



Dr. Steven J. Adamowski
Superintendent of Schools

Hartford Public Schools
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News Release

Hartford Schools Release Preliminary CMT Results

District Scores Reinforce Reform Agenda

Betances, Burr, and Naylor Receive Recognition for Significant Gains

(July 25, 2007) – Hartford Public Schools (HPS) Superintendent Steven J. Adamowski released Hartford Public Schools’ preliminary results for the 2007 Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) today, and commended three schools on marked improvement in overall student scores. Despite increased performance by the “heroes,” Dr. Adamowski said the District results underscored the urgent need for Hartford’s reform strategy. Planning for phase one of that reform strategy begins in the 2007-2008 school year, which begins on August 29, 2007.

The Connecticut Department of Education will release CMT results for all districts on July 27, 2007. The CMTs are state-mandated, standardized tests that measure student achievement in reading, mathematics, and writing in grades 3-8. Hartford Schools have historically performed well below the state average on the CMTs, with student performance declining during each of the past three years at Hartford Public Schools. During the same period, achievement of students in Connecticut increased each year, to the point that the Hartford School System would need to quadruple the State’s rate of growth over the next generation of students in order to close the achievement gap.

Dr. Adamowski and the Board of Education are moving forward with an ambitious reform strategy that involves a performance-driven theory of action for system-wide District improvement. The plan calls for an all-choice system of schools, where parents have the opportunity to choose the school and learning track that best fits their child’s needs. Schools that show high and improving levels of performance will be given the autonomy to run their schools free of bureaucratic oversight, while underperforming schools or schools with declining performance will be subject to intervention or replacement with a proven school model.

The latest CMT results have been incorporated in the District’s School Improvement Matrix, with six schools moving up a level of autonomy, including three schools that demonstrated notable improvement in performance: Betances, Burr, and Naylor schools. The results also highlighted the schools that remained at an unacceptable level of performance, which will all be either phased out or redesigned. Four schools were identified for redesign based on their continued performance substantially below the proficient level: M.D. Fox, Barnard-Brown, Burns, and Milner schools.

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2006-2007 CMT results correlated with the District's assumptions in three of the four target categories: 3rd grade reading (early literacy), 5th grade writing, and 7th grade math. The fourth target category, 4th grade math, declined slightly overall, and the District will be working with the State Dept. of Education to determine whether the decline was endemic to the State's overall average in 4th grade math.

Superintendent Dr. Adamowski said, "This was an education system on its knees; it is being brought to its feet one school at a time."

On the horizon for phase one of the reform strategy are plans to: incubate new schools, such as a Montessori primary school; new school designs, such as a British primary school model; consolidation of schools; and the first-ever 9th grade academy to target students at a time when they are most likely to drop out of school.

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