

DATA BULLETIN

High School Dropout Rates in Connecticut

Local public school districts report dropout data to the State Department of Education annually via submission of the ED525, the Student Mobility Data Collection form. This form is submitted in the autumn following the school year being reported; e.g., the 1997-98 dropout data was reported on the ED525 due in November 1998. The reporting period spans the summer prior to a school year plus the school year; e.g., July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998. Establishing July 1 as the start date for dropout identification ensures that all students are accounted for in the fall and that dropouts are reported in the appropriate grade. For example, if a student finishes Grade 10 in June and does not return to school in the fall for the new school year, this student is a Grade 11 dropout. If the same student does not finish Grade 10 in June and does not return to school in the fall, this student is a Grade 10 dropout.

Dropout Definition

There are four categories of dropouts:

- those students 16 years or older who officially drop out of school;
 - students who leave school and do not return but for whom no transfer information to another regular secondary program is available;
 - students who are on a class roster from School A to attend School B but who never report to that school and for whom no transfer information to another regular secondary program is available; and
 - students who leave school to enroll in a training program, including GED classes, unless the GED classes are a required part of an alternative secondary program such as Job Corps or National Guard.
- Note: For the dropout data collection, students who enroll in adult education credit-earning classes or in a GED/Job Corps program are identified as program transfers, not as dropouts.

Calculation of Dropout Rates

Annual Dropout Rate: Total Grade 9 -12 Dropouts / Total Grade 9-12 October 1 Enrollment

The annual dropout rate is based on a formula used by the U.S. Department of Education. The October 1 enrollment data upon which the denominator is based are drawn from the Connecticut State Department of Education ED006 form and include students enrolled in Grades 9 through 12 in addition to ungraded students enrolled in the high school or a self-contained high school-level program. The denominator of the annual dropout rate does not include those students entering and leaving the school after the October 1 date.

Cumulative Dropout Rate: Total Dropouts for the cohort/ Grade 9 October 1 enrollment for the cohort

The cumulative dropout rate is a cohort rate that reflects the proportion of students within a high school cohort; i.e., the Class of 1998, who drop out of school *across four consecutive years*. For example, the Class of 1998 Cumulative Dropout Rate = (1994-95 Grade 9 dropouts + 1995-96 Grade 10 dropouts + 1996-97 Grade 11 dropouts + 1997-98 Grade 12 dropouts) / Grade 9 enrollment as reported on October 1, 1994.

Highlights of the 1997-98 Annual Dropout Rates

- The annual dropout rate has significantly decreased over seven years from 4.7% to 3.5% (see Table 1).
- The annual dropout rate for females (3.1%) is lower than the annual dropout rate for males (3.9%).
- Since 1995-96, the annual dropout rates by grade have declined steadily.
- The annual dropout rates by race and ethnicity category are 2.5% for whites, 5.5% for blacks, 2.3% for Native American, 2.6% for Asian American and 8.8% for Hispanics (see Figure 1).

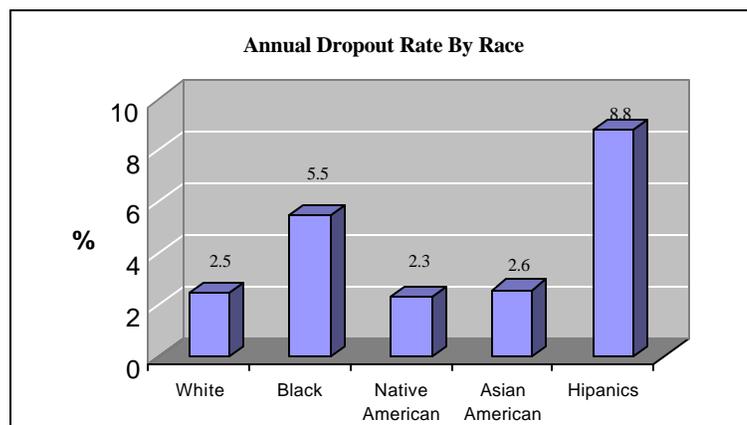


Figure 1

Statewide Annual Dropout Rates for Seven Years: 1991-92 through 1997-98. Table 1 shows the statewide annual dropout rate for each of the last seven years. The statewide annual dropout rate has decreased below 4.0% since 1996-97.

Table 1. Statewide Annual Dropout Rates (1991-92 through 1997-98)

Year	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Dropouts	5,931	5,816	5,905	6,254	6,154	5,381	4,974
Enrollments	125,595	126,917	129,164	130,907	132,610	137,880	141,702
Rate %	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.5

* Beginning with the 1993-94 collection, the ungraded student count was included in the total enrollment figure.

The total number of high school dropouts has ranged from 5,931 in 1991-92 to 4,974 in 1997-98, while the total number of high school students enrolled has progressively increased from 125,595 in 1991-92 to 141,702 in 1997-98.

Statewide Annual Dropout Rates by Grade. For the seven years reported in Table 2, the annual dropout rates within grades have reflected major decreases since 1996-97. In general, the dropout rates in Grades 9 and 12 are lower than the dropout rates for each of the other grades.

Table 2. Statewide Annual Dropout Rates by Grade

Statewide Annual Dropout Rate							
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Grade 9	5.1	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.9	3.8	3.3
Grade 10	5.1	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.6
Grade 11	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.9	4.2	3.9
Grade 12	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	3.6	3.4
Statewide	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.5

Annual Dropout Rates by ERG. In the current classification of districts by Education Reference Group (ERG), which is based on the 1990 Census data, there are nine ERGs plus the State Regional Vocational-Technical Schools. Annual dropout rates by ERG are reported in Table 3.

Table 3. Annual Dropout Rates by ERG for Seven Years

Annual Dropout Rate							
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
ERG A	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5
ERG B	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.5
ERG C	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.5
ERG D	2.8	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.0	2.4	2.6
ERG E	2.6	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.2
ERG F	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.8	4.1	3.7	3.5
ERG G	5.4	5.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.5	3.9
ERG H	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.5	4.7	4.0
ERG I	13.0	12.7	11.8	12.6	13.5	10.7	9.3
VT Schools	3.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	0.9
Statewide	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.5

The annual dropout rates have decreased the most in ERG G. Only the V-T School system has seen a steady decline in the dropout rate from 1991-92 to 1997-98.

Statewide Cumulative Dropout Rate. As reported in Table 4, the statewide average cumulative dropout rate has a decrease from 17.4% for the class 1995 to 15.1% for the class 1998. Similarly, ERGs E and H show steady declines in their cumulative dropout rates from the class 1995 to the class 1998.

Table 4. The Cumulative Dropout Rate for the Classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 by ERG

	Class1995	Class1996	Class1997	Class1998
ERG A	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.6
ERG B	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.0
ERG C	7.4	8.9	8.5	6.3
ERG D	11.8	12.8	11.8	10.9
ERG E	11.9	10.8	9.8	7.7
ERG F	15.7	14.3	15.3	15.1
ERG G	17.0	14.1	16.1	14.0
ERG H	21.0	21.6	18.5	16.8
ERG I	39.5	36.5	33.6	36.2
VT Schools	10.9	5.4	5.6	5.6
Statewide	17.4	16.4	15.7	15.1

While enrollment changes in smaller schools may have a greater impact on the cumulative dropout statistic, this cumulative dropout rate is a fair and reliable estimate of a cohort's four-year dropout pattern. It is a reasonable and uniform definition applied to all high schools – and therefore has comparative value. One important purpose of providing a uniform district-by-district report of dropout rates is to give each district information on the relative performance of its schools in retaining and graduating its students. It gives administrators and policy-makers an opportunity to review current conditions. The dropout statistics illustrate what happens to our students as they progress through their high schools years, and whether additional efforts by educators, community leaders and parents are needed to best support their success.

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**Appendix A Annual Dropout Rates for 1991-92 through 1997-98 and
Cumulative Dropout Rates for Class 1995, Class 1996, Class 1997 and Class 1998**

District	District Name	Annual Dropout Rate (1-Year Event Rate)							Cumulative Dropout Rate (4-Year Cohort Rate)			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Class95	Class96	Class97	Class98
2	Ansonia	7.8	7.5	8.6	5.3	6.5	8.8	6.1	26.4	29.1	25.0	33.8
4	Avon	0.4	1.1	0.6	2.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	6.4	3.2	4.5	3.7
7	Berlin	0.7	1.4	1.8	1.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	6.1	6.4	4.5	4.7
9	Bethel	3.2	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.1	4.0	8.3	5.4	12.3	11.5
11	Bloomfield	2.4	3.6	4.6	6.1	4.9	4.1	2.9	17.4	22.9	18.9	10.9
12	Bolton	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.5	0.9	4.1	2.8	6.0	4.7	10.6	6.9
14	Branford	1.4	1.5	3.5	4.3	4.4	3.7	3.1	9.5	19.7	21.1	11.3
15	Bridgeport	11.4	11.4	10.4	8.8	7.1	7.4	8.9	39.7	30.3	26.6	25.8
17	Bristol	6.5	7.1	8.6	7.3	6.7	5.7	3.6	27.0	29.2	26.3	18.3
18	Brookfield	2.2	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.4	0.8	1.4	7.5	5.3	3.5	5.0
23	Canton	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.0	0.8	0.0	7.2	2.0	5.7
25	Cheshire	1.3	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7	7.4	8.0	5.9	6.4
27	Clinton	3.8	5.0	1.8	6.6	3.0	2.7	5.0	10.9	13.7	16.1	11.9
28	Colchester	4.4	4.2	2.2	3.0	5.3	2.4	2.8	19.8	20.5	10.7	9.0
32	Coventry	6.5	5.5	4.7	3.6	5.1	4.7	5.3	20.0	19.2	15.4	11.5
33	Cromwell	1.8	2.2	4.0	3.1	2.7	4.0	4.6	9.8	12.9	8.9	7.4
34	Danbury	4.8	6.5	4.2	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.2	22.8	15.8	15.8	15.3
35	Darien	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	3.2	0.5	0.6	1.0
37	Derby	4.0	2.9	1.8	9.3	7.7	9.0	5.6	10.0	12.5	23.3	36.0
40	East Granby	3.0	1.1	2.9	0.0	1.0	1.5	2.4	7.5	2.1	4.4	6.0
41	East Haddam	1.3	0.8	1.4	3.5	3.2	0.4	2.0	13.0	10.7	4.9	9.1
42	East Hampton	2.4	1.9	1.2	2.4	2.1	0.8	1.0	5.6	6.1	8.0	7.1
43	East Hartford	3.2	3.7	6.5	4.6	5.9	4.8	4.6	18.0	19.5	18.5	15.6
44	East Haven	1.5	2.0	0.4	1.1	1.6	3.7	4.5	4.4	5.7	7.9	13.3
45	East Lyme	4.1	2.7	3.7	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.5	15.1	12.4	11.4	8.7
47	East Windsor	4.8	3.2	4.3	5.8	4.6	6.3	4.3	12.3	20.7	19.6	14.7
48	Ellington	2.0	2.5	3.8	3.0	2.1	2.5	1.2	8.8	11.4	13.9	5.2
49	Enfield	5.2	4.3	4.1	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.5	19.7	17.8	18.0	21.3
51	Fairfield	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.1	6.5	6.3	7.2	4.9

District	District Name	Annual Dropout Rate (1-Year Event Rate)							Cumulative Dropout Rate (4-Year Cohort Rate)			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Class95	Class96	Class97	Class98
52	Farmington	0.8	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.3	3.8	3.5	3.0	2.9
54	Glastonbury	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.1	4.7	5.1	5.1	4.2
56	Granby	5.1	3.5	5.0	2.6	3.4	3.3	1.7	11.2	13.5	15.3	7.0
57	Greenwich	3.6	2.0	0.5	0.9	3.2	1.8	1.7	5.9	7.8	7.7	9.8
58	Griswold	3.3	5.2	3.4	4.6	3.1	2.6	3.5	31.3	13.4	10.0	9.5
59	Groton	4.3	3.5	7.1	4.7	2.7	3.1	1.0	17.5	14.7	16.5	11.0
60	Guilford	2.0	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.8	0.6	0.5	3.6	6.1	5.4	1.6
62	Hamden	2.5	4.4	4.3	1.6	3.0	1.3	2.5	8.1	14.5	11.0	8.6
64	Hartford	17.1	18.0	15.7	22.0	23.4	13.4	10.9	43.6	48.9	44.1	51.0
69	Killingly	6.7	4.5	7.7	4.0	3.7	5.1	6.6	21.7	18.5	14.5	23.3
71	Lebanon	0.3	0.5	0.0	4.7	4.1	4.5	1.2	8.3	14.7	14.9	12.1
72	Ledyard	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.9	3.2	1.9	0.0	5.6	9.2	9.4	3.2
74	Litchfield	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.6	1.5	0.6	1.8	10.8	13.6	2.5	2.2
76	Madison	1.3	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.9	0.9	4.4	2.6	3.2	8.6
77	Manchester	5.0	6.4	4.1	8.9	9.6	9.1	7.3	20.8	20.4	35.6	37.7
80	Meriden	9.1	7.3	7.7	7.6	6.8	5.4	5.6	28.5	27.5	22.5	21.0
83	Middletown	5.5	3.9	6.4	7.1	7.2	5.9	4.1	17.6	24.7	17.3	19.7
84	Milford	4.6	4.4	3.1	3.8	3.3	1.6	1.8	16.2	10.8	10.0	9.2
85	Monroe	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.4	1.1	2.1	2.2	1.5
86	Montville	3.9	4.1	4.2	5.5	1.9	2.9	3.1	10.9	9.1	15.6	13.4
88	Naugatuck	1.6	2.1	1.3	5.0	2.9	0.2	6.6	12.0	14.6	7.2	17.1
89	New Britain	12.5	10.9	9.3	10.2	9.5	7.8	9.6	38.6	27.9	25.0	31.8
90	New Canaan	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
91	New Fairfield	1.5	0.4	2.5	1.9	2.3	1.3	2.3	4.5	6.5	9.7	11.4
93	New Haven	12.5	8.8	8.0	9.2	10.3	10.0	6.8	30.3	25.9	29.6	29.7
94	Newington	1.5	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.1	4.0	3.8	5.9	5.8
95	New London	12.6	7.6	15.9	11.0	9.3	10.8	12.6	35.8	38.4	19.3	32.7
96	New Milford	3.8	3.9	5.2	3.9	4.7	4.4	3.3	20.0	18.8	14.7	18.3
97	Newtown	3.9	2.6	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	7.1	5.0	3.6	3.7
99	North Branford	1.5	3.7	2.4	1.1	4.3	3.6	1.3	8.5	13.0	10.3	13.4
101	North Haven	2.4	2.0	1.8	4.4	2.3	2.9	2.4	7.8	10.8	8.8	10.3
102	North Stonington	1.9	3.4	2.7	7.0	2.1	4.6	3.1	15.6	12.9	14.5	13.0

District	District Name	Annual Dropout Rate (1-Year Event Rate)							Cumulative Dropout Rate (4-Year Cohort Rate)			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Class95	Class96	Class97	Class98
103	Norwalk	7.7	6.1	7.1	7.4	5.7	1.8	1.8	27.8	27.6	18.1	10.9
106	Old Saybrook	3.7	5.5	10.4	3.0	4.0	2.0	0.6	20.2	20.0	18.1	11.6
109	Plainfield	6.6	7.6	9.2	7.6	8.7	5.7	8.2	28.0	27.2	29.6	26.1
110	Plainville	5.5	7.5	2.4	3.7	3.1	4.4	0.4	6.5	9.7	17.6	9.0
111	Plymouth	9.7	5.1	5.2	5.0	6.2	5.5	2.0	23.5	17.1	22.4	14.9
113	Portland	1.2	2.4	0.4	0.4	2.2	0.0	0.7	2.9	3.1	3.7	3.1
116	Putnam	1.9	3.7	6.1	4.5	5.9	3.1	7.9	14.3	21.6	22.2	20.8
118	Ridgefield	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.5	3.2	2.7	2.3	4.3
119	Rocky Hill	4.4	3.0	2.2	2.4	2.8	2.2	1.5	8.1	7.1	7.7	11.1
124	Seymour	2.9	2.3	3.4	3.5	2.5	2.2	2.2	12.4	12.4	8.5	7.5
126	Shelton	3.4	3.4	4.1	3.1	2.2	2.6	3.1	11.5	11.3	8.3	10.9
128	Simsbury	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.6	0.8	3.2	4.9	5.7	4.0
129	Somers	3.5	3.1	1.6	2.7	1.7	2.4	1.6	11.0	8.3	10.1	9.1
131	Southington	3.0	2.8	3.6	7.6	3.1	2.5	3.8	14.9	18.3	16.5	17.1
132	South Windsor	1.1	1.3	0.8	2.1	2.4	1.3	1.9	5.0	5.6	9.5	5.2
134	Stafford	5.7	5.1	4.3	1.5	2.7	4.7	4.0	13.6	12.4	11.9	7.0
135	Stamford	1.5	0.9	0.4	2.0	2.2	2.8	2.5	4.0	7.7	6.5	7.7
137	Stonington	4.2	4.0	5.8	4.2	3.9	5.8	3.7	13.6	13.8	18.8	16.1
138	Stratford	2.1	1.3	4.8	1.0	2.4	2.4	3.1	5.8	6.4	14.5	12.6
139	Suffield	2.0	1.8	2.9	1.3	2.0	3.7	2.3	6.5	10.1	7.9	6.0
140	Thomaston	5.1	4.8	4.8	2.3	1.7	2.4	3.1	13.3	9.5	8.8	6.8
141	Thompson	3.0	3.5	2.1	3.6	5.0	4.1	0.0	7.4	13.5	10.3	11.7
142	Tolland	1.2	1.1	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.1	6.7	8.3	10.8	7.7
143	Torrington	6.7	5.6	4.3	8.9	7.5	6.6	4.5	31.9	25.0	22.1	20.4
144	Trumbull	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	3.4	1.2	1.7	0.9
146	Vernon	3.6	3.7	4.2	7.4	4.3	3.8	3.5	19.5	17.3	19.1	12.4
148	Wallingford	2.4	2.7	3.7	1.6	2.5	2.5	1.5	11.3	9.2	7.0	8.1
151	Waterbury	10.4	13.0	12.8	8.7	15.9	15.7	10.2	40.8	37.1	38.4	35.6
152	Waterford	1.4	1.7	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	2.9	12.8	12.3	16.9	11.5
153	Watertown	4.5	2.9	6.5	7.5	3.7	4.1	3.8	20.4	20.0	15.8	15.2
154	Westbrook	6.2	1.6	6.3	1.7	1.5	0.5	1.3	22.7	4.4	7.7	9.3
155	West Hartford	3.0	1.4	2.6	3.3	2.1	2.5	2.2	9.9	9.0	11.3	8.6

District	District Name	Annual Dropout Rate (1-Year Event Rate)							Cumulative Dropout Rate (4-Year Cohort Rate)			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Class95	Class96	Class97	Class98
156	West Haven	8.3	10.8	10.3	9.5	8.8	8.4	5.4	24.0	31.4	31.5	26.5
157	Weston	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
158	Westport	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.6	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.7
159	Wethersfield	0.5	2.4	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	7.5	9.4	13.8	7.8
161	Wilton	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.9	0.6	1.6
163	Windham	6.9	8.7	9.2	11.7	8.9	6.4	9.7	51.3	30.7	31.5	33.5
164	Windsor	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.0	3.9	3.4	2.2	17.8	9.1	13.0	10.5
165	Windsor Locks	1.6	2.6	2.8	6.8	3.5	3.7	3.0	12.8	15.8	19.6	15.3
166	Wolcott	4.3	2.3	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.7	7.3	7.1	3.4	1.8
201	Regional #1	5.3	2.5	2.5	4.3	3.0	1.8	0.6	18.9	12.8	11.3	5.1
204	Regional #4	2.8	4.4	6.0	6.9	4.7	2.8	2.7	17.6	17.6	18.3	14.1
205	Regional #5	1.4	0.8	0.5	1.6	1.8	0.7	1.7	3.3	7.0	3.7	8.0
206	Regional #6	1.8	1.4	2.0	0.3	1.6	0.8	0.6	8.2	2.6	4.3	2.1
207	Regional #7	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.6	1.5	1.6	1.1	10.4	10.7	6.3	6.8
208	Regional #8	1.6	2.4	3.2	5.0	3.1	1.7	2.4	7.7	13.4	18.5	7.6
209	Regional #9	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.3	1.1	2.6	3.8	1.3	4.6
210	Regional #10	0.9	1.2	2.1	0.9	2.0	1.0	0.7	3.9	10.1	2.4	3.0
211	Regional #11	1.6	2.2	6.0	2.6	1.0	0.5	1.8	23.7	8.9	13.3	3.6
212	Regional #12	2.1	4.8	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.5	1.6	9.8	6.8	11.5	3.0
213	Regional #13	0.8	0.7	1.7	1.0	3.1	2.0	1.3	2.3	7.8	11.9	3.8
214	Regional #14	0.0	0.7	2.0	3.2	0.8	1.2	0.3	5.1	6.1	6.0	4.0
215	Regional #15	1.1	1.2	2.1	1.7	1.5	2.3	2.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	9.4
217	Regional #17	1.9	3.6	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.4	8.3	4.0	6.1	2.1
218	Regional #18	2.0	0.6	0.3	2.4	1.9	0.8	1.3	3.9	6.8	6.9	6.1
219	Regional #19	2.5	1.7	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.2	3.0	7.8	8.9	7.5	10.5
900	VT Schools	3.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	0.9	10.9	5.4	5.6	5.6
901	Norwich Academy	4.5	8.8	4.2	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.0	17.9	18.3	17.7	13.1
902	Gilbert School	2.9	2.4	3.5	5.7	4.7	4.3	5.2	18.4	7.0	14.9	15.1
903	Woodstock Academy	1.8	1.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	2.1	1.5	2.6	2.1	2.5	4.6
	Statewide Average	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.5	17.4	16.4	15.7	15.1