NORWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026 MCAS and Accountability

October 26, 2026

Agenda

- MCAS Results and Trends
- State Accountability Updates and Results
- Takeaways and Next Steps

State MCAS 2025 to 2026

- English Language Arts (ELA) shows a decline in all grades
- Math remained flat
- Science shows a decline in Science grades 5 & 10 and an increase in grade 8
- Civics remained flat - grade 8

Norwell MCAS ELA Trends Grades 3-8

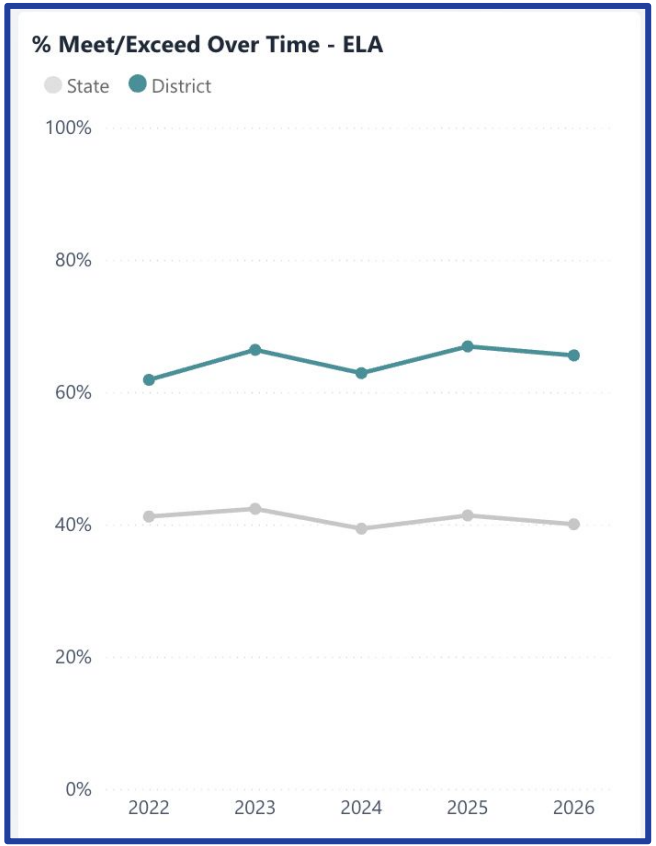
3-8 ELA

66%

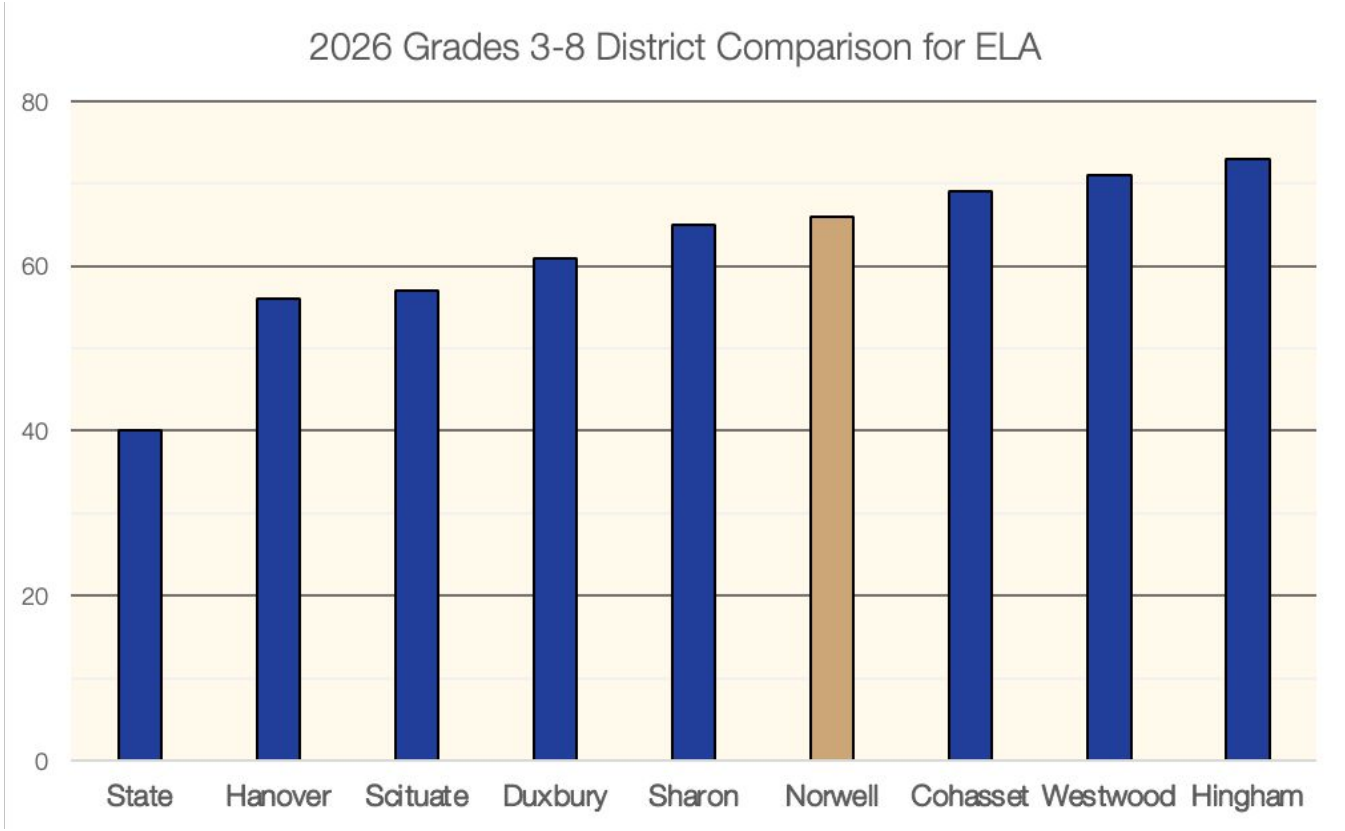
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↓ 1% from 2025

↑26% from State



District Comparison - ELA



Norwell MCAS **Math** Trends Grades 3-8

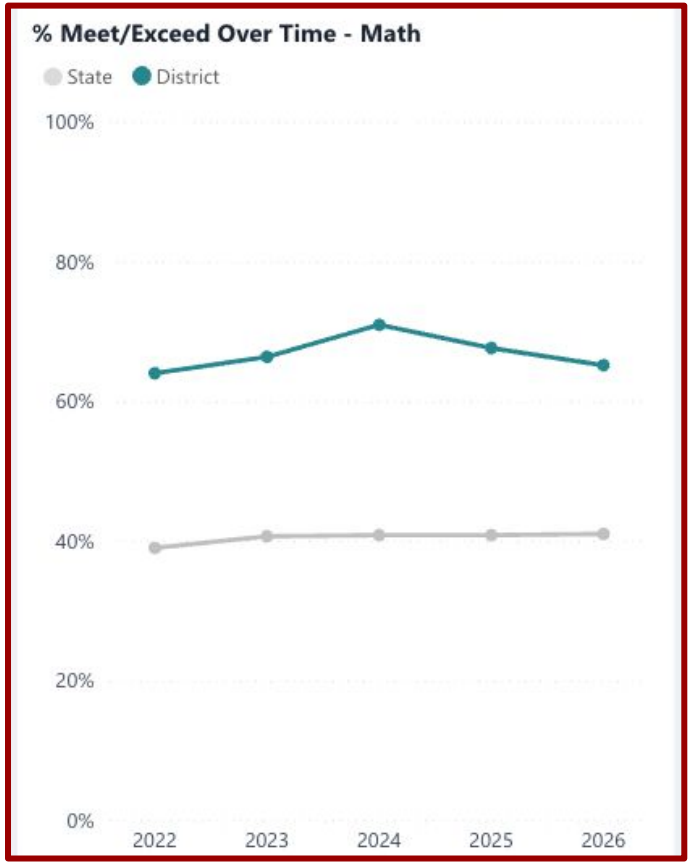
3-8 Math

65%

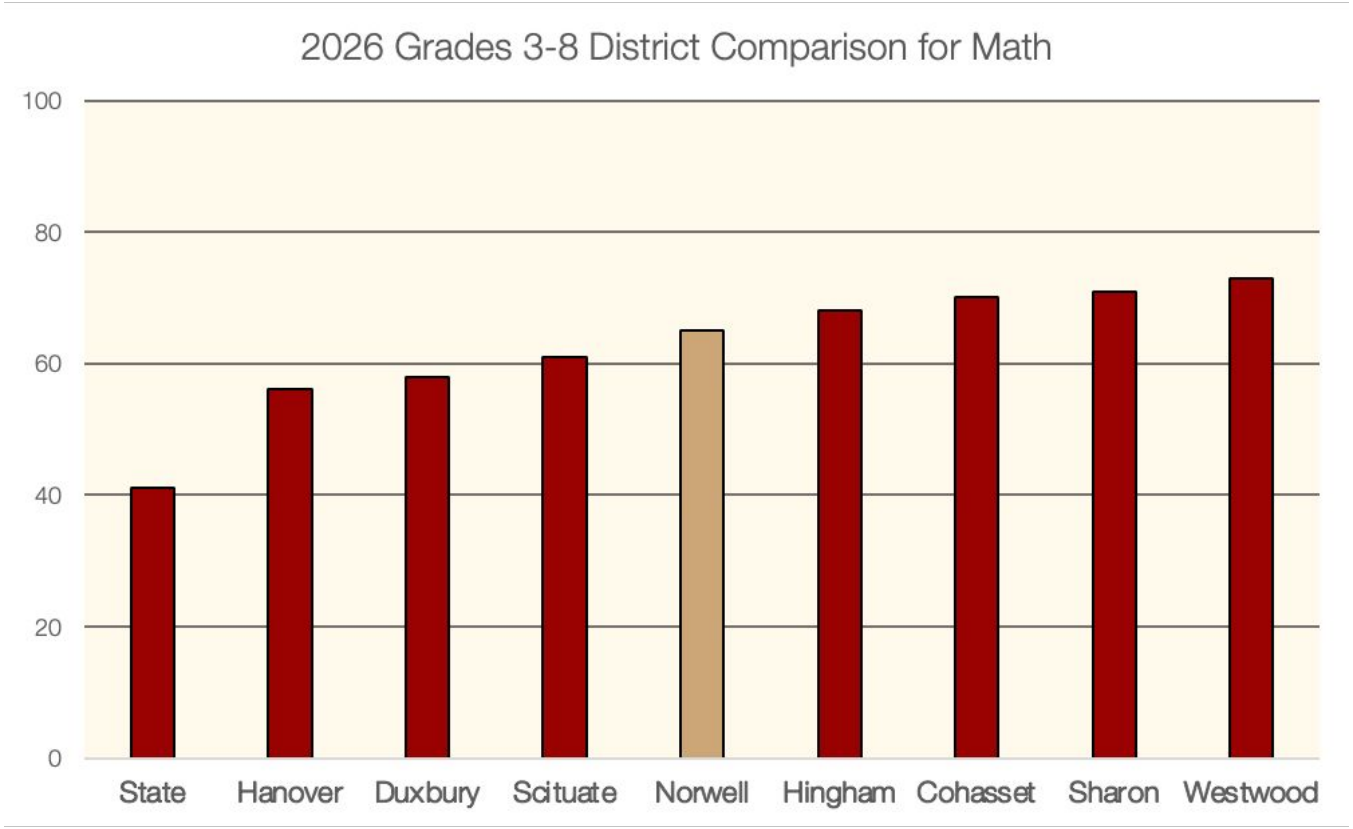
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↓ 3% from 2025

↑ 24% from State



District Comparison - Math



Norwell MCAS Science Trends Grades 5 & 8

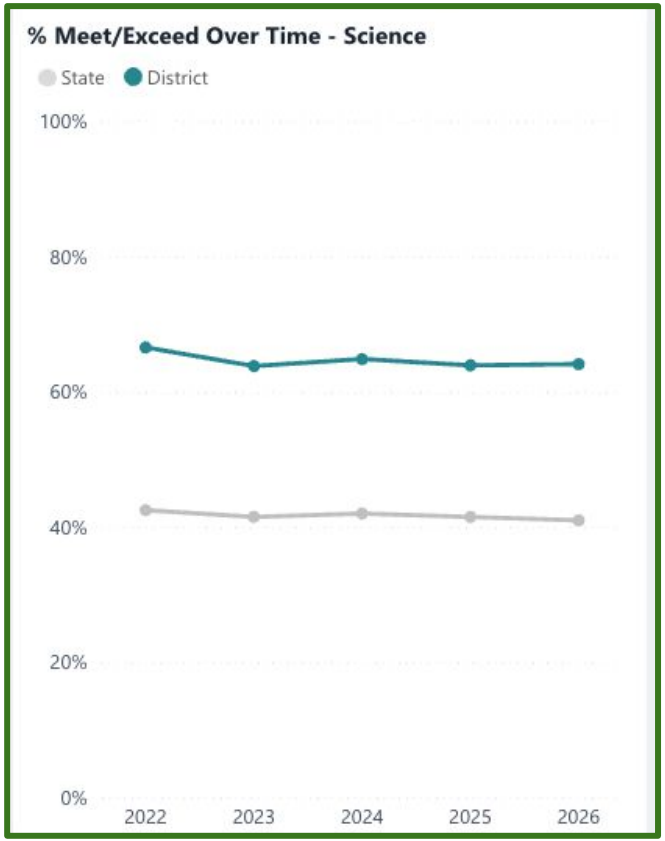
5 & 8 Science

64%

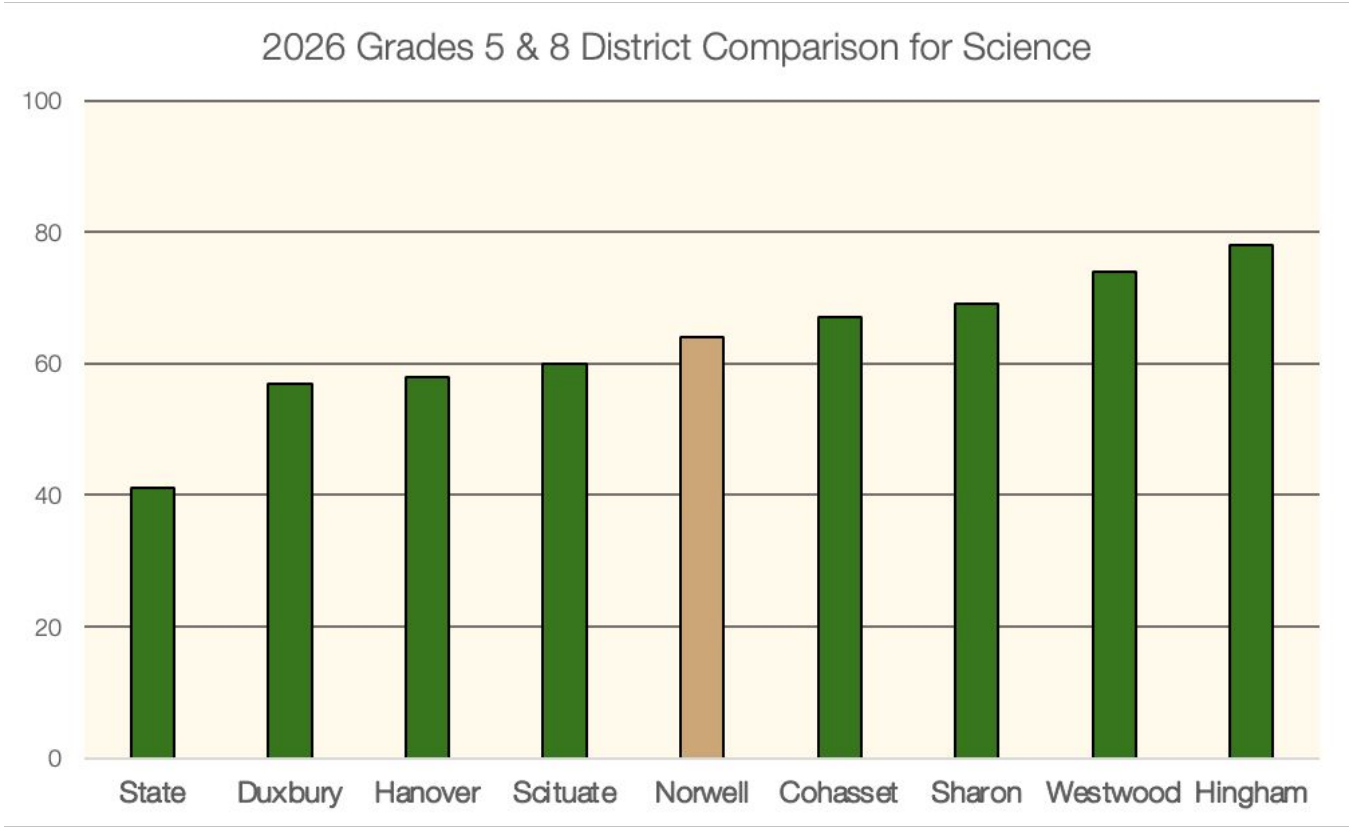
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↔ from 2025

↑ 23% from State



District Comparison - Science



MCAS Civics Grade 8

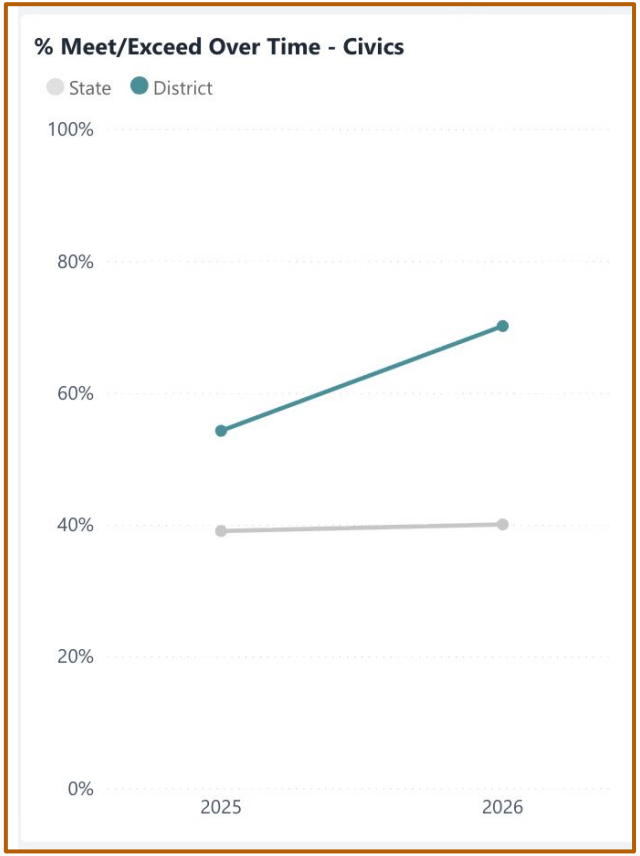
8 Civics

54%

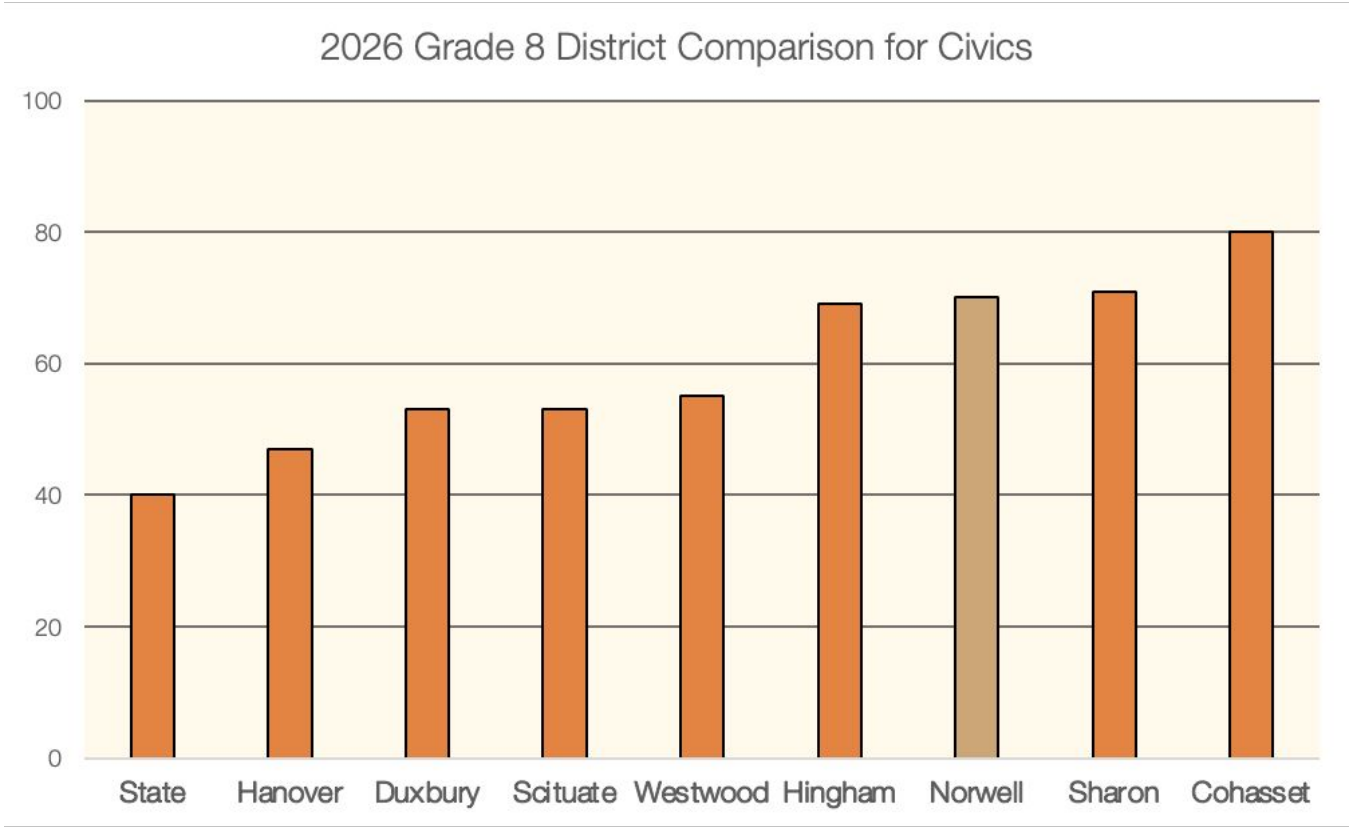
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↑15% from 2025

↑30% from State



District Comparison - Civics



MCAS ELA Trends Grade 10

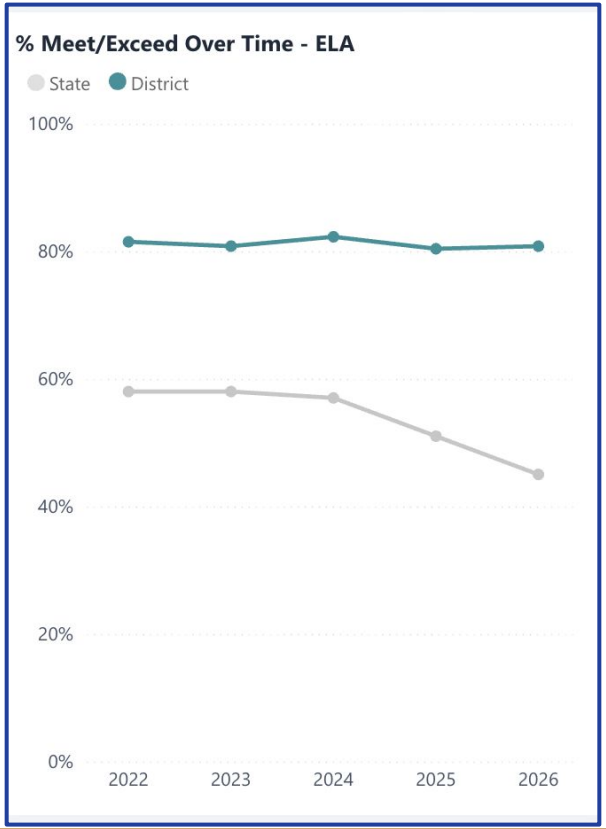
Grade 10 ELA

81%

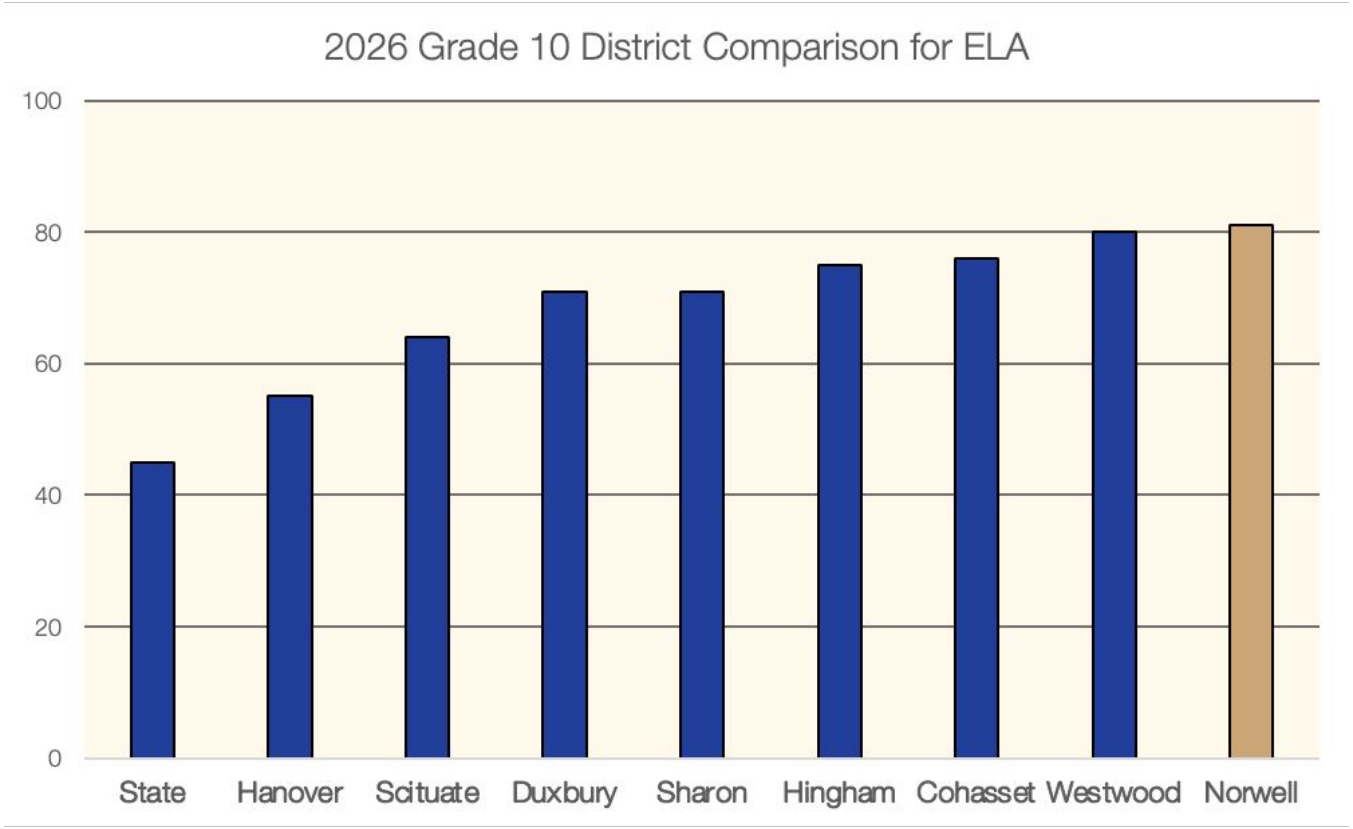
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↑ 1% from 2025

↑ 36% from State



District Comparison - ELA



MCAS Math Trends Grade 10

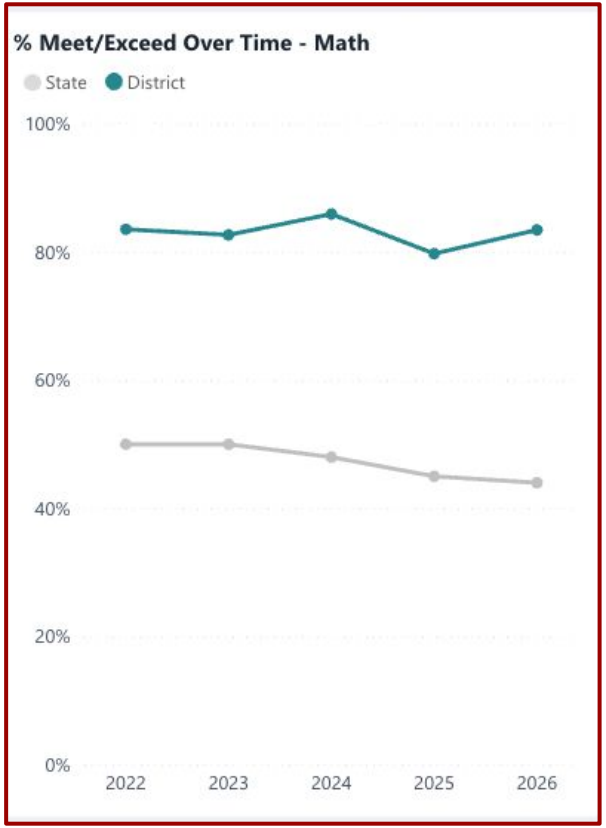
Grade 10 Math

83%

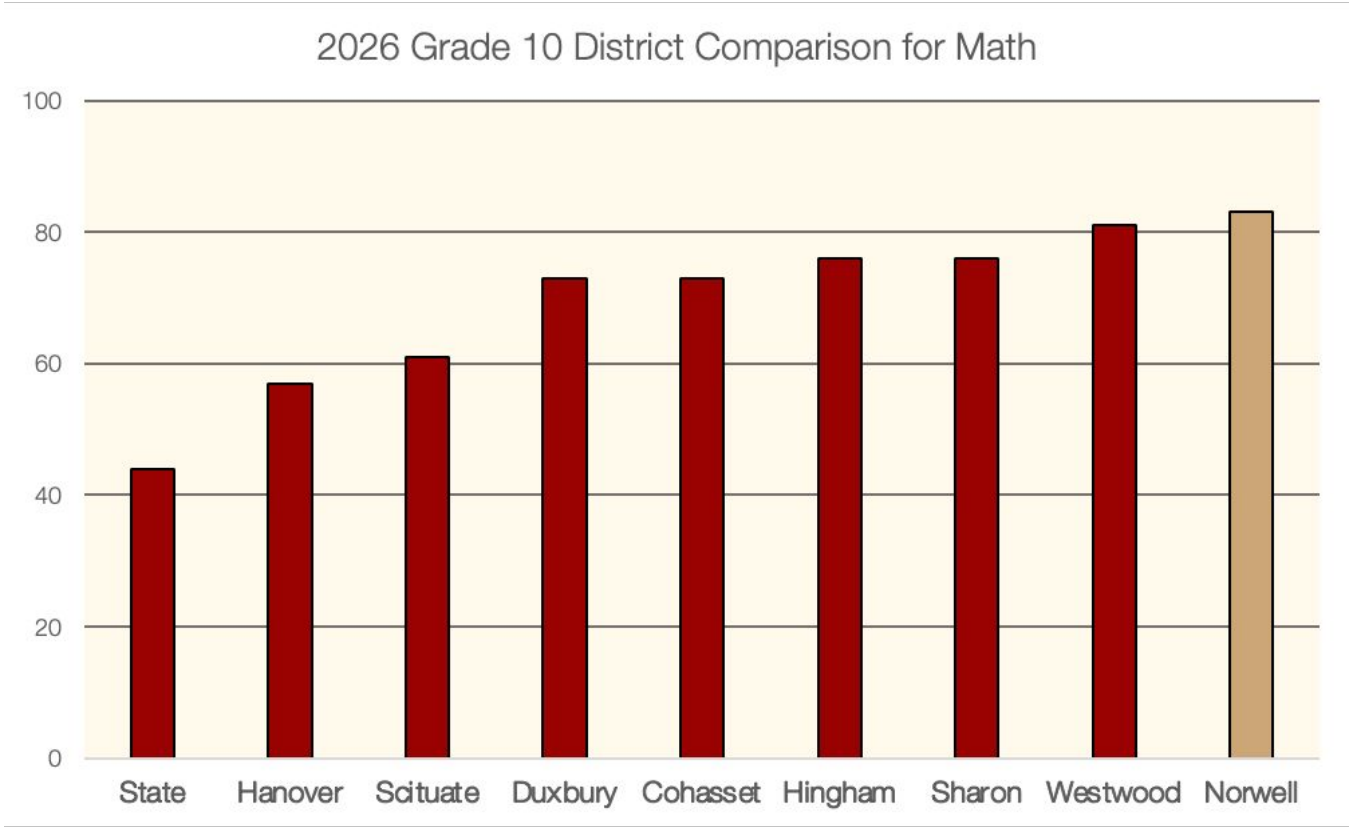
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↑ 3% from 2025

↑ 39% from State



District Comparison - Math



MCAS Science Trends Grade 10

Grade 10 Science

64%

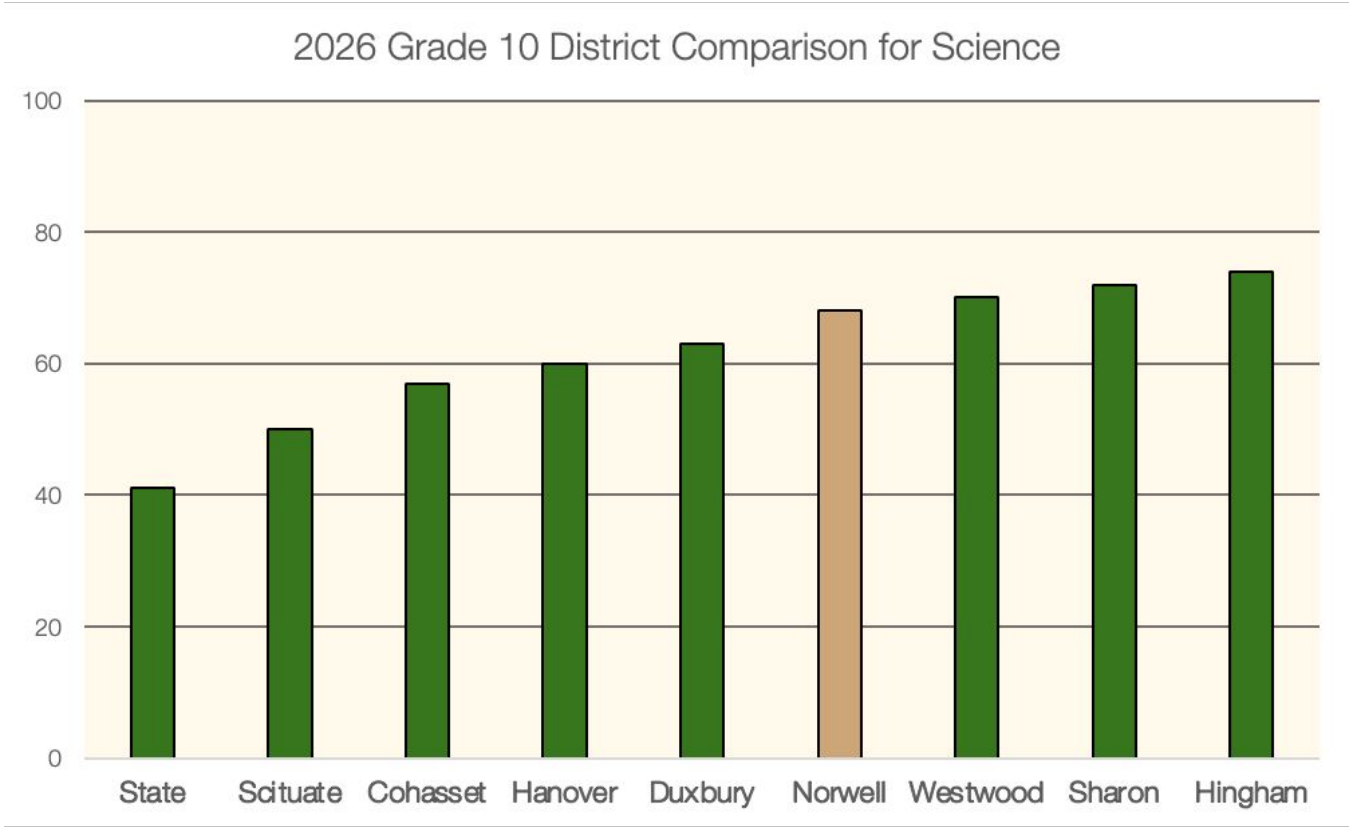
Students Meeting/Exceeding

↓ 5% from 2025

↑ 27% from State



District Comparison - Science



MCAS - Norwell

- Narrowed the gap between regular and special education in
  - High School ELA
  - High School Math
  - Middle School Science

- Narrowing the gap in our lowest performing group in
  - Middle School ELA
  - Vinal Elementary ELA
  - Cole Elementary Math

Accountability

Accountability

The MA DESE **accountability system** is:

the set of policies and practices that a **state** uses to measure and hold schools and districts responsible for raising student achievement for all students.

Every school receives two ratings

How do we compare to ourselves?	*How do we compare to others?*
Progress toward targets	**Percentiles**
(criterion referenced)	(normative)
✔	✔

1

The Massachusetts accountability system consists of two components…

Normative Component (Accountability Percentile)

measures the performance of all students in a school **compared to other schools** in the state that serve similar grades, and is reported as a **percentile** from 1 to 99

Criterion-Referenced Component (Targets)

measures progress towards improvement targets set for **one's own school or district**, and is reported as a **percentage**

2 …that measure performance of groups, schools, and districts on specific indicators…

- Achievement
- Student Growth
- English Learner Proficiency
- Attendance/Absenteeism
- High School Completion
- Advanced Coursework

3

…and are used to categorize schools and districts as requiring or not requiring assistance/intervention.

Not requiring assistance or intervention					Requiring assistance or intervention	
Schools of recognition	**Meeting or exceeding targets**	**Substantial progress toward targets**	**Moderate progress toward targets**	**Limited or no progress toward targets**	**Focused/ targeted support**	**Broad/ comprehensive support**
Recognized for high achievement, high growth, or exceeding targets	Cumulative criterion-referenced target percentage **75-100**	Cumulative criterion-referenced target percentage **50-74**	Cumulative criterion-referenced target percentage **25-49**	Cumulative criterion-referenced target percentage **0-24**	•Percentiles 1-10 •Low graduation rate •Low performing group(s) •Low participation	•Underperforming schools •Chronically underperforming schools
ES/MS	14.7%	**45.6%**	35.4%	4.3%		
HS	6.4%	**18.4%**	56.8%	18.4%		

80%

20%

What is a Target?

A quantitative goal for improvement, based on the prior year's performance, determined for each particular indicator

Example 1

Chronic absenteeism - Non-high school							About the Data
Group	2023 Rate (%)	2024 Rate (%)	Change	Target	N	Points	Reason
All Students	7.9	5.4	-2.5	6.9	1,390	4	Exceeded Target

Example 2

Mathematics achievement - MCAS average composite scaled score - High school							About the Data
Group	2023 Achievement	2024 Achievement	Change	2024 Target	N	Points	Reason
All Students	513.4	517.7	4.3	514.5	139	4	Path Forward: Exceeded Target

2026 Official Accountability Report - Norwell

PRINT

Organization Information	
DISTRICT NAME Norwell (02190000)	**TITLE I STATUS** Title I District
REGION Coastal	**GRADES SERVED** PK,K,01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10,11,12

Accountability Information

Overall classification	Not requiring assis[illegible]e or intervention

Reason for classification
Meeting or exceeding targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
77% - Meeting or exceeding targets	-

1

2

3

OVERALL RESULTS | STUDENT GROUP RESULTS | DETAILED DATA FOR EACH INDICATOR | SCHOOLS IN THIS DISTRICT

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	77%	77%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	77% Meeting or exceeding targets	

2026 Official Accountability Report - Norwell

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DISTRICT NAME Norwell (02190000)	**TITLE I STATUS** Title I District
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Accountability Information

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification
Meeting or exceeding targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
77% - Meeting or exceeding targets	-

OVERALL RESULTS | STUDENT GROUP RESULTS | DETAILED DATA FOR EACH INDICATOR | SCHOOLS IN THIS DISTRICT

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	77%	77%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	77% Meeting or exceeding targets	

School-Level Accountability Percentiles

School Accountability Information		
School	**Accountability information**	**School accountability percentile**
Grace Farrar Cole	Not requiring assistance or intervention	83
Norwell High	Not requiring assistance or intervention	94
Norwell Middle School	Not requiring assistance or intervention	88
William G Vinal	Not requiring assistance or intervention	83

Norwell High School

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification
School of Recognition

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
71% - Substantial progress toward targets	94

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	69%	72%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	71%	
	Substantial progress toward targets	

School of Recognition

- A **School of Recognition** shows exceptional progress toward their annual accountability targets, which weigh MCAS achievement, student growth, graduation rates, and chronic absenteeism tracking
- Out of about 1,800 public schools operating in Massachusetts, these 56 honored campuses represent just 3.1% of all public schools statewide.
- The majority of the 56 recognized schools are elementary or middle schools. Only a tiny fraction are high schools.
- 7 of these are traditional 9-12 high schools: 0.38%

Norwell Middle School

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification
Substantial progress toward targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
70% - Substantial progress toward targets	88

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	63%	75%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	70%	
	Substantial progress toward targets	

Grace Farrar Cole Elementary

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification
Substantial progress toward targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
69% - Substantial progress toward targets	83

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	76%	65%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	69%	
	Substantial progress toward targets	

William G. Vinal Elementary

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification
Substantial progress toward targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
62% - Substantial progress toward targets	83

Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2025	2026
Annual criterion-referenced target percentage	83%	47%
Weight	40%	60%
Cumulative Criterion-referenced target percentage (2025 x 40%) + (2026 x 60%)	62%	
	Substantial progress toward targets	

Takeaways

Highlights

- All schools are *making substantial progress towards targets;* Norwell Public Schools is *meeting or exceeding targets*
- Norwell High School is a **School of Recognition**

Exceeding Targets:

- High School: High Needs and Students with Disabilities subgroups in ELA and Math
- Middle School: ELA and Math
- Cole and Vinal: Chronic Absenteeism

Areas of Focus

- Cole and Vinal: work with grade level teams where growth or achievement declined
- Middle School continues to have some areas that do not meet targets:
  - Lowest 25% subgroup: math/science/chronic absenteeism
- High School → Chronic Absenteeism and Science for Lowest 25% subgroup

In the Works and Moving Forward

- Empower Elementary Curriculum Committees
- Review Screeners
- Calibrate Expectations for Writing
- Analyze Biology CP Items/Questions/Format
- Goal-Alignment and Ongoing Item Analysis by grade-level and department

Questions