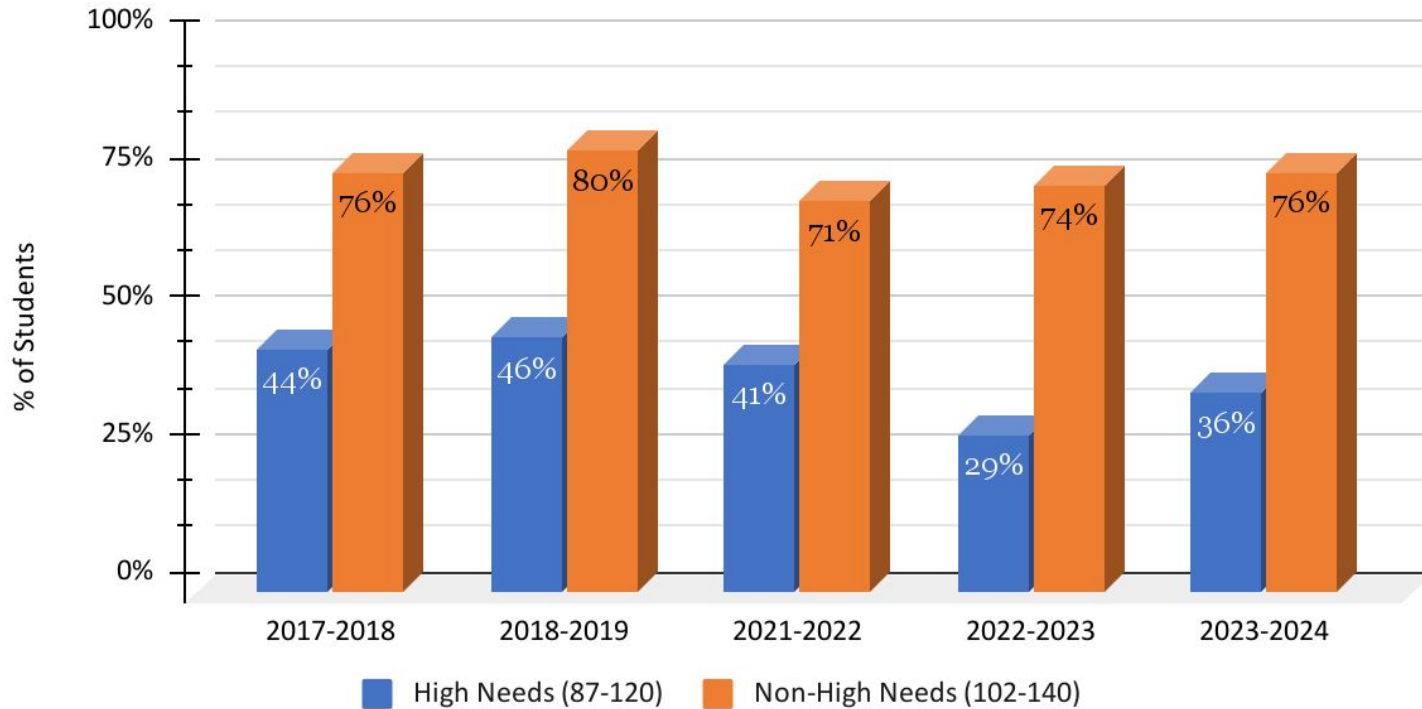
SAT Performance: ELA

"DRG G"

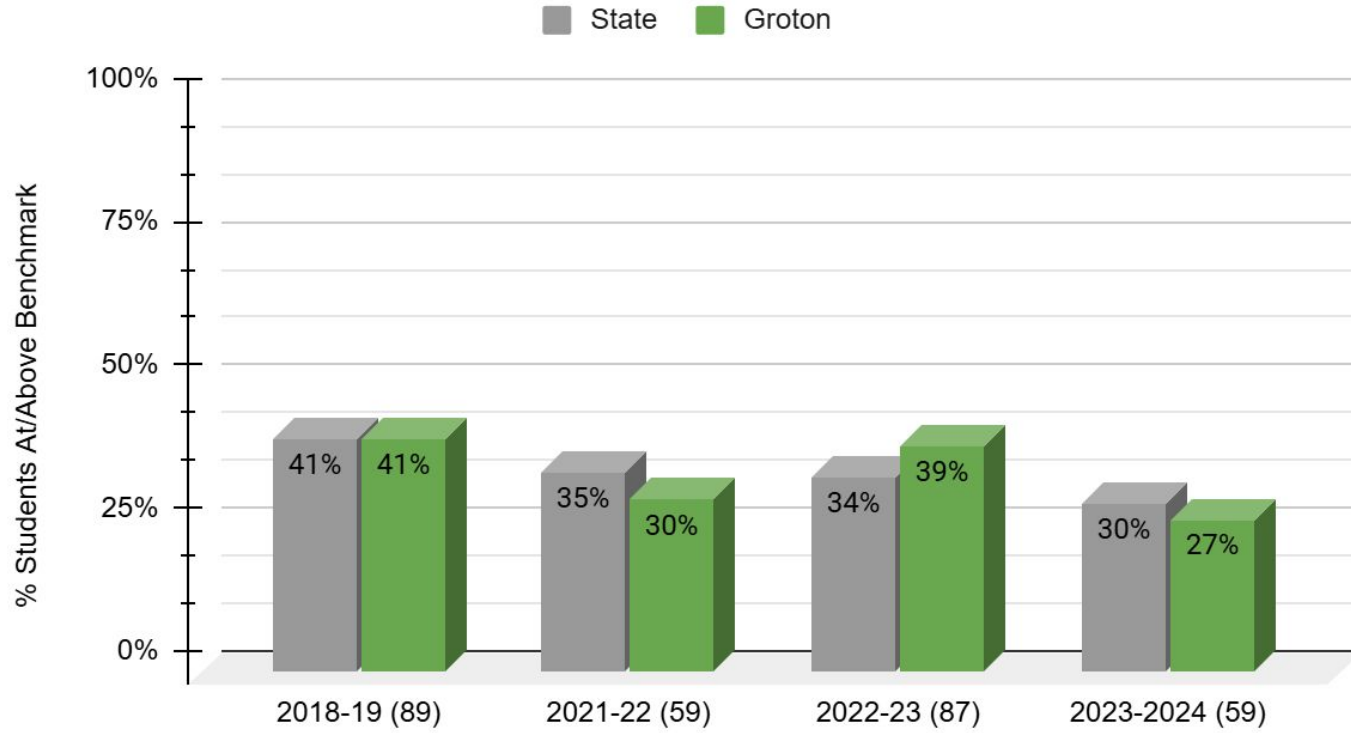


SAT Trend by Needs

ELA: At/Above Benchmark

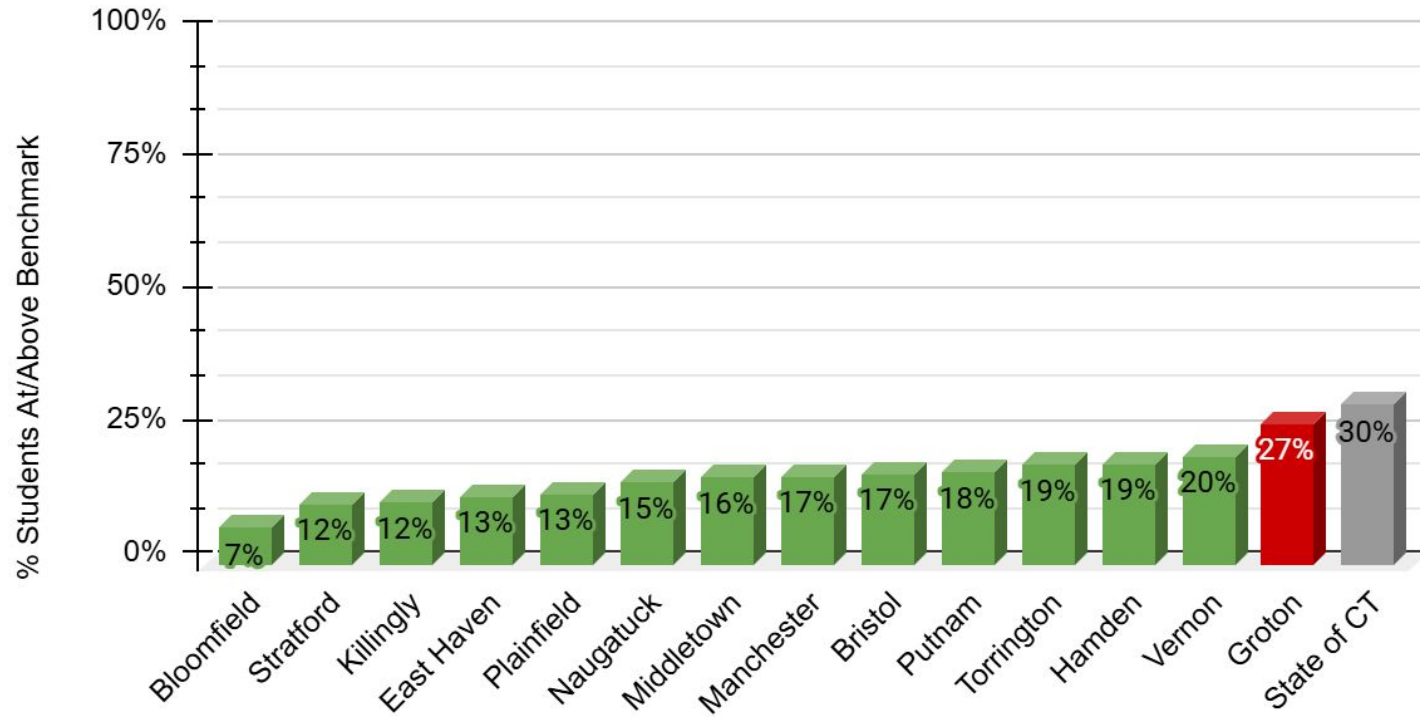


SAT Performance: Math



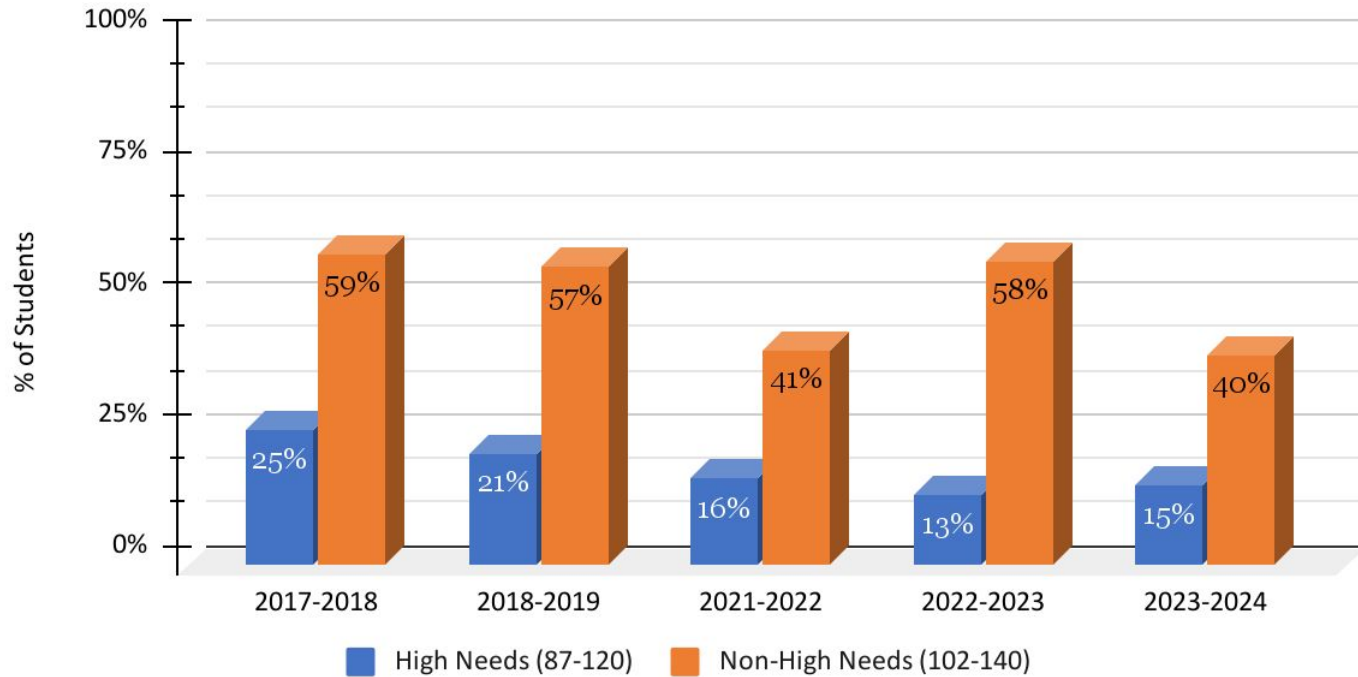
SAT Performance: Math

"DRG G"



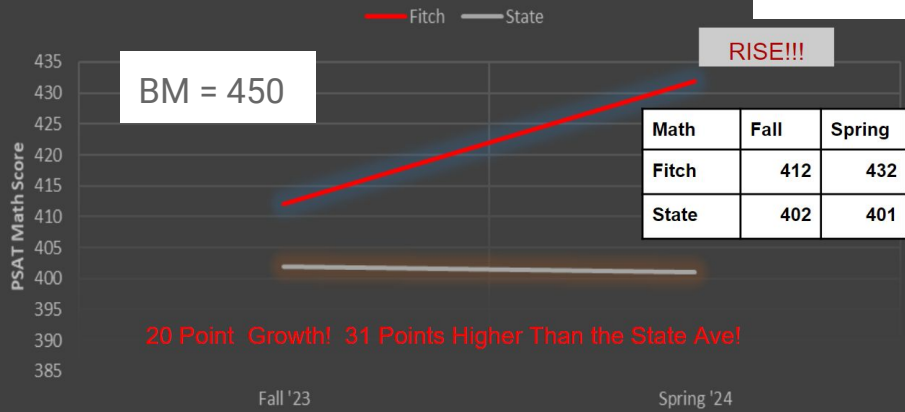
SAT Trend by Needs

Math: At/Above Benchmark

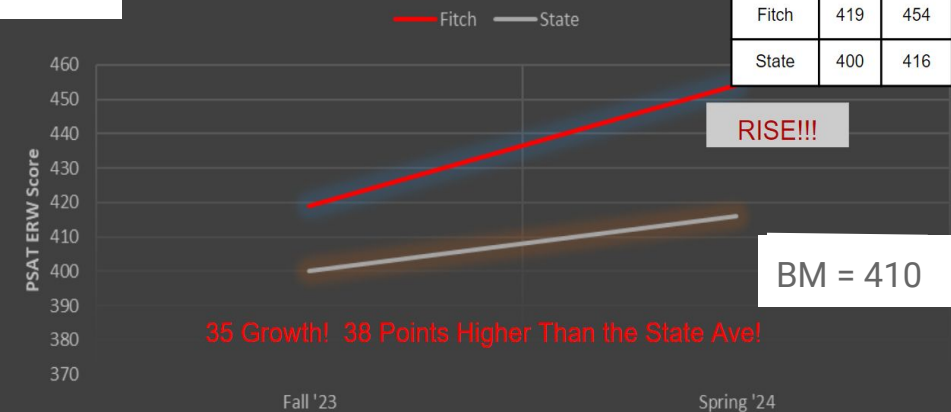


PSAT Math Performance

Class of 2027

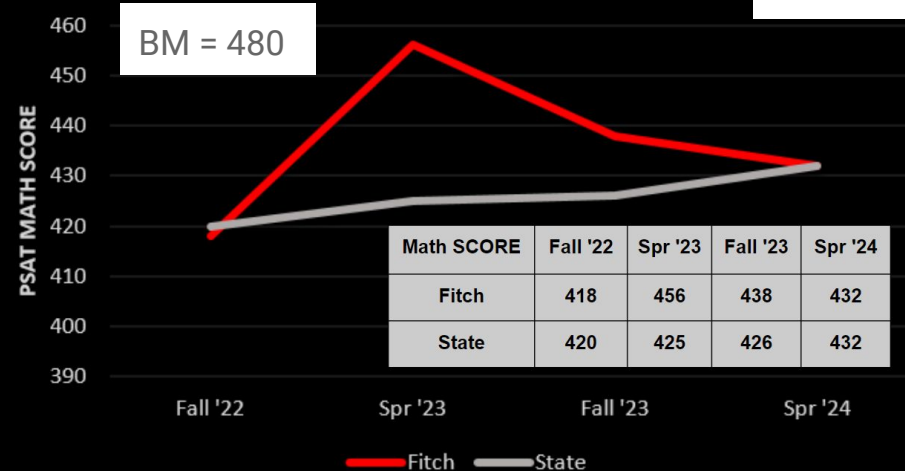


PSAT ERW Performance

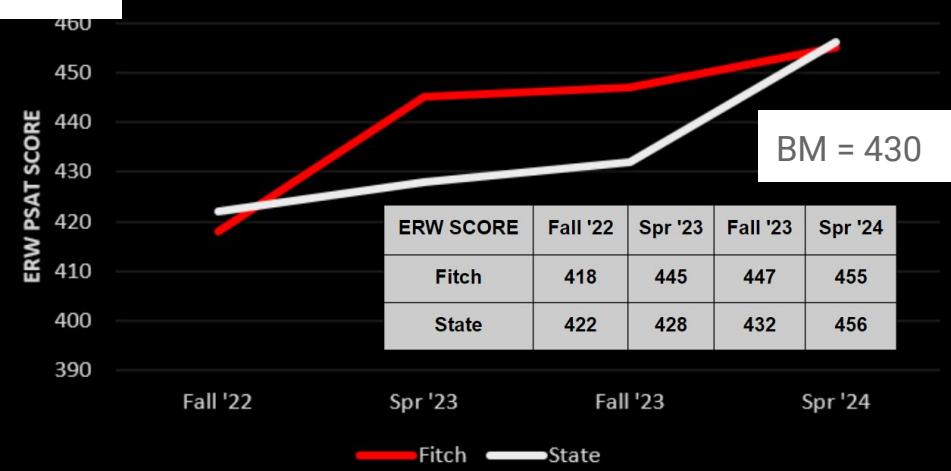


Math PSAT Score

Class of 2026



ERW PSAT SCORE

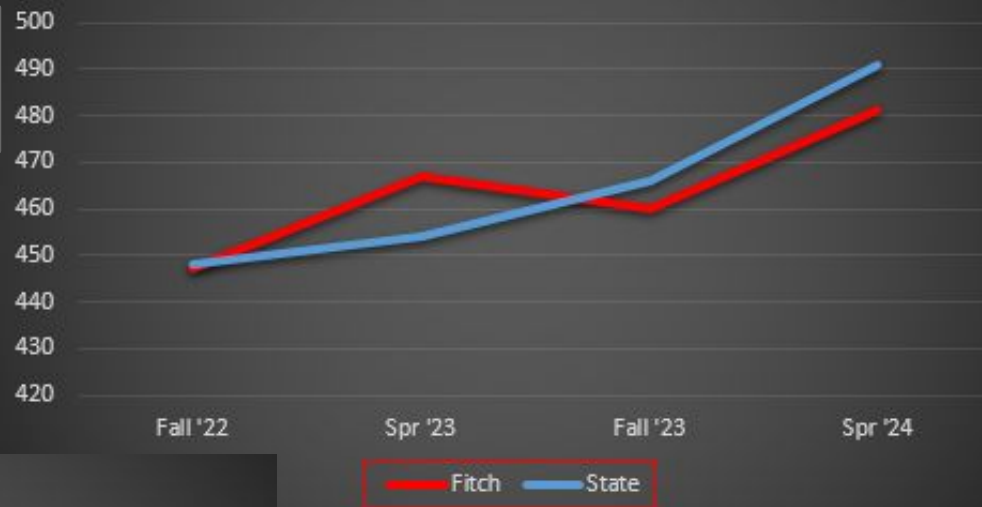


Class of 2025

English SAT SCORE	Fall '22	Spr '23	Fall '23	Spr '24
Fitch	447	467	460	481
State	448	454	466	491

Incentivize!!!

Class of 2025 ERW



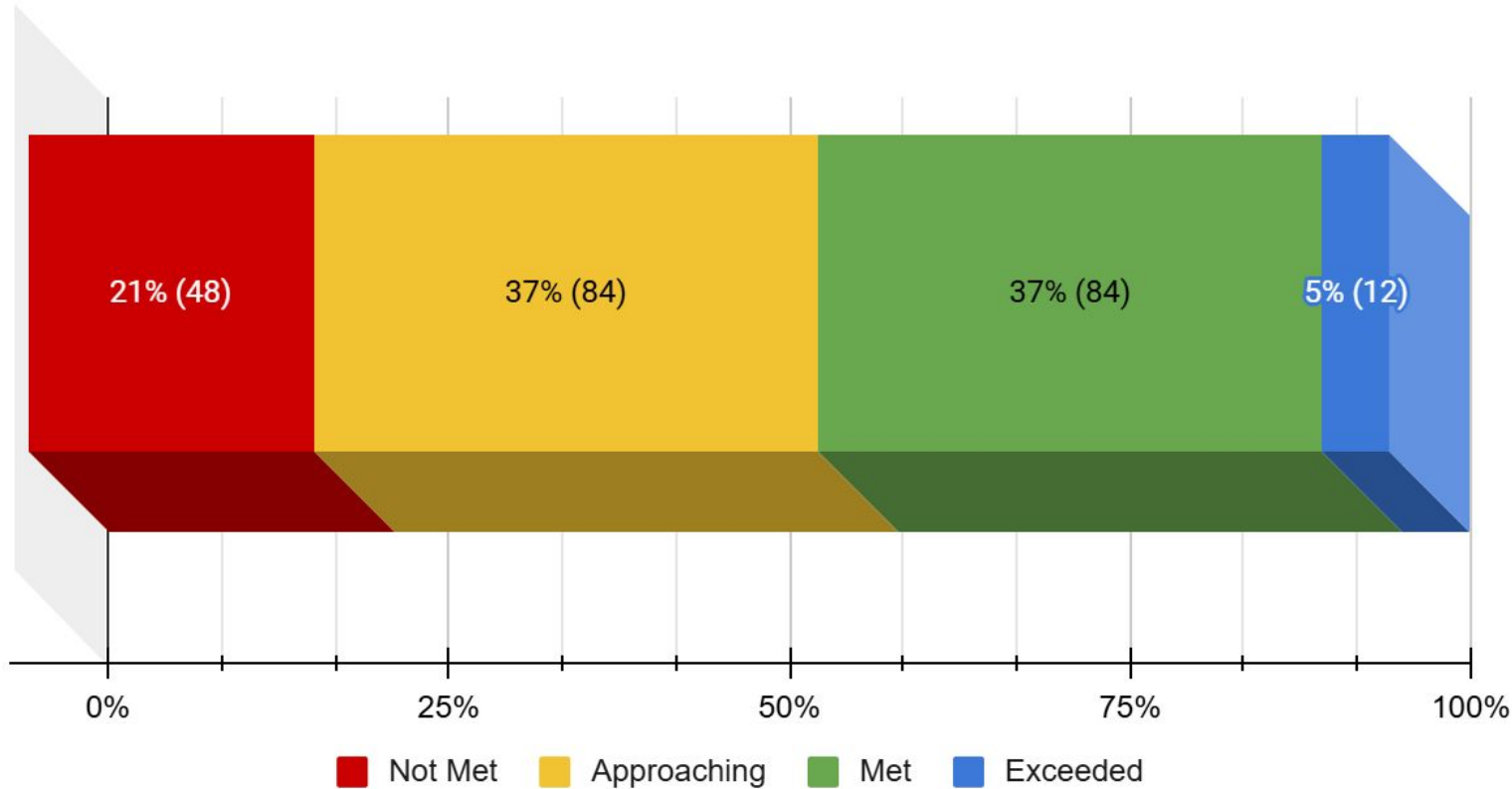
Class of 2025 Math



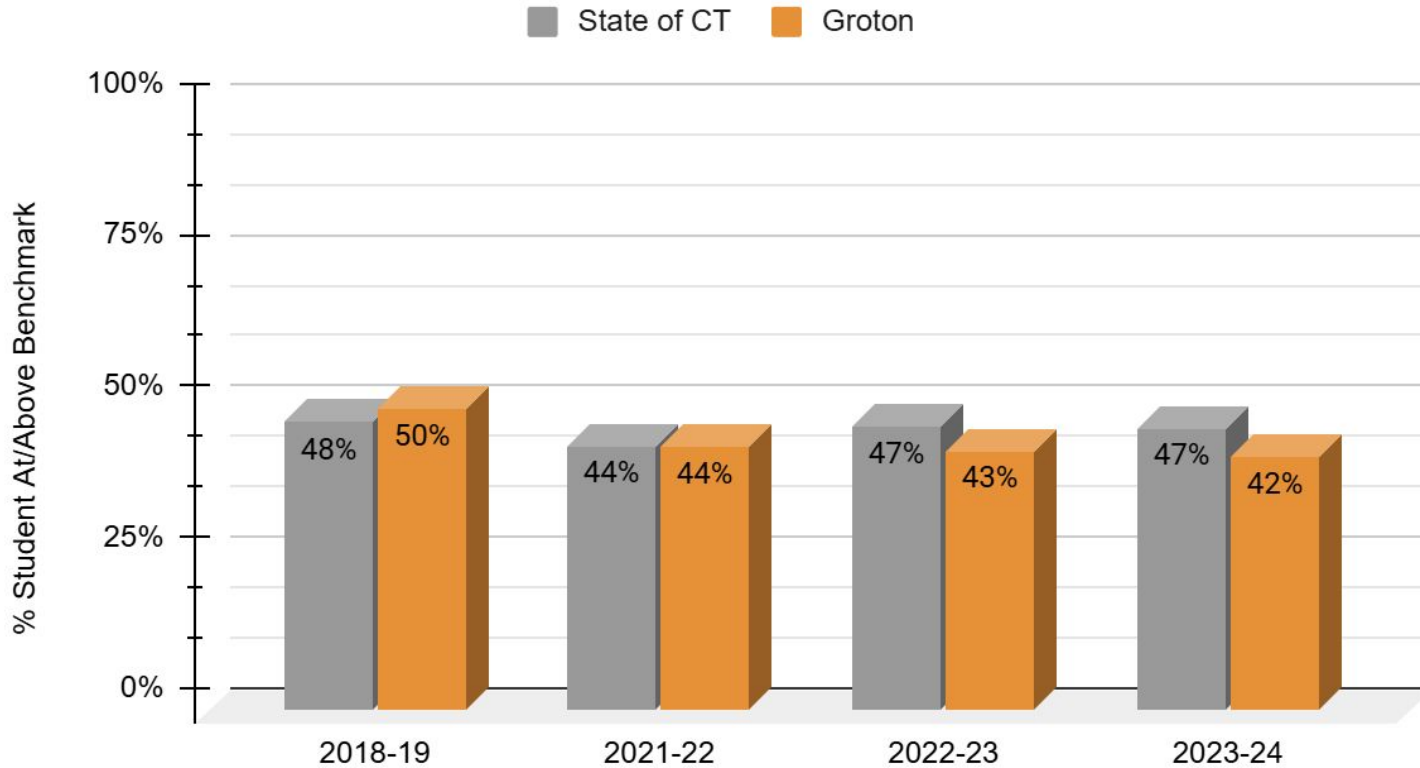
Math SAT SCORE	Fall '22	Spr '23	Fall '23	Spr '24
Fitch	446	451	447	467
State	444	442	454	471



Grade 11 NGSS Performance

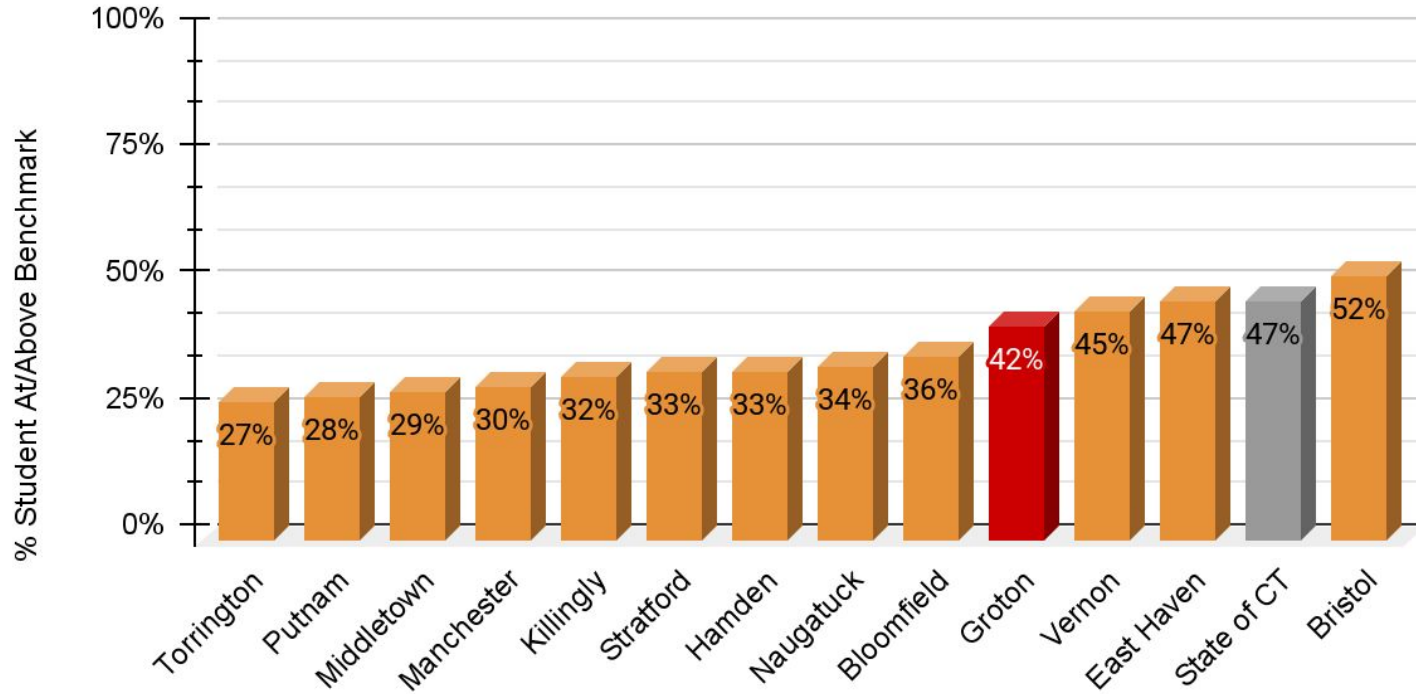


Grade 11 NGSS Performance



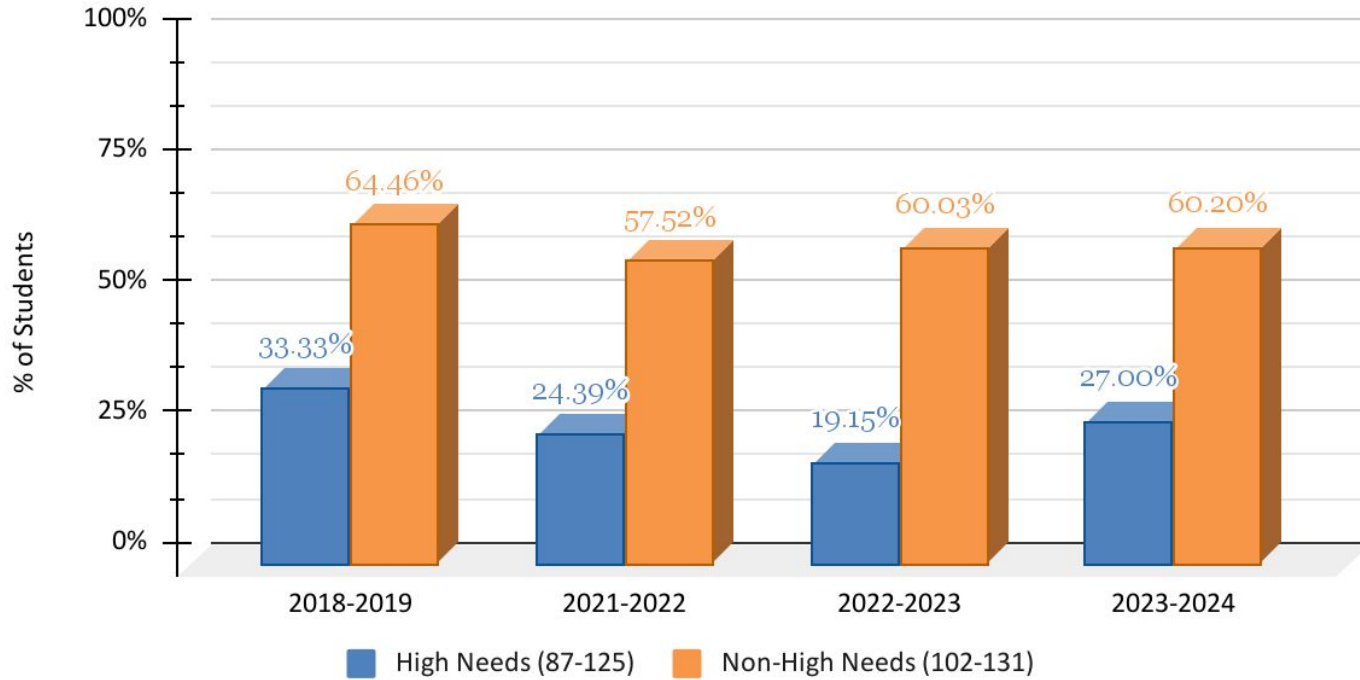
Grade 11 NGSS Performance

"DRG G"



Grade 11 NGSS Trend- Needs

Students At/Above Benchmark



2024 Student Climate Survey (n = 428)

Strengths

- 77.1% have courageous conversations about race (+15.4%)
- 86.9% are able to select high level courses (+3.6%)
- 86.3% feel their teachers help them try their best (-4.1%)
- 88.3% feel they can see counselor for personal/academic support

Areas of Focus

- 70.0% are involved in extra-curricular activities (+0.5%)
- Students have been disrespectful with each other
 - 76.6% feel peers treat them respectfully (-3.5%)
 - 75.1% have been disrespected on Social Media (-0.1%)
 - 82.2% participated in social media disrespect (-7.5%)



2024 Parent Climate Survey (n = 107)

Positive change in all 14 questions

- 97.2 % are aware of Expectations (+21.7%)
- 95.3 % are kept up to date with events/activities (+3.9%)
- 98.2% feel Staff is visible on school grounds (+8.9%)
- 92.5% feel comfortable talking to teachers (+6.4%)

Areas of Focus

- 73.8% Opportunities for Parent Involvement (+10.0%)
- 89.7% My Child has at least one trusted adult (+1.5%)
- 75.7% My child looks forward to school (+5.5%)



2024 Staff Climate Survey (n = 80)

Positive change in 18 of 20 questions

- Teacher's perception - school climate is positive
 - 29.5% in Spring 2023 to 88.8% in Spring 2024 (+59.3%)
- Administrative Communication
 - 44.8% in Spring 2023 to 76.2% in Spring 2024 (+31.4%)
- Awareness of Procedures to Address Behavior
 - 33.6% in Spring 2023 to 71.3% in Spring 2024 (+37.7%)

Areas of Focus

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - 51.3% Feel safe having conversations about DEI (-28.2%)
 - 28.7% Talk with colleagues about DEI (+17.5%)



Consistency, Accountability & Community Wellness!!!

- **Team Up** - Be Present, Be Well, Be Engaged, Be Appreciative, Be There for Each Other!
- **Address Tardies & Absences**
- **Cell Phones - Not During Instructional time including CTL**
- **Closed Bathrooms During Passing Time and Pass Use**
 - Securely- Electronic Pass System
- **DEI Sub-Committees -**
 - Provide Professional Development addressing responses based on the Staff Climate Survey



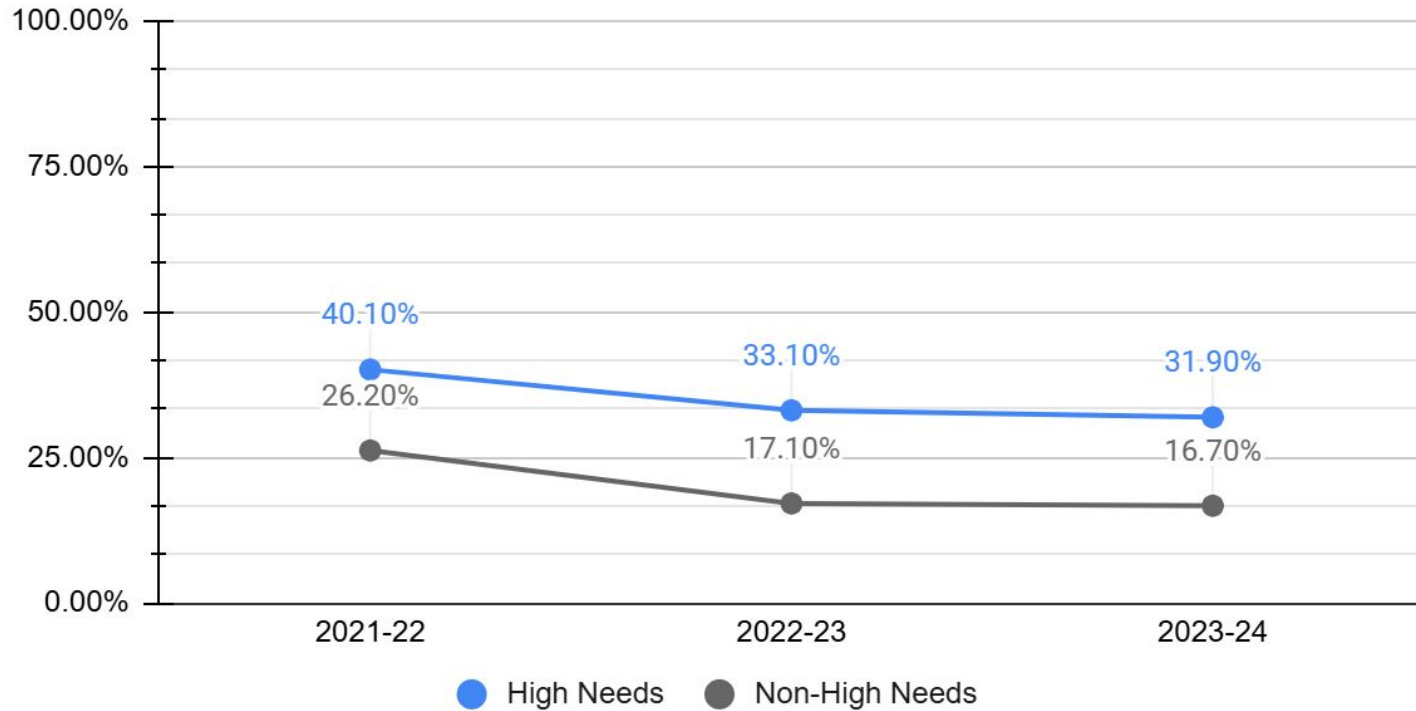
Achieve More

Believe More

Care More

FHS: Chronic Absenteeism

High Needs and Non-High Needs



Fitch High School

Action Plan to Increase Student Attendance



- FHS has established a proactive posture to its Attendance Policy.
 - In addition to monthly attendance letters sent, we will...
 - Re-establish the Interdisciplinary Attendance Team
 - Work with CO partners to develop a system to streamline data collection
 - Schedule Credit Appeals meetings as soon as student is absent more than 6 or more than 12 days rather wait to the end of the semester.
 - Develop contract to prevent additional absences.
 - Ensure Home Visits are supportive versus punitive
 - Implement strategies to ensure students are engaged within the school community (mentorship, check-ins, etc.)
 - Update students and staff, monthly, of attendance progress.
 - Recognize and celebrate grade level attendance goals.

Fitch High School

Action Plan to Increase Student Achievement

- Celebrate RISE, growth and increase Falcon Pride
 - Increase Resilience Through Independent Struggle
- Continued Commitment to No Cell Phones during Instruction
- Utilize CTL & Student Leaders to:
 - Guide students on logging into College Board, link to Khan Academy & Set goals
- Improving Tier 1 Instruction - Commit to NUA teaching strategies
- Continue common data team process
- Continue to improve MTSS(SRBI) system
- Add incentives to meeting benchmark in ELA, Math, & Science (NGSS) to increase students' personal investment in high test performance



Fitch High School

Action Plan to Increase Student Achievement



HUMANITIES

- Analyze individual student scores and correlate the data to other high stakes tests to determine specific target areas. Target areas shared with Dr. Toby Emert, who will be providing PD specific to ELA skills for all academic areas.
- Increase reading in the content area for all disciplines, including SAT type practice sets to make the format familiar to students.
- Establish a common approach to course content (i.e. Social Studies Document Based Questions and Short Answer Responses) with departmental teams.
- Infuse additional explicit teaching of academic organization and study skills within all classes (with emphasis in 9th grade) to expand the “on ramp” into high level classes.

Fitch High School

Action Plan to Increase Student Achievement



STEM

- Analyze individual student scores and correlate the data to other high stakes tests to determine specific target areas. Target areas include a focus on filling knowledgeable gaps and increasing fluency with numeracy.
- Increase the exposure to a variety of problems and concepts, including SAT and NGSS type practice to make the digital format familiar to students.
- Establish a common approach to course content (i.e. Math implementation of *Building Thinking Classrooms*) with departmental teams.
- Infuse additional explicit teaching of academic organization and study skills within all classes (with emphasis in 9th grade) to expand the “on ramp” into high level classes.