

Granby Public Schools 2018-2019 Testing Report Narrative

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) released statewide scores for the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) English Language Arts and Math Assessments during the summer of 2019. Similarly, the College Board released SAT, and Advanced Placement (AP) results during a similar window. All tests were administered in the spring of 2019 including the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) assessment. Historically, Granby students perform well on high-stakes testing in comparison to cost per pupil expenditure.

Smarter Balanced Tests

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are designed to measure the Connecticut Core Standards, focusing on critical thinking and problem solving—the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers. Overall scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics are reported in four performance levels. Scores in levels 3 and 4 indicate an at or above goal measure and represent challenging, yet reasonable, performance levels. Statewide results show that 75.9 percent of students in grades 3–8 are meeting or exceeding the achievement level (at/above goal) in English Language Arts (ELA), and 62.9 percent of students are meeting or exceeding the achievement level (at/above goal) in mathematics. Granby results show that the percentage of students (by grade level) scoring at/above goal ranges from 71%-80% in English Language Arts (chart 1) and 52-71% in Math (chart 2), with the strongest scores coming in grade eight English Language Arts (80%) and in grade seven Math (71%). In comparison to DRG B towns, Granby ranked between 9 and 18 out of 20 towns in grades 3-6 Language Arts and between 16 and 20 out of 20 towns in grades 3-6 Math. Granby ranked between 6-14 out of 19 towns in grades 7-8 Language Arts and between 9 and 18 out of 19 towns in grades 7-8 Math (Chart 8). County comparisons rank Granby at 10 of 31 in ELA and 11 of 31 in math. When examining historical scores, our aggregate performance is stable in math and increasing in ELA.

Science NGSS

Students are administered the NGSS test in compliance with federal and state law in grades 5, 8, and 11. Historically, science has been a great area of strength with high-stakes testing for our students. While preliminary results were recently released, scores are currently embargoed and will be shared as soon as possible.

SAT and AP

The CSDE has adopted the SAT as the statewide accountability measure for juniors. The SAT is comprised of two subtests: Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and Math. SAT results are reported by testing day of the junior class as well as by the graduating class. Charts 4 represents the best score or “superscore” for the class of 2019, reflecting continuous aggregate performance over 1100. Chart 5 represent grade 11 students, the current class of 2020, performance on the state test day. These scores represent combined subtest performance of 1123 with 84.8% of students at or above goal in the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing subtest.

Advanced Placement (AP) classes offer students the ability to take highly challenging and rigorous courses with the possibility of earning college credit. Granby offered 18 AP courses during the 2018-19 school year. Student success is evident through consistent performance in AP students taking at least one exam, and in test takers passing at least one AP exam.

Testing Summary and Strategic Actions

2018-19 testing results for the Granby Public Schools reflect a positive ending point for our high school students with stable performance in mathematics and increased performance in ELA across most grade levels. Stable and improved performance during a time of transition of curriculum is worthy of note. Often, new curriculum results in an implementation dip that we have largely avoided through our implementation. With that said, there are clear areas for improvement. The following actions are in progress:

- Implement new and revised curriculum for ELA and begin curriculum revision for math.
- Align school improvement plans with district strategic actions.
- Implement SRBI and PLC recommendations from district collaborative action teams (CATs).
- Improve vertical articulation of curriculum with a math focus and connection to standards.
 - Incorporate additional *Great Minds* resources to support math instruction (grades 4 and 7).
 - Emphasize standards-based instruction with Eureka resources and framework.
 - Connect instructional feedback to written curriculum and standards.
- Refine practices with student-centered coaching model and increase number of teachers working with instructional coaches.
- Incorporate Granby Equity Team recommendations to support higher levels of student achievement.
- Revisit universal screening tools, and standards-aligned assessments.
- Continue developing enrichment programming grades 3-8.