

**PRESS RELEASE**

**August 31, 2007**

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Superintendent of Schools**

**Bristol Public School Students Demonstrate Significant Gains in Achievement**

Bristol students surpassed previous achievement targets on most of the subtest areas of the March 2007 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). At least 88% of Bristol 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in math, science, reading and writing, significantly exceeding state averages. Recently released CAPT data demonstrates the successful work of our teachers and students on improving not only the achievement of all Bristol students, but also for subgroups delineated by Federal “No Child Left Behind” legislation.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is required to annually identify schools and districts “In Need of Improvement” as a result of student achievement on the CMT and CAPT. The Bristol Public Schools were identified as such a district for the past three years. However, this year, due to significant improvement in our students’ achievement, we achieved ‘safe harbor’. Safe Harbor means that our students made significant gains in achievement compared to last year. Continued improvement in student achievement on the March 2008 CMT and CAPT will remove Bristol from that list.

Four Bristol schools were identified as in need of improvement; Edgewood, South Side and Northeast for subgroup performance. Subgroups include students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged and individual race categories. O’Connell School was identified as in need of whole school improvement. Strategies are developed within each school’s Accountability Plan to address the needs of these learners. Bristol’s continued high expectations for student achievement and focus on best instructional practices will continue to raise the achievement of all learners in our schools.

According to Connecticut Education Commissioner, Mark McQuillan, one third of Connecticut schools were found to be in need of improvement. Bristol’s results must be considered within the context of the entire district’s improving performance as detailed in recent District press releases. We are confident that the reforms being implemented in Bristol schools will lead to continued improvements in all of our schools.