



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**PRESS CONTACT:**

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## **Ellington Public Schools Buck Learning Loss Trends**

Only school district in the State to increase overall growth  
in Grades 3-8 and SATs in both English Language Arts and Mathematics

**ELLINGTON, CT** – On August 25, 2022 the Connecticut State Department of Education released 2021-2022 state assessment results that showed the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, and science were lower than the performance levels recorded during the 2018-2019 school year, showing a four to seven percent decline from the last test year before the pandemic.

More Ellington students scored as proficient (scores 3 & 4) in mathematics and English language arts (ELA) in Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) in grades three through eight and the average Student Achievement Test (SAT) scores went up for 2021-2022 relative to pre-pandemic levels of 2018-2019. Ellington is the **only** public school district of the approximately 169 districts in the State of Connecticut to accomplish this.

*“The Ellington Board of Education is very proud of our educators and considers these student performance results a community effort. In the Fall of 2020, when the Board and school administration prioritized in-person learning and eliminated the hybrid model—fully knowing we were only a handful of school districts that did—we were hopeful this strategy would pay dividends for our students down the road.”*

**-Jennifer Dzen, Board Chair**

While Dr. Michael Young, Board Vice-Chair, recognizes the significant impact on student performance with the early return to in-person learning, he notes other strategies employed by Ellington educators. “We worked with the administration and teachers to ensure a robust remote learning program in 2020-2021. We reorganized our teacher interventionist and specialist support model to provide remote-only instruction K-6 in 2020-2021 and systemic K-12 intervention in 2021-2022, invested heavily in higher quality conferencing equipment, and implemented a new software program to ensure teachers had real-time individual student performance data to make adjustments to their instructional approaches,” stated Dr. Young.

In particular, the Ellington Public Schools made significant growth in ELA grades four to eight, with gains of two to six points in all but fifth grade from 2021 to 2022. Math growth was strongest in early middle school, setting a foundation for secondary mathematics. While students performed well in science at the elementary level, improving student performance at the middle and high school levels will be a priority for the 2022-2023 school year.

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