Student Performance: Key Trends

SY 22-25 | ELA, Math (3-8), PSAT/SAT, Graduation Rates

Modest recovery observed, but persistent subgroup gaps require continued focus.

Nurturing Growth: Our Instructional Keystones

Our instructional keystones are research-backed practices that provide essential conditions for student growth, fostering deep learning and academic success.

Clarity of Lesson and Task Purpose

When students understand the 'why' behind their learning, they become more engaged and invested. This clarity helps them see how each lesson contributes to their overall growth.

Robust and Engaging Task Design

Designing tasks that challenge and captivate students builds stronger foundational roots. This is vital for elementary gains and sustained development.

Collaboration with Purpose

Encouraging students to work together fosters a supportive environment where ideas can flourish and diverse perspectives intermingle.

Behavior-Specific Praise

Targeted, specific feedback reinforces positive actions and learning behaviors. This positive reinforcement guides students towards consistent effort and celebrates their progress.

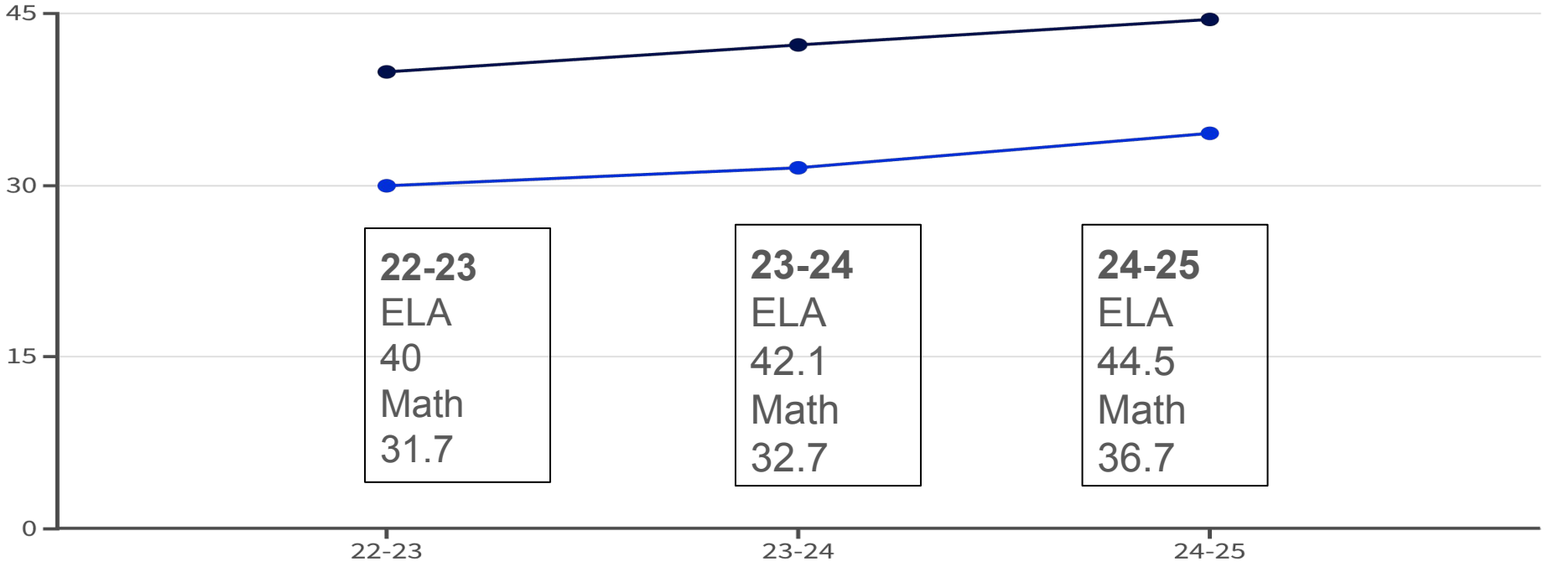
These keystones are the intentional cultivation methods that underpin the positive trends in our data, particularly the encouraging elementary gains.

Overall Proficiency: Seeds of Progress

ELA Growth
Steady rise of +2.3% yearly shows our instructional keystones taking root.

Math Recovery
Greater acceleration in 24-25, like saplings finding sunlight.

Elementary Leads
Strongest foundation where we planted first.



ELA by Grade: Strong Roots in Elementary

Elementary Excellence (Grades 3-5)

Consistent gains in Grades 3-5, with **Grade 3 soaring +11%, proving strong foundational teaching.**

Middle Grade Challenges (Grades 6-8)

Grades 6-8 show volatile patterns and dips, **requiring scaffolded and structured support.**

Cohort Strength

Early grade improvements **build stronger student skills for future cohorts.**

Grade	22-23	23-24	24-25
3	30.5%	35.0%	**41.7%**
4	40.6%	38.6%	**48.5%**
5	45.9%	51.4%	50.0%
6	43.1%	44.3%	**41.7%**
7	35.1%	48.4%	**39.2%**
8	43.9%	36.0%	**46.0%**

Math by Grade: Cultivating Growth

Elementary Foundation

Grade 3 shows **remarkable +19% growth - our math programming taking deep root** in foundational years

Middle Grade Dips

Stunted growth requiring the need for restructuring and new programming.

Cohort Impact

Mathematical reasoning requires continued attention like trees weathering a storm before new growth.

Grade	22-23	23-24	24-25
3	27.5 %	35.0%	**47.0%**
4	33.9 %	33.5%	**39.1%**
5	33.3%	35.5%	**34.7%**
6	35.2 %	32.1%	**32.8%**
7	29.7 %	37.1%	**35.0%**
8	30.2%	24.0%	**32.2%**

ELA Subgroup Gaps: Nurturing Every Seedling

Our Core Belief: Every student deserves the chance to grow. These gaps challenge us to improve our teaching and ensure fairness for all.

1

All Students

Overall ELA proficiency for all students improved from **40%** (22-23) to **44.5%** (24-25).

2

Students with Disabilities (SWD)

SWD students show a persistent >**25%** gap to the district average.

3

English Learners (EL)

EL students face the biggest challenge; with evident declines in proficiency at the middle school level.

4

Economically Disadvantaged (ED)

ED students maintain a consistent > **11%** gap to the district average, highlighting the impact of economic factors.

Math Subgroup Gaps: Widening Chasms

Our Core Belief: These significant math proficiency gaps challenge us to ensure fairness and growth for all students.

1	All Students Overall Math proficiency is 36.7%, requiring continued focus on foundational skills.
2	Students with Disabilities (SWD) SWD proficiency is 13.9 % , indicating a narrowing gap but still requiring , urgent, specialized intervention.
3	English Learners (EL) EL math proficiency is critically low at 6.2 %, demanding immediate, focused strategies.
4	Economically Disadvantaged (ED) ED students show 27.1 % proficiency, maintaining a >9 % gap, impacted by economic factors.

EL performance remains critically low, demanding urgent action, despite modest elementary gains for SWD/ED.

Trends: Identifying Areas for Growth: Grade 11 NMSQT & SAT

High School Performance Overview

ELA Proficiency Trends

NMSQT: Benchmark **fell 4%** from 59% to **55%** over three years..

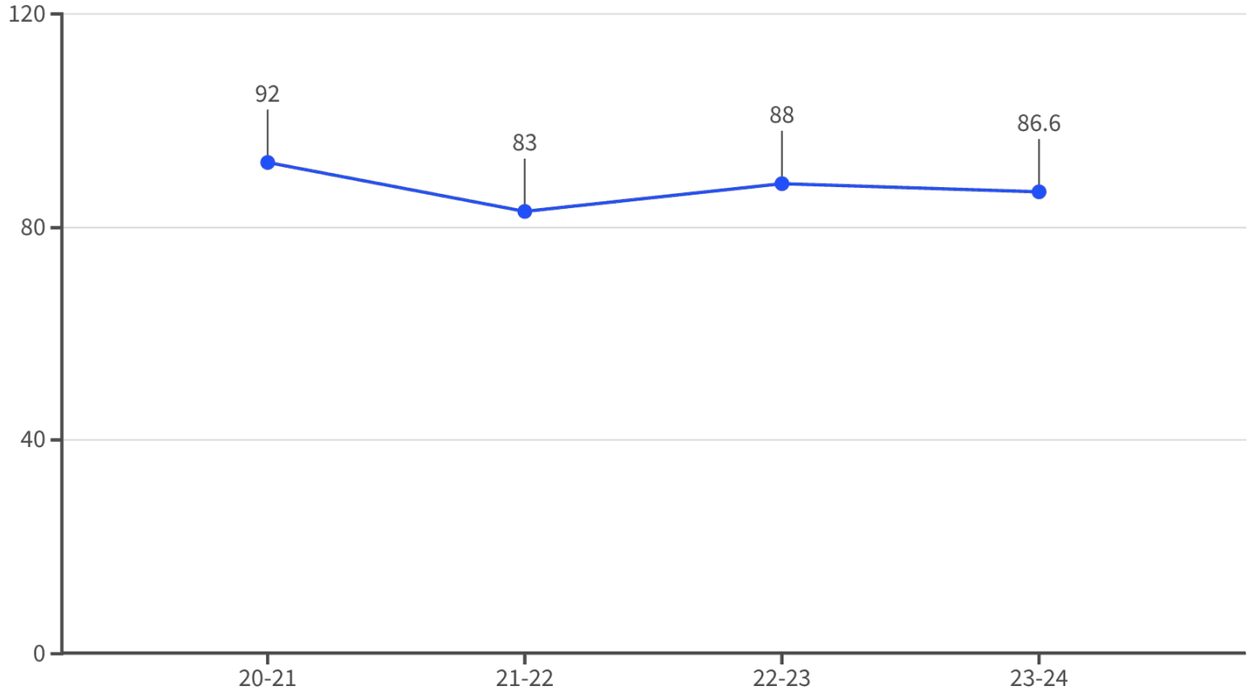
SAT (ELA): Benchmark rose, then dipped, **holding at 59%** proficiency.

Math Proficiency Trends

NMSQT: The benchmark **dropped 4%** from 30% to **26%** over three years

SAT (Math): Math proficiency **fell 7%** over three years from 34% to **27%**

4 Year Graduation Rates: Harvest Season Results



All Students

Current Rate: 86.6% - shows resilience

Persistent Subgroup Gaps

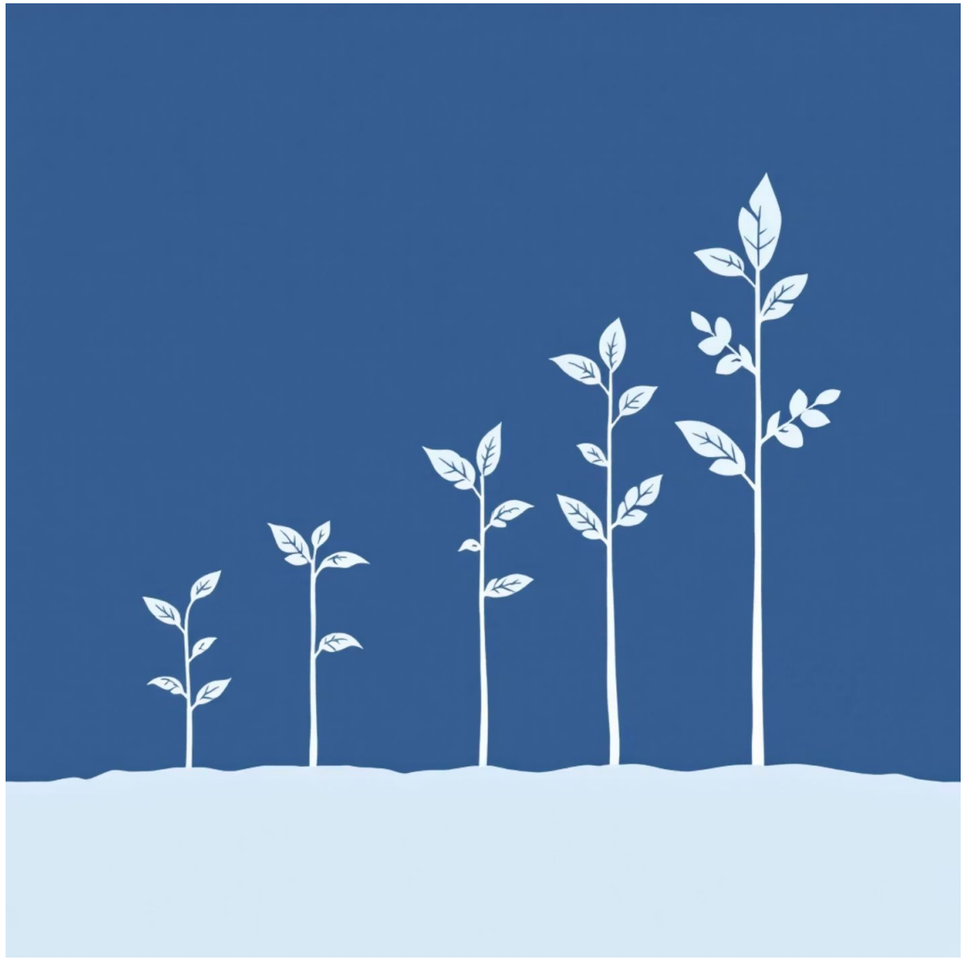
SWD 67.2%, EL ~71%, ED 81.6% - improvement needed but progress evident

Like a harvest that shows both abundance and areas where crops struggled, our graduation data reflects the cumulative impact of our instructional keystones while highlighting equity challenges.

Understanding Cohort Progression: Tracking the Growth of Our Seedlings

Nurturing Continuous Growth

Longitudinal tracking of student cohorts in ELA and Math ensures consistent support, nurturing each student's growth through the grades.



Current 6th Grade Cohort: Students who were in 4th grade in 2023

Tracking our Young Saplings **Achievement (Students meeting benchmark)**

1	2	3
4th Grade (2022-23)	5th Grade (2023-24)	6th Grade (2024-25)
ELA: 40.6 %	**ELA: 51.4%**	**ELA: 41.7%**
Math: 33.9%	**Math: 35.5%**	**Math: 32.8%**

Tracking our Young Saplings **Growth (Grade level average growth)**

ELA: 60.7%	**ELA: 68.5 %**	**ELA: 43.2%**
Math: 58.6 %	**Math: 77.8 %**	**Math: 48.2 %**

The transition to middle school shows a sharp decline in ELA and Math growth, highlighting the need for targeted support and structured programming as these young saplings adapt to a new growth environment.

Current 7th Grade Cohort : Students who were 5th graders in 2022-23:

Nurturing Our Developing Saplings **Achievement (Students meeting benchmark)**

1	2	3
5th Grade (2022-23)	6th Grade (2023-24)	7th Grade (2024-25)
ELA: 45.9%	**ELA: 44.3%**	**ELA: 39.2%**
Math: 33.3%	**Math: 32.1%**	**Math: 35%**

Nurturing Our Developing Saplings **Growth (Grade level average growth)**

ELA: 68.5%	**ELA: 48.7%**	**ELA: 50.2%**
Math: 57.9%	**Math: 55.4%**	**Math: 56.9%**

After encountering some challenging soil conditions and an initial dip in 6th grade, this cohort of young saplings shows promising signs of stabilization, with slight improvements in 7th grade as they begin to establish stronger roots.

Current 8th Grade Cohort: Students who were 6th graders in 2022-23

Nurturing Our Developing Saplings **Achievement**

1	2	3
6th Grade (2022-23)	7th Grade (2023-24)	8th Grade (2024-25)
ELA: 43.1%	**ELA: 48.4%**	**ELA: 46%**
Math: 35.2%	**Math: 37.1%**	**Math: 32.2%**

Nurturing Our Developing Saplings **Growth**

ELA: 45.9%	**ELA: 53.0 %**	**ELA: 48.4%**
Math: 61.3%	**Math: 48.5%**	**Math: 46.4%**

This cohort shows mixed ELA growth, with an initial improvement followed by a slight dip. Math proficiency has consistently declined, indicating a need for focused intervention.

Addressing Gaps in Student Growth: Special Education, ELL, and ED Students

We're analyzing the distinct challenges and progress of SWD, ELL, and ED student populations across grade levels.

Special Education (SWD) Gaps

SWD students show some gaps, widening significantly in the middle grades with an >15 % gap in Grade 5 & 7 ELA. Math gaps are also visible but are being narrowed over time.

ELL Proficiency Gaps

ELL students face significant and fluctuating proficiency gaps across all grades. Elementary ELA gaps widened to 30% (Grade 4) with narrowing gaps across grade levels in Math.

Economically Disadvantaged (ED) Gaps

ED students consistently show proficiency gaps of around 10% in both ELA and Math, though they can fluctuate . This consistent disparity demands ongoing, adaptive support strategies.

Understanding these unique patterns is crucial for developing equitable and effective district-wide strategies.

Four Gardens, Different Harvests: How Staffing Shapes Student Growth

New Milford (Rank 94): Struggling Seedling

Good sunlight (wealth)

Limited Nutrients (2 specialists, 2 coaches for 3,532 students)

Seedling variations: 9% ML, 31.4% ED

Low yield Results: Proficiency 36 % math, 44 % ELA .

Growth 56% ELA 60 % Math

Bethel (Rank 79): Prosperous growth

Strong sunlight (wealth)

Similar Nutrients (1 Director, 4 specialists/coaches)

Seedling variations: 8% ML, 26% ED

High yield Results: 75 % math growth, 60 % proficiency both subjects.

Windsor (Rank 97): Resilient Growth Despite Challenges

Similar Sunlight (wealth)

Abundant nutrients(10+ coaches and 3 Directors).

Greater seedling variation: 50% meal eligibility,

Slightly greater yield : 63% growth in both subject areas

Wethersfield (Rank 107): Specialized Cultivation

Indirect Sunlight (wealth)

Ample targeted nutrients (posted Director of Curriculum and Instruction, 6 elementary specialists and 3 Supervisors)

Seeding variation : 3.8% ML, 50.15% ED

Greater yield:50% Math, 60 % ELA proficiency, 61% ELA and 65% Math growth.

Ellington (Rank 96): Consistent Conditions

Similar Sunlight (wealth)

Similar Nutrients: (5 Specialists)

Less Seedling Variation : 23.8% ED

High Yield: 68% ELA proficiency, 60% ELA growth 68.4% Math proficiency, 66.1 growth.

Exploring similar-wealth districts in Connecticut reveals diverse outcomes, shaped by varied approaches to specialized staffing and student support.

New Milford School District: Cultivating Excellence

Sowing Seeds for Future Growth

Achievement Rankings

Ranked last out of 24 in LA & Math

It's time to assess our yield and identify key nutrients to the adjust soil conditions to promote healthy sustainable crops.

Growth Rankings

Language Arts: Ranked **21th out of 24**

Decrease from 15th last year.

Math: Ranked **16th out of 24**

Increase from 23rd last year.

Incremental Progress (Within DRG)

LA Achievement **+2.4% increase** meeting benchmark

Math Achievement: **+4.0% increase** meeting benchmark

LA growth: **decrease of a 3%** average growth

Math growth: **Increase of 2%** average growth

Critical Growth Transitions

Nursery to New Garden Plot

Significant drops in growth often occur during elementary to middle school transitions, indicating adaptation challenges.

Root Building

Like seeds developing underground, the growth isn’t visible yet, but the foundations are being strengthened for scores to rise.

Next Steps for District Leadership

Immediate Action

Data Deep Dive

Resource Allocation