Academic Performance Update & Vision of a Learner

Presented By: NHPS Leadership Team | **Date:** November 2026

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WE LEARN • WE CARE • WE CONTRIBUTE • WE BELONG

Celebrating student achievements, collaborative learning, and continuous growth across all grade levels district-wide.











Our Data at a Glance

Student Achievement & Growth: Points of Pride

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82%

Strong Early Literacy

K–3 students at or above the DIBELS benchmark in spring 2026, compared with 64% nationally.

70%

Positive Reading Growth

Grades 3–6 demonstrated typical or high STAR Reading growth, up from 60% previously.

74%

Encouraging Math Growth

Grades 1–6 demonstrated typical or high STAR Math growth, up from 65% previously.

Sustained ELA Progress

Smarter Balanced average ELA scale scores are higher across all tested grades compared with five years ago.

DIBELS — Early Literacy (Grades K-3)

Benchmark Assessment Results & Comparison

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82% vs. 64% National

Spring 2026 Results

Spring 2026 results show strong end-of-year performance, with 82% of students at or above benchmark compared with 64% in the national comparison.

66% vs. 51% National

Fall 2026 Results

Fall 2026 results show that 66% began the year at or above benchmark, compared with 51% nationally.

Detailed Performance Breakdown (All Periods)

Population	Measure		Levels	Students
National 4 grades	Composite Score	BOY	33% / 17% / 25% / 25%	3459935
		MOY	30% / 15% / 28% / 27%	3389802
		EOY	23% / 13% / 28% / 36%	3294463
Population selected	Composite Score	BOY	12% / 17% / 42% / 29%	202
		MOY	12% / 15% / 41% / 32%	203
		EOY	9% / 9% / 39% / 43%	206

Fall Comparison Detail

Population	Measure		Levels	Students
National 4 grades	Composite Score	BOY	32% / 17% / 26% / 25%	3521057
Population selected	Composite Score	BOY	19% / 15% / 38% / 28%	211

STAR — Reading (Grades 3-6)

What does STAR tell us about current reading achievement?

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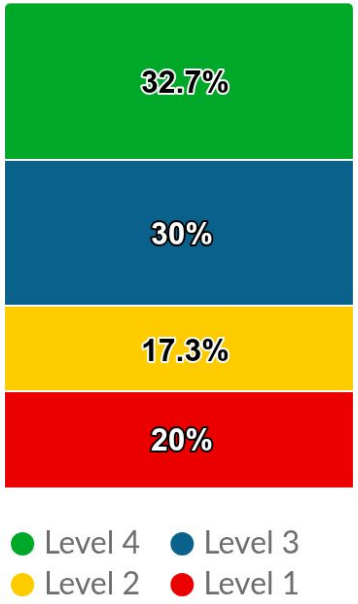
Performance Level Distribution



63% vs. 59% Prior Fall

Projected At or Above State Benchmark

In Fall 2026-2027, 63% of students district-wide (Grades 3-6) are projected to score at or above benchmark on the Reading state test, up from 59% in Fall 2025-2026. 3rd grade leads at 69%.

Positive Trend & Achievement Growth

The district ended 2025-2026 at 55% in Spring, making the Fall 2026-2027 result of 63% an area to celebrate.

Reading achievement projections show steady, meaningful improvement compared with prior fall benchmark data.

STAR — Reading (Grades 3-6)

Are students making progress in reading?

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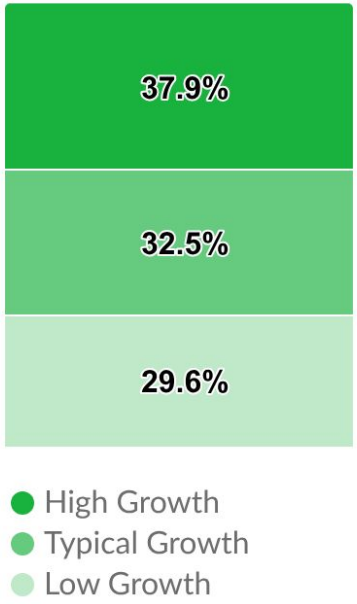
Student Growth Distribution



70% vs. 60% Prior Year

Typical or Better Growth District-Wide

70% of students district-wide showed typical or better growth from Fall to Fall 2026-2027, up from 60% the prior year. This is a positive shift and suggests reading growth efforts are moving in the right direction.

84% 4th Grade Lead

Growth Breakdown & Highlights

4th grade students showed the highest percent of students making typical or better growth at 84%.

District-wide distribution: 37.9% high growth, 32.5% typical growth, and 29.6% low growth.

STAR — Math (Grades 1-6)

What does STAR tell us about current math achievement?

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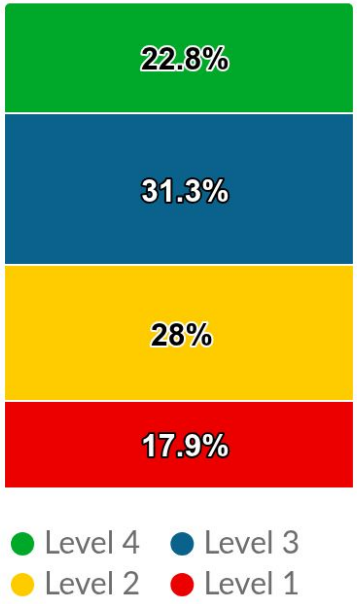
Performance Level Distribution



54% vs. 51% Prior Fall

Projected At or Above State Benchmark

In Fall 2026-2027, 54% of students district-wide (Grades 1-6) are projected to score at or above the state benchmark on the Math state test, up from 51% in Fall 2025-2026.

Year-Round Progress & Priority Areas

In 2025-2026, projected proficiency rose from 51% in Fall to 60% by Spring, showing improvement across the year.

6th grade math should be a priority given the gap versus other grades. 6th grade is the lowest at 41%.

STAR — Math (Grades 1-6)

Are students making progress in math?

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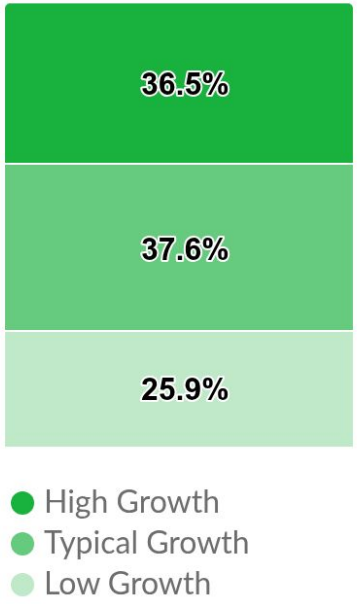
Student Growth Distribution



74% vs. 65% Prior Year

Typical or Better Growth District-Wide

74% of students district-wide showed typical or better growth in math from Fall to Fall 2026-2027, up from 65% the prior year. This is a positive trend worth recognizing.

+9 pts Fall-to-Fall Increase

Positive Evidence of Student Progress

Mathematics growth is an encouraging indicator. Nearly three-quarters of students demonstrated typical or high growth, an increase of approximately 9 percentage points over the prior fall-to-fall comparison. While achievement remains an important focus, these growth results provide positive evidence of student progress.

Smarter Balanced — Achievement, Trends, and Growth

How Many Students Meet Grade-Level Expectations?

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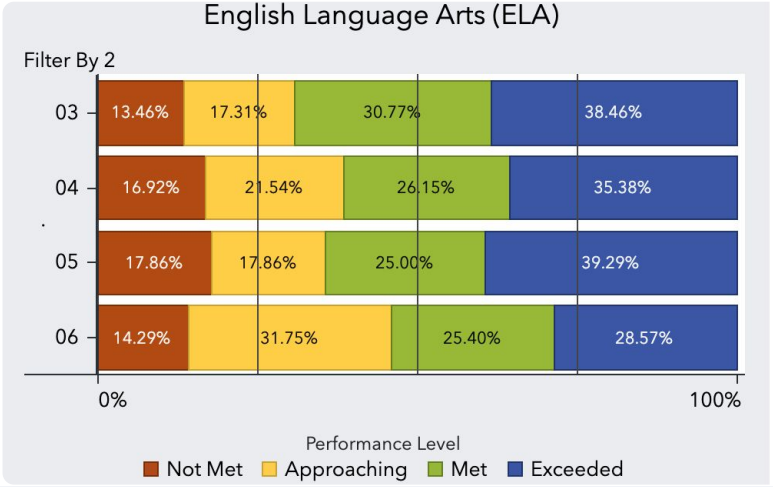
Overall Subject Comparison

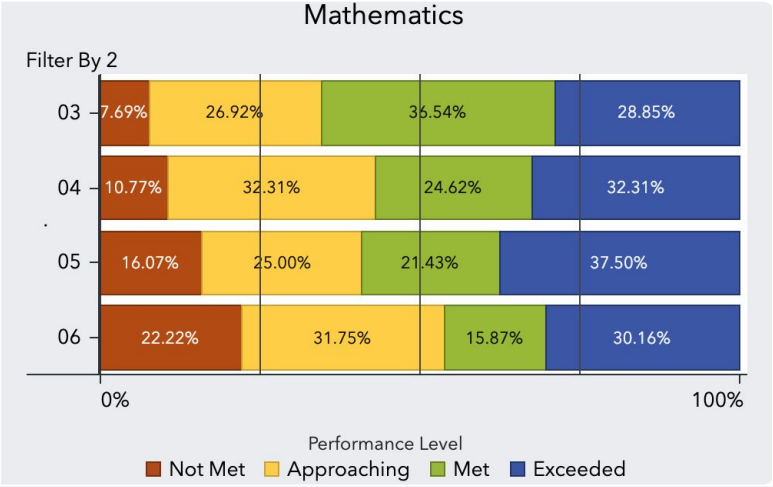
ELA achievement is higher than mathematics across all four grades.

Grade-Level Key Insights

Grade 3 is a relative strength, while Grade 6 mathematics warrants attention.

Performance Level Distribution by Subject and Grade





Smarter Balanced — Achievement, Trends, and Growth

Are Students Meeting Growth Expectations?

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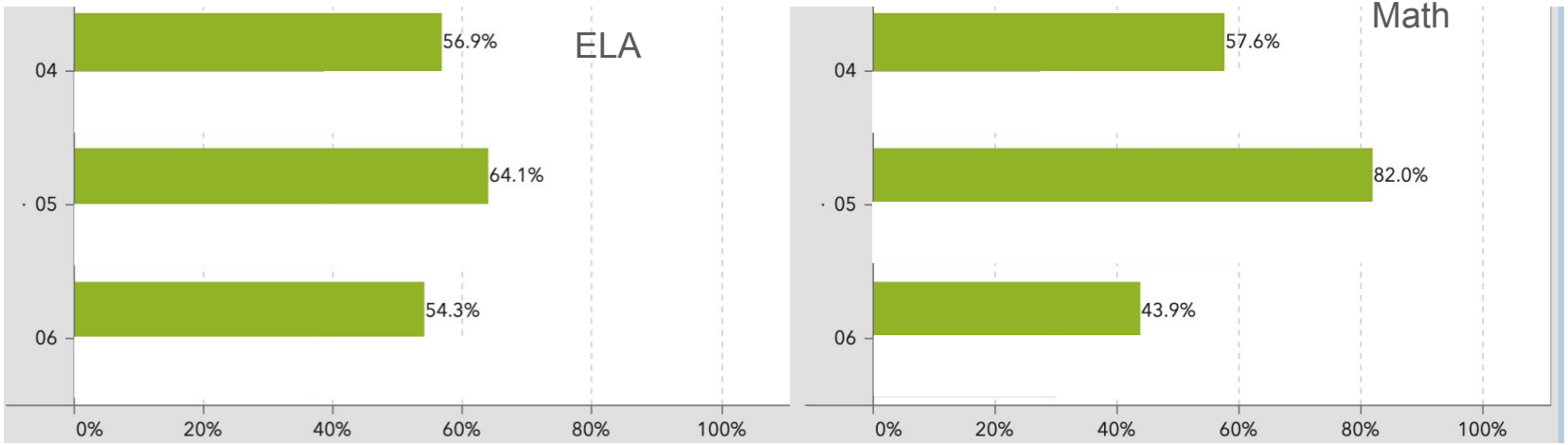
Grade 5 Growth Strength

Grade 5 mathematics is a notable strength in growth target achievement.

Grade 6 Focus Area

Grade 6 mathematics shows the greatest need for instructional attention.

Student Growth Expectations: Average Percentage Toward Target Achieved Breakdown



*Connecticut uses APTA in its state accountability model because it recognizes partial progress toward a growth target, rather than treating growth as simply met or not met.

Smarter Balanced — Achievement, Trends, and Growth

What Do Five Years of Results Tell Us?

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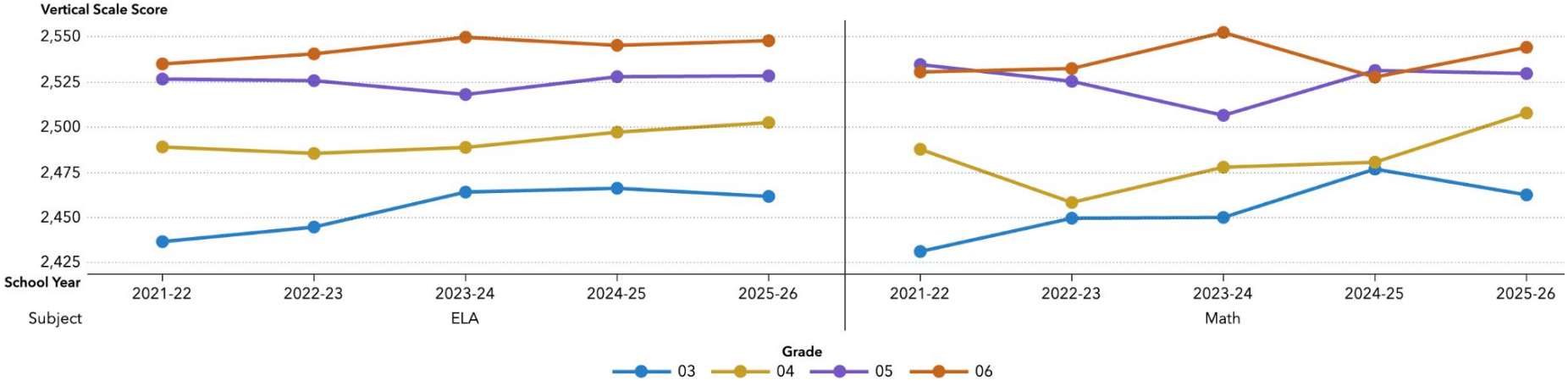
ELA Scale Score Growth

Average ELA scale scores are higher in 2025–26 than in 2021–22 across all four grades.

Mathematics Performance

Mathematics trends are more variable across grade levels and school years.

Five-Year Vertical Scale Score Trends (2021–22 to 2025–26)



What Does All of This Data Tell Us?

Key Takeaways & Next Steps

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WHAT WE'RE SEEING & WHAT IT SUGGESTS

Strong early literacy outcomes	Continue strengthening foundational literacy instruction and targeted early supports.
Positive STAR growth in reading and math	Build on encouraging student progress while examining achievement alongside growth.
Sustained positive ELA trends	Continue refining implementation of EL Education and effective literacy practices.
Mathematics achievement remains variable	Strengthen consistent implementation of Illustrative Mathematics and targeted instructional responses, particularly in Grade 6.

SUMMARY & PERSPECTIVE

Our data reflects areas of success and identifies where we need to focus our efforts. No single assessment tells the whole story. Our students are demonstrating strong early literacy outcomes, encouraging growth in both reading and mathematics, and positive long-term trends in ELA. At the same time, achievement data helps us identify where additional attention is needed, particularly in mathematics.

Putting Our Vision Into Practice

Key Frameworks and Strategies Driving Student Success

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High-Quality Tier 1 Instruction

EL Education and Illustrative Mathematics provide rigorous, meaningful learning experiences that develop academic understanding, problem-solving, and collaboration.

Responsive MTSS

Teams use multiple sources of evidence to identify student strengths, respond to needs, and support individual growth.

Protected FLEX Time

Students receive targeted instruction, additional practice, or enrichment to support growth and encourage ownership of learning.

Continuous Improvement

Teachers use assessment, student work, and reflection to refine instruction and strengthen outcomes for all learners.

Introducing Our Vision of a Learner

A Comprehensive Framework for Student Success & Growth

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Effective Learners

Take ownership of growth through perseverance, goal-setting, reflection, and joy in learning.

Initiative • Responsibility • Perseverance • Curiosity

Ethical Learners

Lead with integrity, respect, and compassion to create a safe, inclusive community environment.

Empathy • Integrity • Respect • Compassion

Engaged Learners

Contribute positively through active collaboration, citizenship, and meaningful service.

Citizenship • Collaboration • Service • Betterment

VISION OF A LEARNER FRAMEWORK



WE LEARN • WE CARE • WE CONTRIBUTE • WE BELONG

Together, We Shape a Better World.

Connecting Achievement to Our Vision

Academic Achievement Is Part of a Bigger Picture

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Effective Learners

Persevere, reflect, set goals, and take ownership of their progress.

Measured by: Academic growth, STAR/assessment data, student goal-setting, and productive struggle

Ethical Learners

Demonstrate respect, empathy, integrity, and compassion.

Measured by: BESS social-emotional screener, climate surveys, RULER implementation, and behavioral expectations

Engaged Learners

Collaborate, contribute, and make a positive difference.

Measured by: School climate surveys, collaborative learning evidence, and community participation

SUMMARY & INTEGRATION

Academic assessments (STAR, ELA, Math) provide vital data on cognitive growth, while tools like the BESS screener and climate surveys evaluate social-emotional well-being and school culture. Together, these comprehensive assessment practices ground and measure our progress toward the complete Vision of a Learner.

Looking Ahead: Academic Growth and Learner Development

Key Focus Areas & Next Steps for Continuous Improvement

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Sustain Strong Literacy Outcomes

Continue strengthening foundational literacy skills and high-quality core instruction.

Strengthen Mathematics Achievement

Build on encouraging growth through curriculum implementation, professional learning, and targeted instructional responses.

Bring Our Vision of a Learner to Life

Intentionally develop effective, ethical, and engaged learners through instruction, school culture, and meaningful learning experiences.

Monitor Growth and Continuously Improve

Use multiple measures of student learning and development to guide decisions and ensure every student is supported and challenged.