



# Bethlehem Elementary Accomplishments, Advances, and Accolades

Recognized as a Connecticut School of Distinction in SIX areas based on student performance on the state standardized tests in 2024:

- High performance of all students in English Language Arts (ELA)
- High performance of all students in Math
- High performance of high needs students in English Language Arts (ELA)
- High performance of high needs students in Math
- High growth of high needs students in ELA
- High growth of high needs students in Math

Bethlehem Elementary is in the top 12% of elementary schools in CT and top 7% of all schools based on the Next Generation Accountability Index calculated annually by the CT State Department of Education.

Overall proficiency of BES students on the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts and math assessments are the highest they have been in the past 10 years based on preliminary 2025 state assessment results.

87.8% of BES 5th graders met the state proficiency benchmark on the 2024 Next Generation Science Standards assessment. All students in grades K-5 participate in engaging science lessons through the Mystery Science program.

Math instruction for all students encourages critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication, collaboration, and deep understanding using the Illustrative Math program in grades K-5, now in its second year of implementation and “Building Thinking Classrooms” strategies to increase engagement.

Literacy lessons ensure that all students develop foundational skills through a structured approach that includes how letters and sounds form words, vocabulary, grammar, and building background knowledge to improve reading comprehension and writing using the Into Reading program in grades K-5 and Foundations for foundational skills in PreK.

All students in 5th grade participate in weekly Spanish lessons in preparation for further Spanish classes at the middle school.

BES fosters a culture of giving, community involvement, and civic awareness among students through laying wreaths for Veterans, collecting donations for the fuel bank, and donating to Bethlehem Cares and the Bethlehem Food Bank.

Students in the Talented and Gifted Afterschool Program developed personal projects, competed in Continental Math League contests, researched and constructed bridges, and engaged in numerous other STEM projects.