GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Sean Corcoran (remote, left at 7:30 p.m.), Mitch Shinbrot, Jay Weitlauf (remote, left at 8:06 p.m.), Michael Whitney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ian Thomas, Jennifer White

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Lauren Casini,

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Review of the May 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the May 11, 2026, meeting.

III. State Report Card – Attachment #1

Superintendent Austin and Lauren Casini gave an extensive overview of the State Report Card. Board members can access the Education Site to review the report card at Edsight Public.

IV. Attendance Report – Attachment #2

Lauren Casini gave an overview of the Attendance Report

V. Discussion re: Data Dashboard

Mr. Johnson explained his understanding of Ian Thomas' request for the Data Dashboard so the Board can see data in real time.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

The Board reviewed the Board Tracking Sheet.

Mr. Johnson requested discussion of World Language.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Johnson: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Attachment #1



GPS Strategic Plan Pillars

1

Accelerate Academic Achievement



2

Cultivate a Rich and Vibrant Learning Community



3

Strengthen Pathways that Develop Post Secondary Readiness



4

Attract and Grow A Skilled and Supported Workforce



5

Improve Operational Efforts and Increase Fiscal Responsibility



Key Performance Indicators

Academics	Attendance	Behavior	College and Career Readiness	Communications & Climate
Accountability Index	Average Daily Attendance	# of Incidents of In-School Suspensions	% On-track for Graduation	% of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- ELA	% of Students Chronically Absent	# of Incidents of Out of School Suspensions	% Taking CCR Courses	% of 6-12 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- Math	Average # of Staff Absences		Postsecondary Entrance	% of Staff Reporting PD is Connected to Position
DPI- Science			4-Year Graduation Rate	% of Parents Who Believe there are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement

CT State Department of Education:

Next Generation Accountability Report

Our mission is teaching and learning

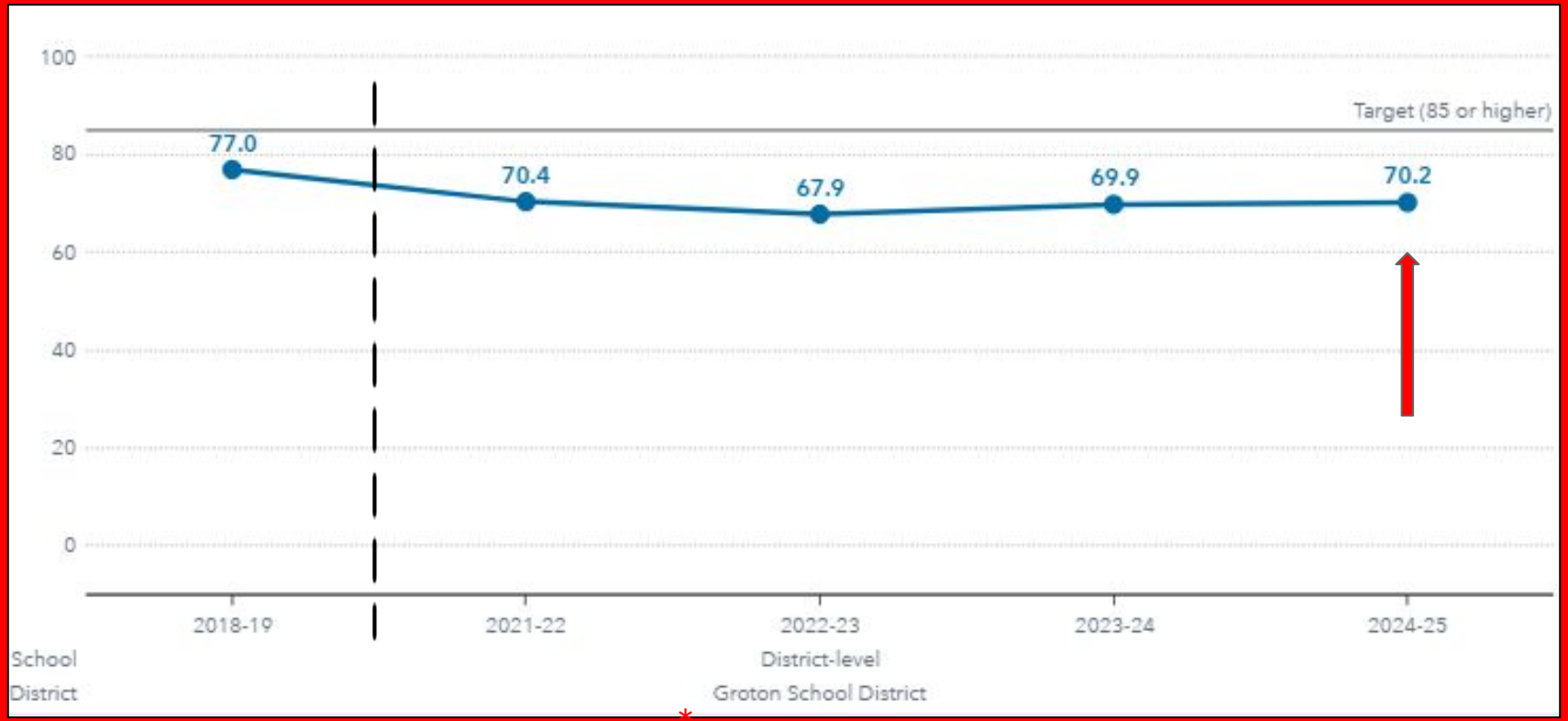
Accountability Index

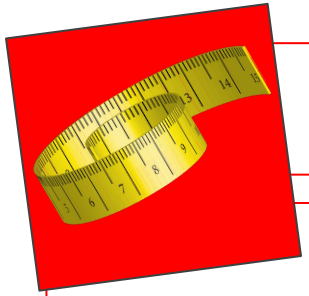
- Overall Target- 85 or higher
- Points can be earned based on specified “indicators”
- The percentage of possible points earned makes up the “Accountability Index”
- Performance on each indicator is measured against specific targets

Indicators

- Academic Achievement
- Academic Growth
- High School Graduation
- College and Career Readiness
- Postsecondary Entrance
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Physical Fitness
- Arts

Groton Public Schools: Accountability Index Trend





Assessment Metrics

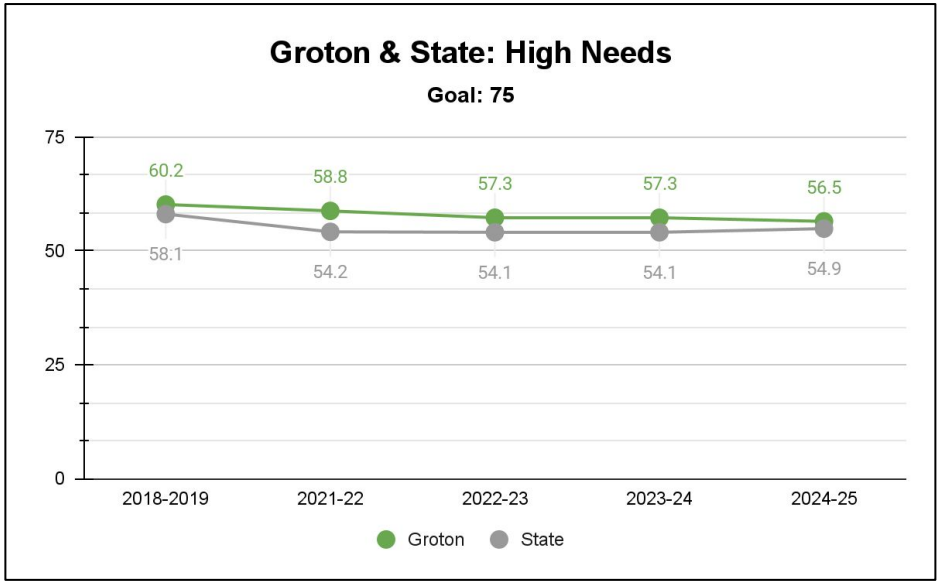
Performance Index: All summative assessments across all grade levels are converted to a common scale. This measure is used by CSDE to show *overall performance* in a subject area across the district.
Target- 75
(Indicator 1a-1f)

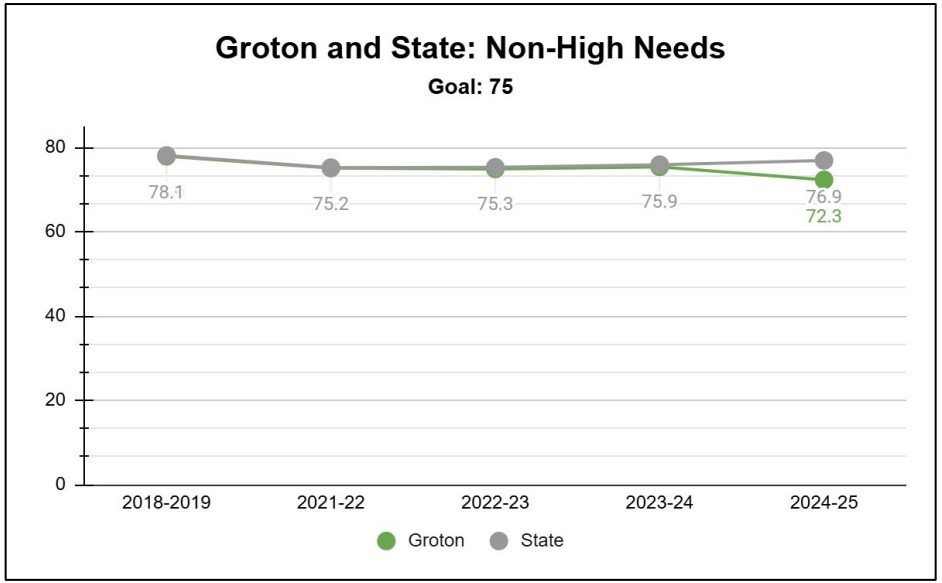
Academic Growth: *Compares* assessment data points for each student *year to year*. District academic growth is calculated by finding the average percentage of growth target achieved by all students.
Target- 100%
(Indicator 2a-2f)

Performance Index: Target 75

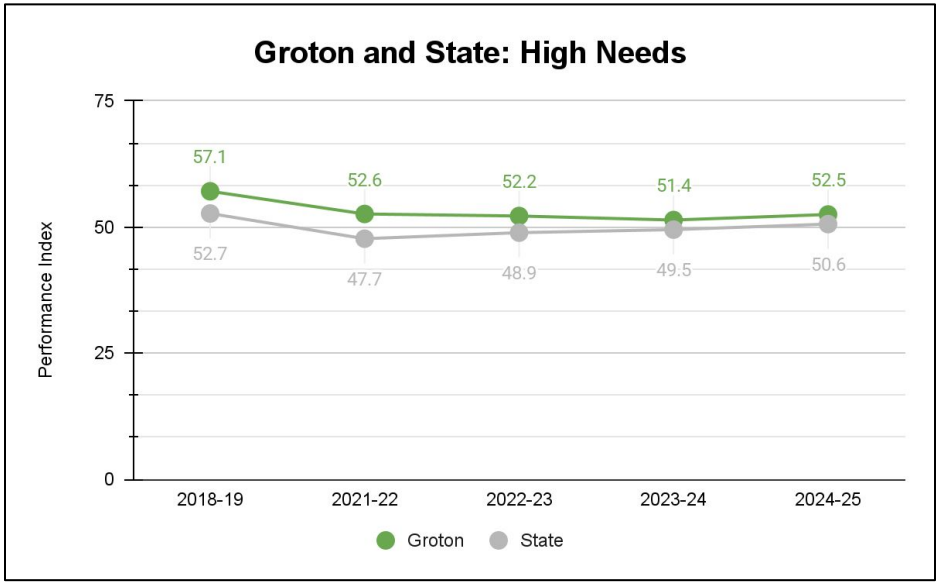
Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	**65.2**	63.7	75	84.9
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	57.3	56.5	75	75.4
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	**59.4**	59.9	75	79.9
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs	**51.4**	52.5	75	70.0
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	**61.9**	60.9	75	81.1
1f. Science Performance Index- High Needs	**53.6**	52.5	75	70.0

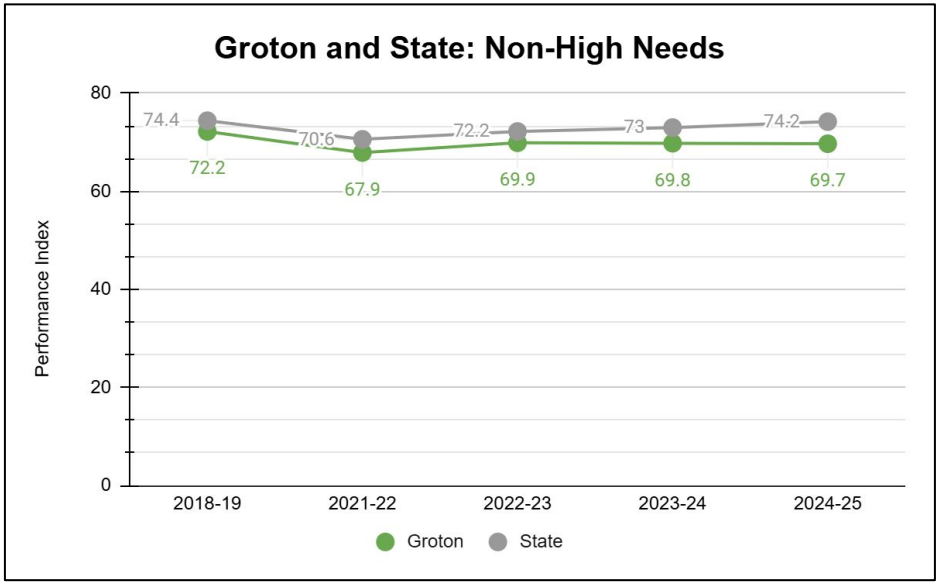
ELA Performance Index Goal: 75





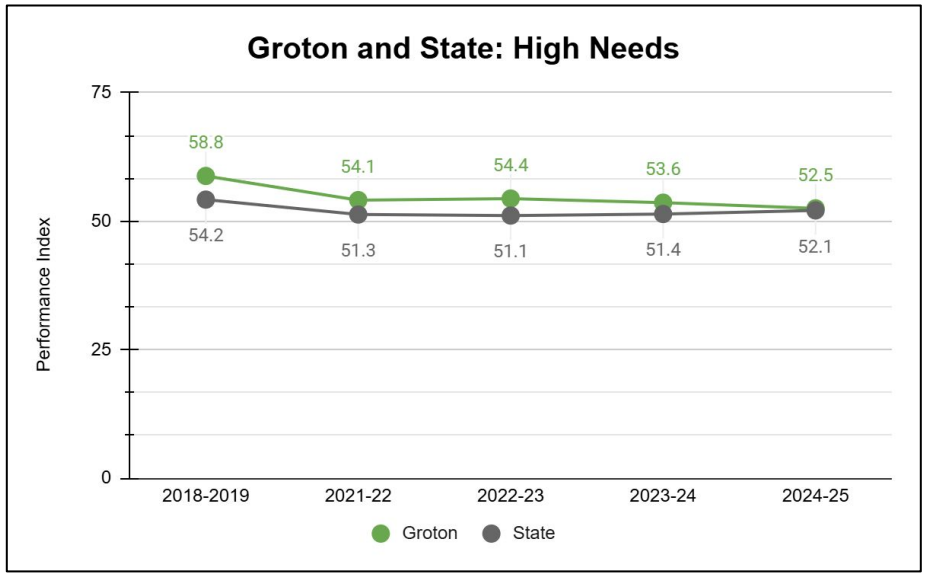
Math Performance Index Goal: 75

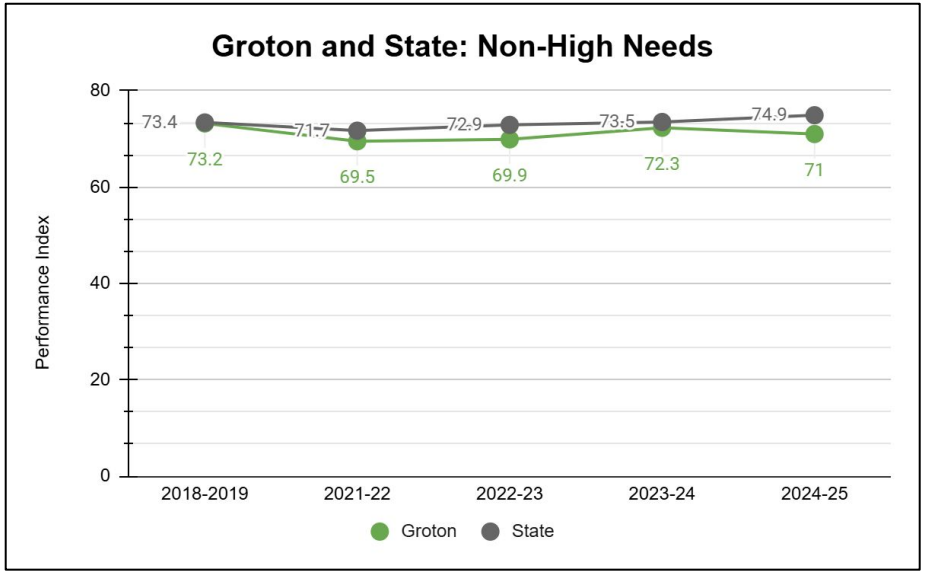




Science Performance Index

Goal: 75

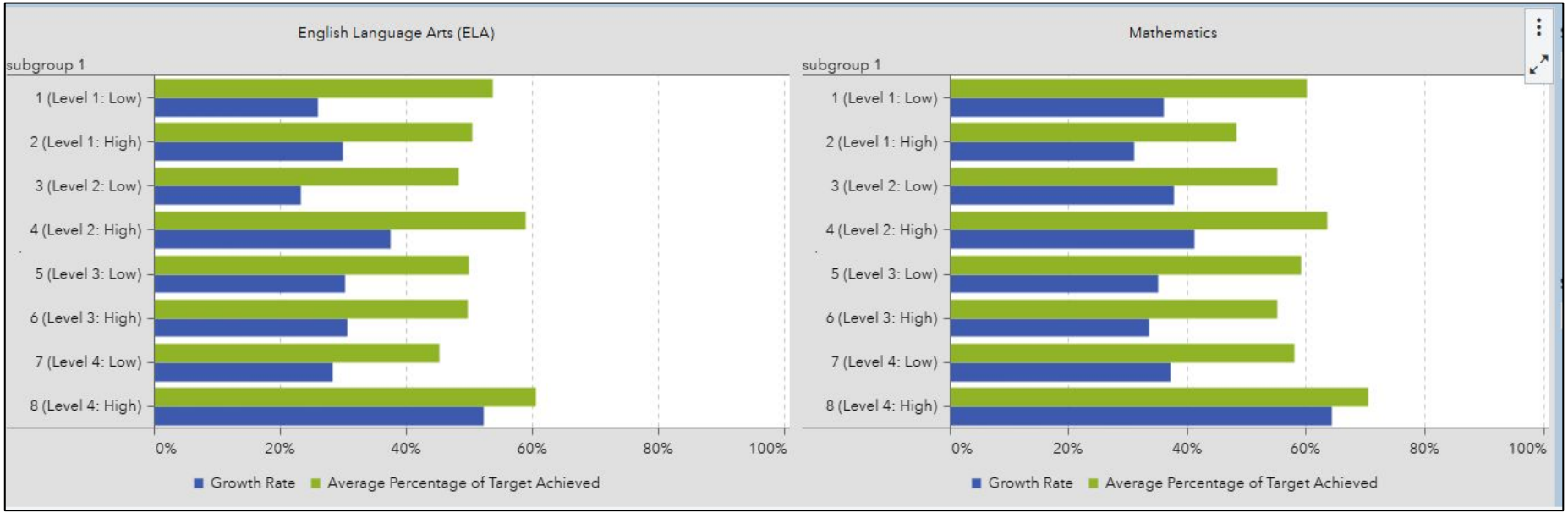




Academic Growth: Target 100%

Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	**59.9%**	52.4%	100%	52.4
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	**58.5%**	49.1%	100%	49.1
2c. Math Academic Growth - All Students	**56.7%**	59.1%	100%	59.1
2d. Math Academic Growth - High Needs Students	**53.9%**	56.2%	100%	56.2
2e.Progress Toward English Proficiency - Literacy	**57.2%**	63.0%	100%	63.0
2f. Progress Toward English Proficiency - Oral	**58.0%**	57.0%	100%	57.0

Growth by Performance Level



Chronic Absenteeism: Target <5%

Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
4a. Chronic Absenteeism - All Students	**18.8%**	20.1%	<=5%	39.4
4b. Chronic Absenteeism - High Needs Students	**24.1%**	27.2%	<=5%	11.2

College & Career Readiness: Target 75%

Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
5. Preparation for CCR - Percent Taking Courses	**92.4%**	96.0%	75%	100.0
6. Preparation for CCR - Percent Passing Exams	**50.6%**	56.5%	75%	75.3

High School Graduation and Beyond

Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
7. On-track to High School Graduation	**86.3%**	91.1%	94%	96.9
8. 4-year Graduation- All Students (2023 Cohort)	**84.2%**	88.0%	94%	93.6
9. 6-year Graduation- High Needs Students (2021 Cohohort)	**81.5%**	88.4%	94%	94.0
10. Postsecondary Entrance	**56.9%**	62.1%	75%	82.8

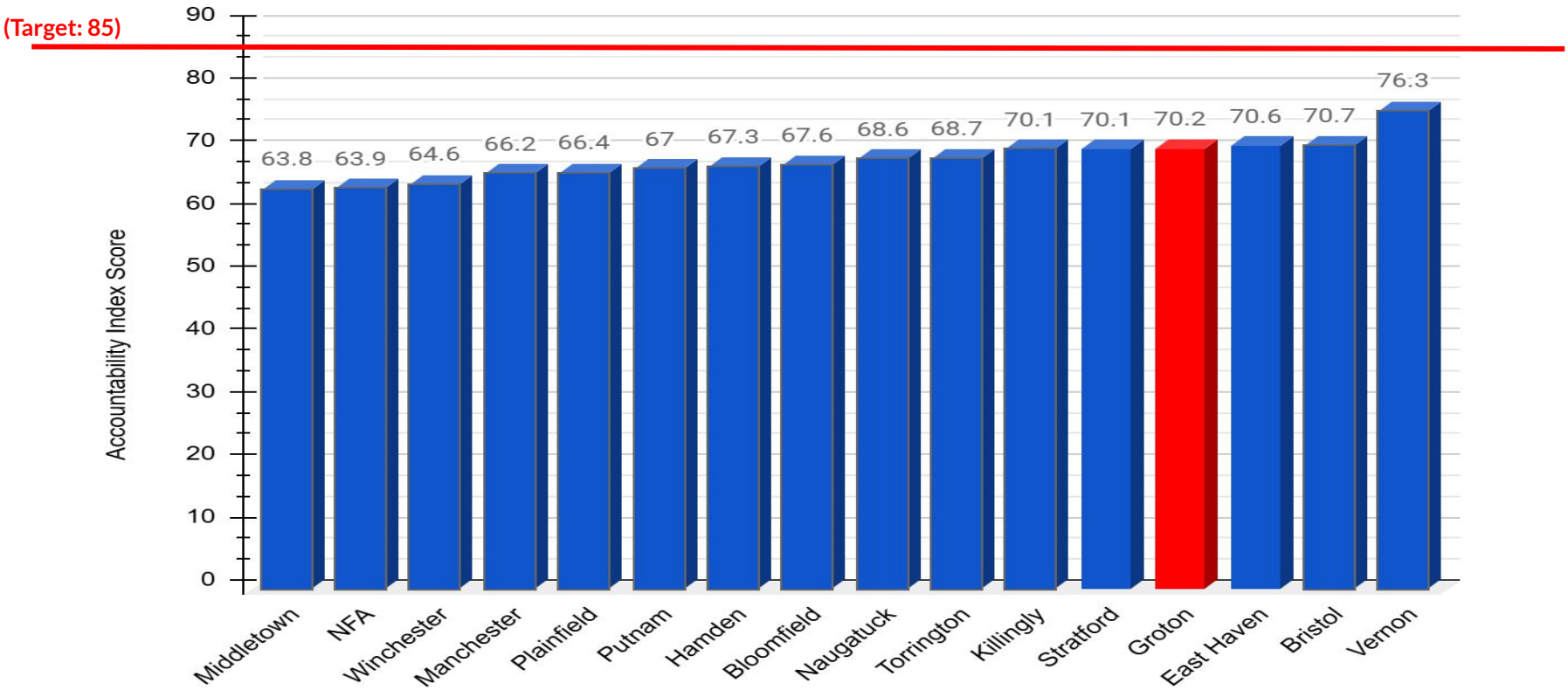
Physical Fitness & Arts Access

Indicator	Index/ Rate SY 23-24	Index/ Rate SY 24-25	Target	% Pts Earned
11. Physical Fitness	**42.0%**	44.0%	75%	58.6
12. Arts Access	**63.1%**	66.5%	60%	100
Total Accountability Index (Target=85)	**69.9**	**70.2**	85	70.2

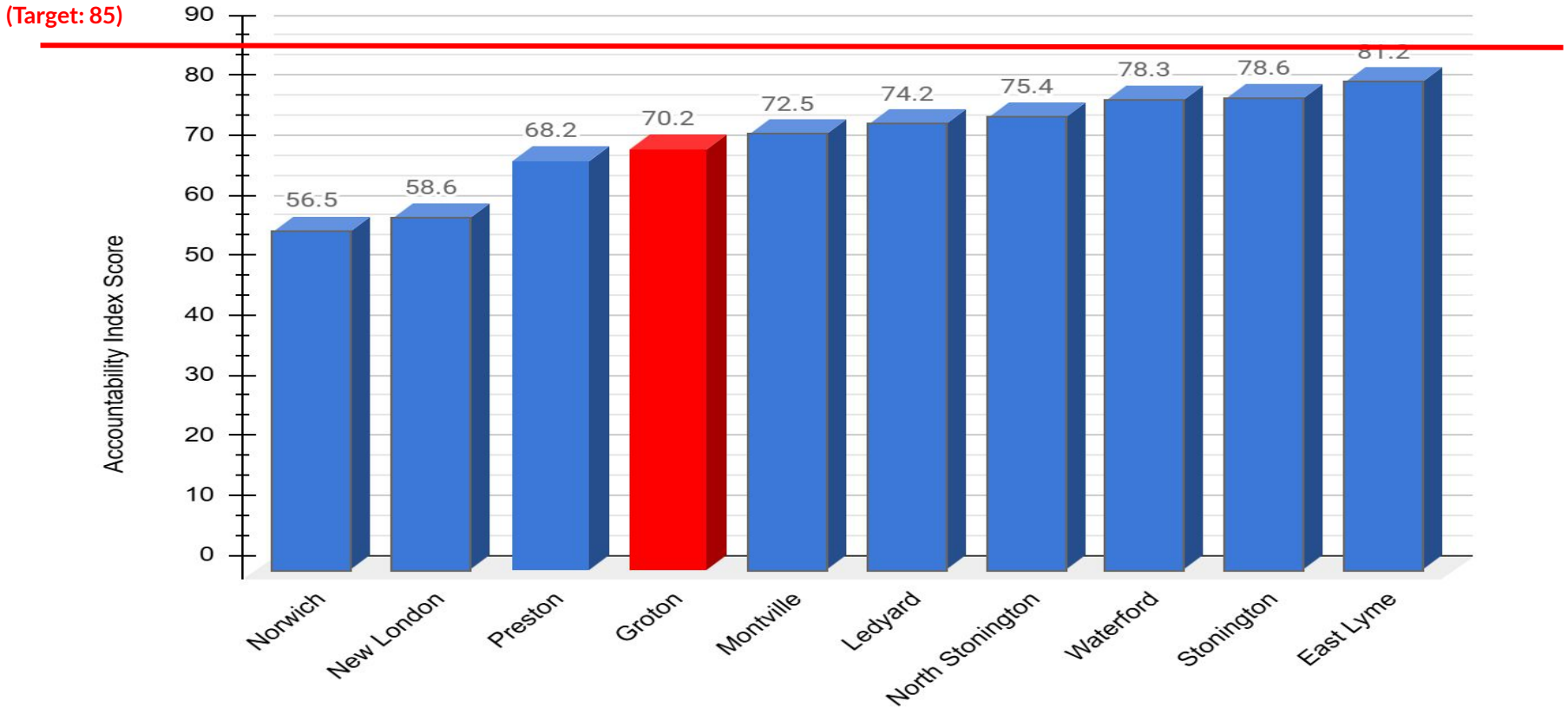
Key Performance Indicators- Academics

Indicator	SY 2025	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
Academics	Actual	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
Accountability Index	70.2	75	77.5	80	82.5	85
DPI-ELA	63.7	69	71	73	75	75
DPI-Math	59.9	65	67.5	70	72.5	75
DPI-Science	60.9	66	68	70	72	75

District Comparison by DRG (G)



District Comparison by Region





CT Schools of Distinction

for High Growth

Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School (Math- Students with High Needs)
Thames River Magnet School (Math- Students with High Needs)

Strengths

- Increase in number of students making academic growth targets (All Students and High Needs Students) in Math between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
  - TRMS & CK High Needs Students
- Increase in math performance and growth between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year
- Increase in performance between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 on Indicators 11 (Physical Fitness) and Indicator 12 (Arts Access) → demonstrates district's commitment to developing well-rounded students
- Increase in all four indicators for High School Graduation and Beyond between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 → supports the importance of offering a wide range of opportunities and pathways for students to find their passion

Areas of Focus

- ELA performance indicates a slight decline between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year
  - Implementation of a new reading program
  - Wit and Wisdom has been adopted as the ELA program for GMS during the 2026-2027 school year

- Science performance indicates a slight decline between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year
  - Grade 8 performance on NGSS was a driver in the performance decline
  - Our STEM Coordinator has expanded from K-5 to K-8 to assist with vertical alignment

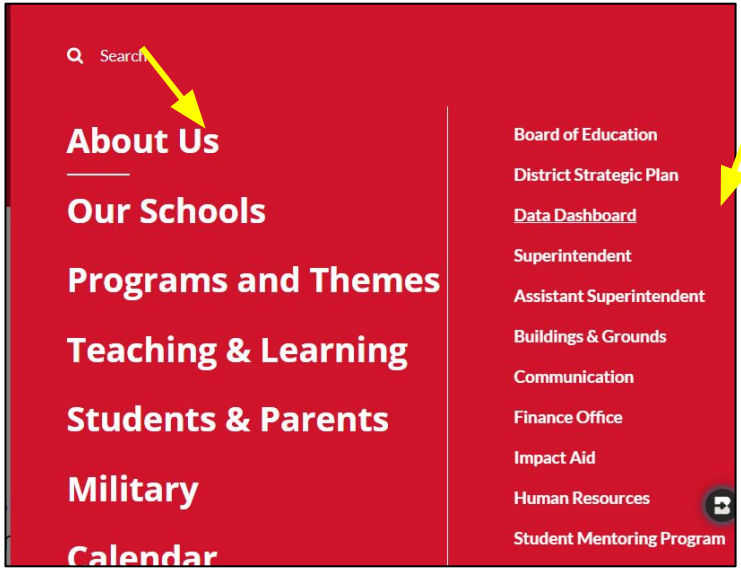
- Chronic Absenteeism increased between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year
  - Mauri Wrightington supported district during the 2025-2026 school year with Tier 1, 2 and 3 strategies to address chronic absenteeism
  - GPS Attendance Policy updated
  - District and Building level attendance teams met regularly

Reminder: District Data Dashboard

At the bottom of the District's Home Page



In the Home Page Menu-About US-Data Dashboard




Our Mission is Teaching and Learning
GROTON
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut
District Attendance Report
5/18/26

GPS Strategic Plan Pillars

1



2



3



4



5



Key Performance Indicators

Academics	Attendance	Behavior	College and Career Readiness	Communications & Climate
Accountability Index	Average Daily Attendance	# of Incidents of In-School Suspensions	% On-track for Graduation	% of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
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DPI- Science			4-Year Graduation Rate	% of Parents Who Believe there are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement

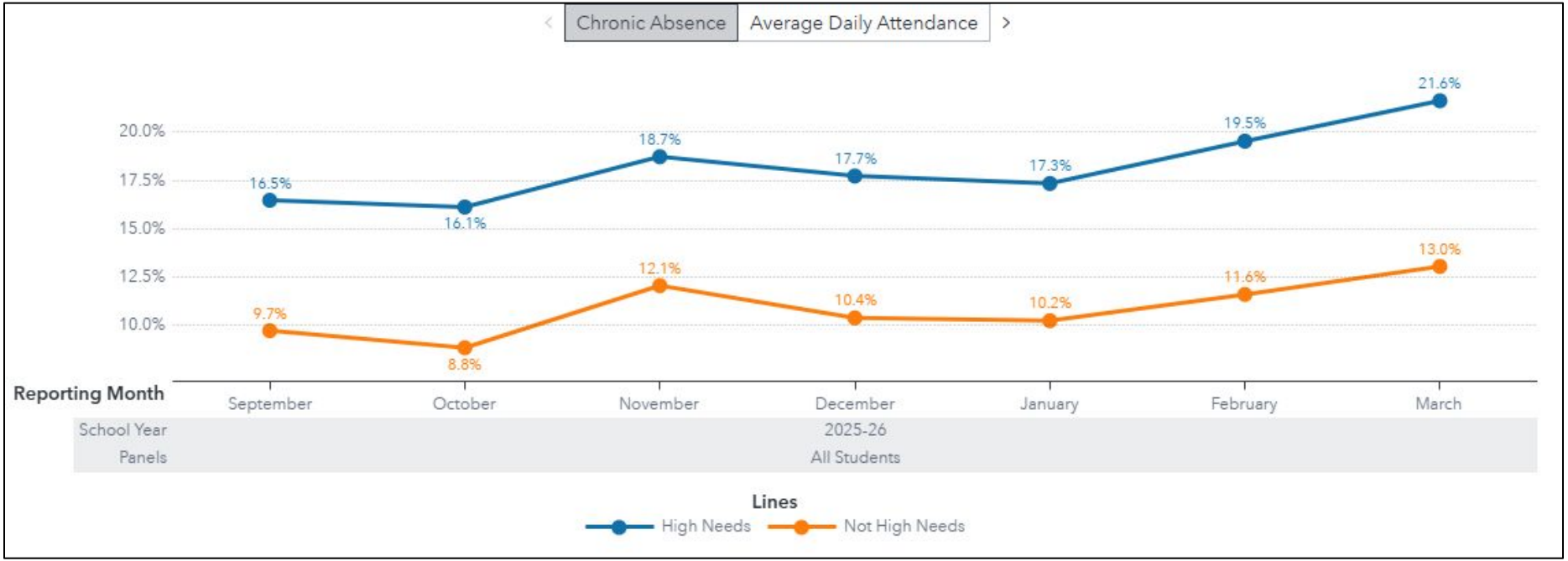
Strategic Plan Efforts to Improve Attendance

- Trained all staff in Tier 1 interventions
- Created targeted Tier 2 interventions and intensive Tier 3 supports
- Revised Attendance Letters to inform and engage families
- Developed District and School Attendance Teams
- Revised District Attendance Policy and Regulations

District Monthly Attendance Comparison



District Monthly Attendance Comparison



Attendance by School- Day 135

	CK	CB	MRMS	NEA	TRMS	GMS	FHS
Count of Students Below 90%/Total Enrollment	44/333	42/308	63/419	26/338	48/365	138/880	227/900
Percentage of Students Below 90%	13.2%	13.6%	15.0%	7.7%	13.2%	15.7%	25.2%
Average Daily Attendance	94.8%	94.5%	94.3%	95.4%	94.7%	94.0%	91.6%

Attendance Comparison: 135 Day Comparison

	CK	CB	MRMS	NEA	TRMS	GMS	FHS
2024-2025	21.1%	18.2%	21.0%	11.6%	23.0%	21.3%	27.6%
2025-2026	13.2%	13.6%	15.0%	7.7%	13.2%	15.7%	25.2%
Change	(-7.9)	(-4.6)	(-6)	(-3.9)	(-9.8)	(-5.6)	(-2.4)

Attendance Comparison: Day 90 & 135

	CK	CB	MRMS	NEA	TRMS	GMS	FHS
Day 90	11.9%	10.5%	12.1%	6.5%	10.2%	13.8%	22.3%
Day 135	13.2%	13.6%	15.0%	7.7%	13.2%	15.7%	25.2%
Change	+1.3	+3.1	+2.9	+1.2	+2.0	+1.9	+2.9

Attendance by Grade Level

Percentage of Students Below 90%							
Grade	**CK**	**CB**	**MRMS**	**NEA**	**TRMS**	**GMS**	**FHS**
Grade 00	20%	18.2%	15.2%	14.0%	21.2%		
Grade 01	10.5%	16.3%	16.4%	3.6%	13.0%		
Grade 02	9.4%	4.2%	18.3%	7.0%	13.8%		
Grade 03	16.1%	16.7%	9.8%	10.7%	8.2%		
Grade 04	14.8%	19.4%	19.5%	9.8%	6.8%		
Grade 05	8.9%	4.3%	11.8%	3.1%	14.9%		
Grade 06						16.3%	
Grade 07						14.4%	
Grade 08						16.3%	
Grade 09							22.4%
Grade 10							26.0%
Grade 11							23.4%
Grade 12							29.1%

Attendance by Lunch Status

Percentage of Students Below 90%							
	CK	**CB**	**MRMS**	**NEA**	**TRMS**	**GMS**	**FHS**
Free/Reduced	19.0%	14.4%	21.9%	11.8%	14.5%	22.0%	33.4%
Not Free/Reduced	6.9%	12.8%	6.8%	5.7%	11.6%	10.3%	17.5%

Noticeable Trends

- As a district, we have seen a slight increase chronic absenteeism since Day 90.
- As a district, each school has seen decrease in chronic absenteeism compared to Day 135 of 2025.
- Hispanic students make up the greatest percentage of chronically absent.
- Students eligible for free or reduced lunch have significantly higher rates of chronic absenteeism over their non-eligible peers.
- Students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12 make up the greatest percentage of chronically absent students at each level.

Attendance Still Matters!

Changes we have made because we have an extended school year …

- promotions/graduations are being held during the last week of school.
- schools are moving end-of-year activities and events (e.g., Field Day) to the final days of school.
- staff is being encouraged to maintain business as usual.
- the district/schools will increase reminders to families about the learning and socialization that takes place at the end of the year.

Our Roadmap to Success





District Improvement Plan



School Improvement Plan

Key Performance Indicators and State Data Measure Progress