

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: December 02, 2021

Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

David Fitzgibbons, Charlene Fearon, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Jan Taigen, Ken Rice, Stuart Johnson

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Tracy Dickson, Scott Hallden, Alyson Whelan, Lenore Grunko (joined 7:07 p.m.), Betsy Scholfield (joined 7:22 p.m.)

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Cassandra Sweet, Justin Pillion

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Alex Silva, John Stack, Lol Fearon, Rick Daniels, Lon Seidman, Jennifer Clark (joined 7:07 p.m.), Lori Ann Clymas (joined 7:33 p.m.);

Also in attendance: Mr. Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; and Robert Grissom, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call

Supervision District Committee Chair Miriam Morrissey called the meeting to order at approx. 7:01 p.m.

The Chairs (or their designee) of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester (3 Yes/ 0 No / 3 Abstain - Taigen, Johnson, Rice = motion passed), Deep River (4 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstain – Dickson = motion passed), Essex (unanimous) and Region 4 (6 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstain – Fearon = motion passed) Boards **VOTED** *(with all members present at 7:06 p.m.)* to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of October 07, 2021; and the special meeting of October 28, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No comments were made

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

Superintendent White asked Finance Director Grissom to share an update on the RFP process for securing a vendor to to conduct a comprehensive study for the buildings and facilities owned and operated by the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region No. 4, and their Supervision District Committee, as budgeted for, this year.

Mr. Grissom reviewed the RFP and interview process that led the Joint BOE RFP Review Committee to determine their recommendation for the Joint Board’s consideration this evening. Joint BOE RFP Review Committee members Rick Daniels, Miriam Morrissey, and Kate Sandmann spoke to the Committee’s unanimous recommendation that the Joint BOE vote this evening to proceed with Drummey Rosane Anderson. If the Joint BOE votes to move forward with this firm, Superintendent White will invite them to speak to the Joint BOE at their next meeting in February to provide an update on the process and status. There was a time for members to ask questions.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** *(with all members present at 7:21 p.m.)* to direct the Superintendent to proceed with the Joint BOE RFP Review Committee’s recommended firm of Drummey Rosane Anderson in accordance with the vendor’s submitted proposal

for RFP# R5202201 to conduct a comprehensive study for the buildings and facilities owned and operated by the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region No. 4, and their Supervision District Committee.

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy shared that all five of our schools will be participating in PJ day next Friday, Dec. 10th as a fundraiser for the CT Children's Medical Center.

Superintendent White invited Dr. Brozowy to provide a presentation on SBAC results. He noted that it's been difficult to talk about standardized tests over the past couple of years due to the pandemic, and although the SBAC results are not considered very significant data, nevertheless it is an opportunity to provide some of our district data relative to statewide averages. Additionally, Administration wanted to share this information tonight in response to several questions asked by board members during previous meetings.

Dr. Brozowy shared the SBAC presentation (see attached), answered questions, and noted that more detailed information will be shared at upcoming individual meetings.

Superintendent White stated that he felt it was important to get this information out as a conversation starter because as we enter the winter and spring months we will be thinking about the next 5 years of strategic goals for the districts, and it may help to inform upcoming budget discussions, as well.

Superintendent White reminded the boards that last year Administration committed to taking a broad look at student enrollment to the extent that it drives staffing decisions. To that end they engaged NSDEC to provide a 10 year enrollment study. This evening Administration will be sharing an enrollment analysis with the Joint BOE in advance of the kick off to budget season. More in depth details will be presented during individual meetings and workshops later in the year.

Dr. Brzozowy shared a high level Enrollment Analysis presentation (see attached).

Members were given time to ask questions.

With regards to the scheduling of Joint BOE Committees, Superintendent White spoke to the fact that there are no available evenings, that aren't a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, open on the calendar through the end of the school year. In the interest of restarting these meetings Superintendent White asked the members to consider holding them remotely, during the daytime. Administration asked the Board members for their guidance on the possibility of scheduling the major Joint BOE meetings for Policy, Curriculum and Finance remotely during daytime hours due to this calendar gridlock. There was a brief discussion regarding this.

It was determined that Central Office will distribute a survey to determine board members' availability for remote, daytime Joint BOE Policy, Curriculum, and Finance Committee meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – No reports were made

PUBLIC COMMENT – No comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next regular Joint BOE meeting – February 24, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk



Smarter Balanced Performance

Joint BOE Meeting

December 02, 2021

Message from CT Department of Education

Special Considerations and Analyses Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Similarities

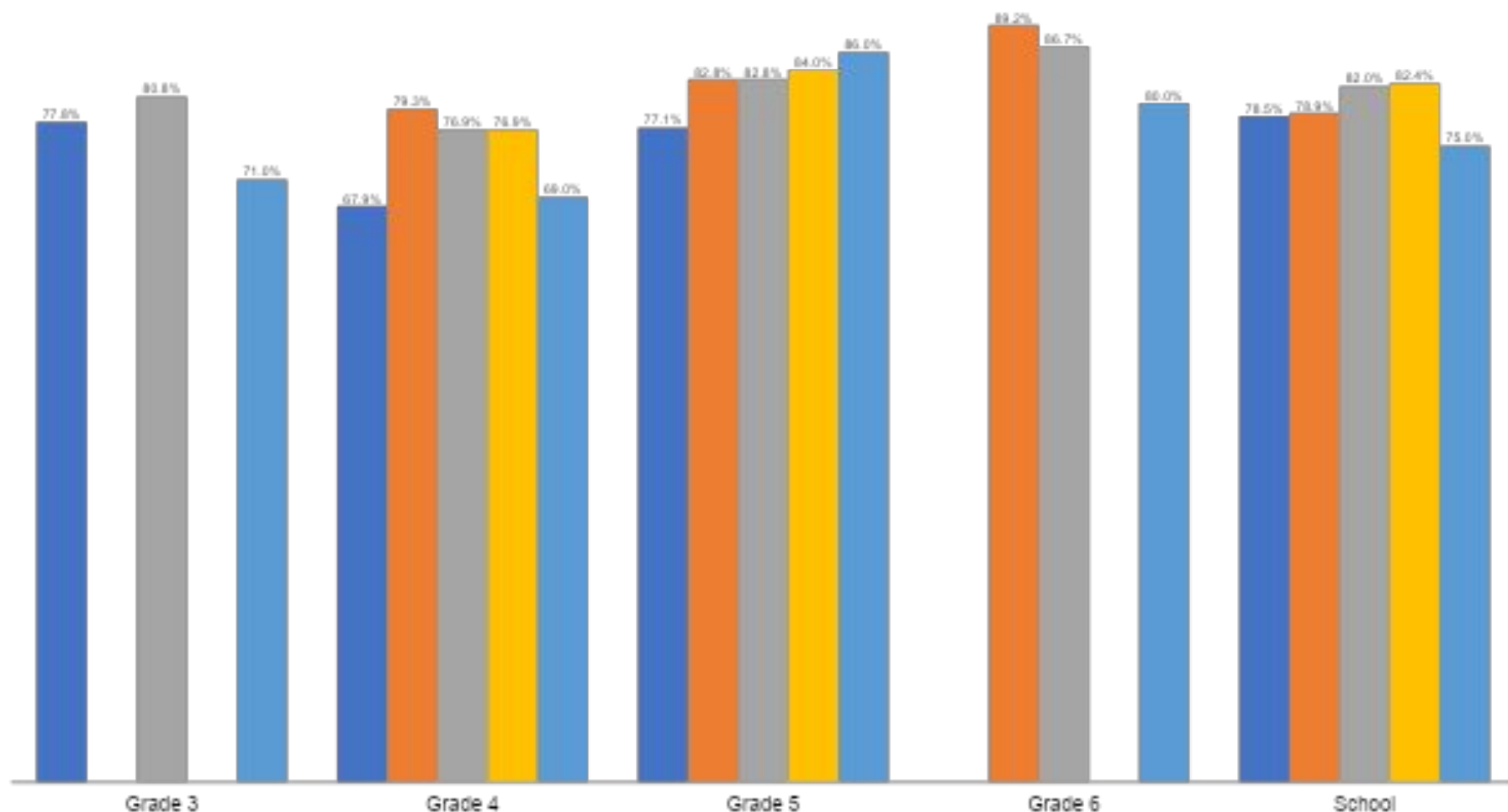
- Same test blueprint
- The same item bank or the same/similar test forms
- The same in-person testing protocols as in 2018–19.

Differences:

- Schools were fully remote from mid-March to mid-June 2020
- School learning models changed throughout the school year and students were remote to varying degrees due to factors beyond educator control.
- Some students tested remotely, which was a new construct for 2020–21.
- In-person school didn't look the same, and new instructional approaches emerged (e.g., concurrent teaching, remote academies).
- Students and educators expressed feelings of general stress, anxiety, and trauma.

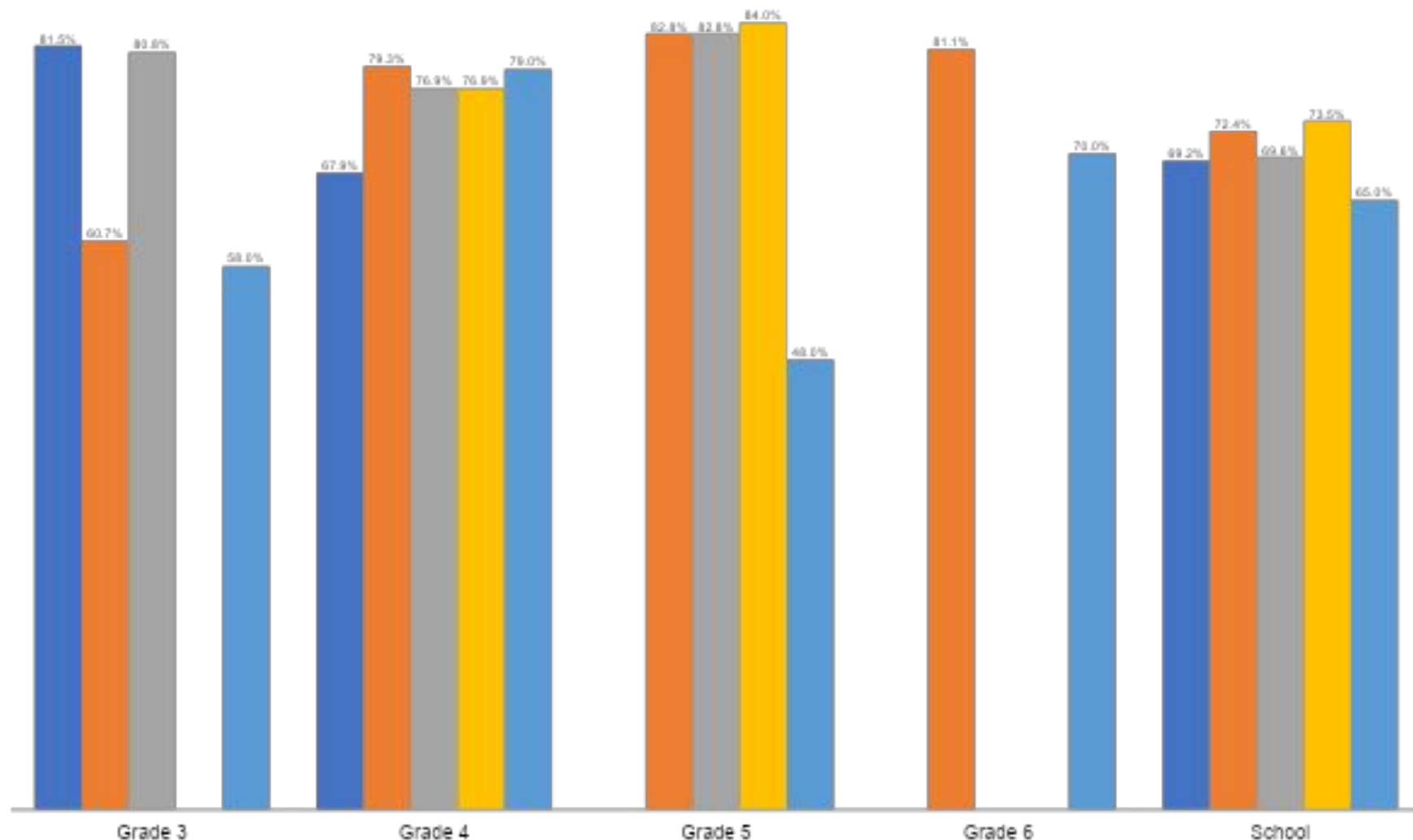
ELA Performance- Chester Elementary 5 Year Trend by Grade Level

■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



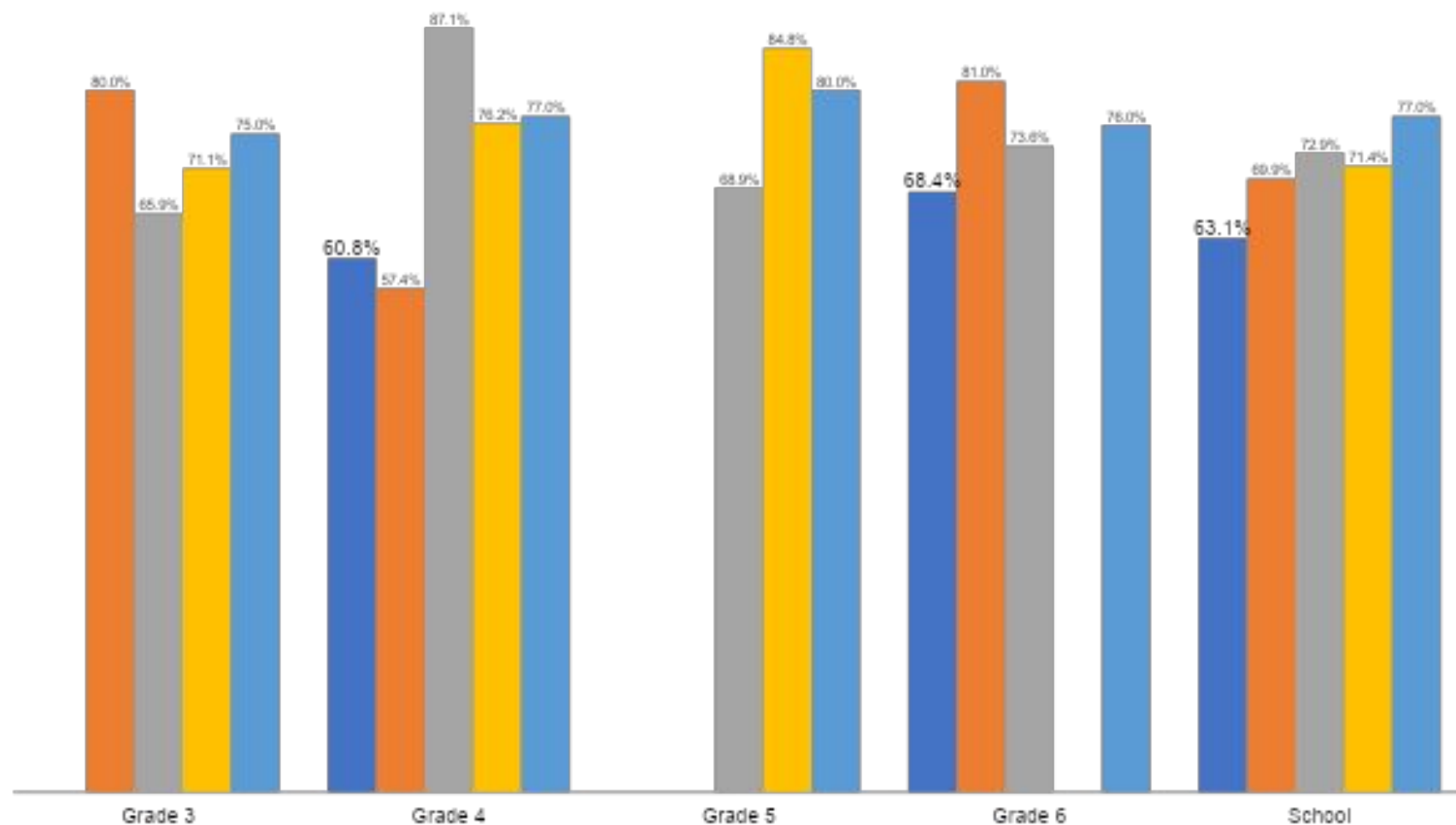
Math Performance- Chester Elementary 5 Year Trend by Grade Level

Smarter Balanced 2016 Smarter Balanced 2017 Smarter Balanced 2018 Smarter Balanced 2019 Smarter Balanced 2021*



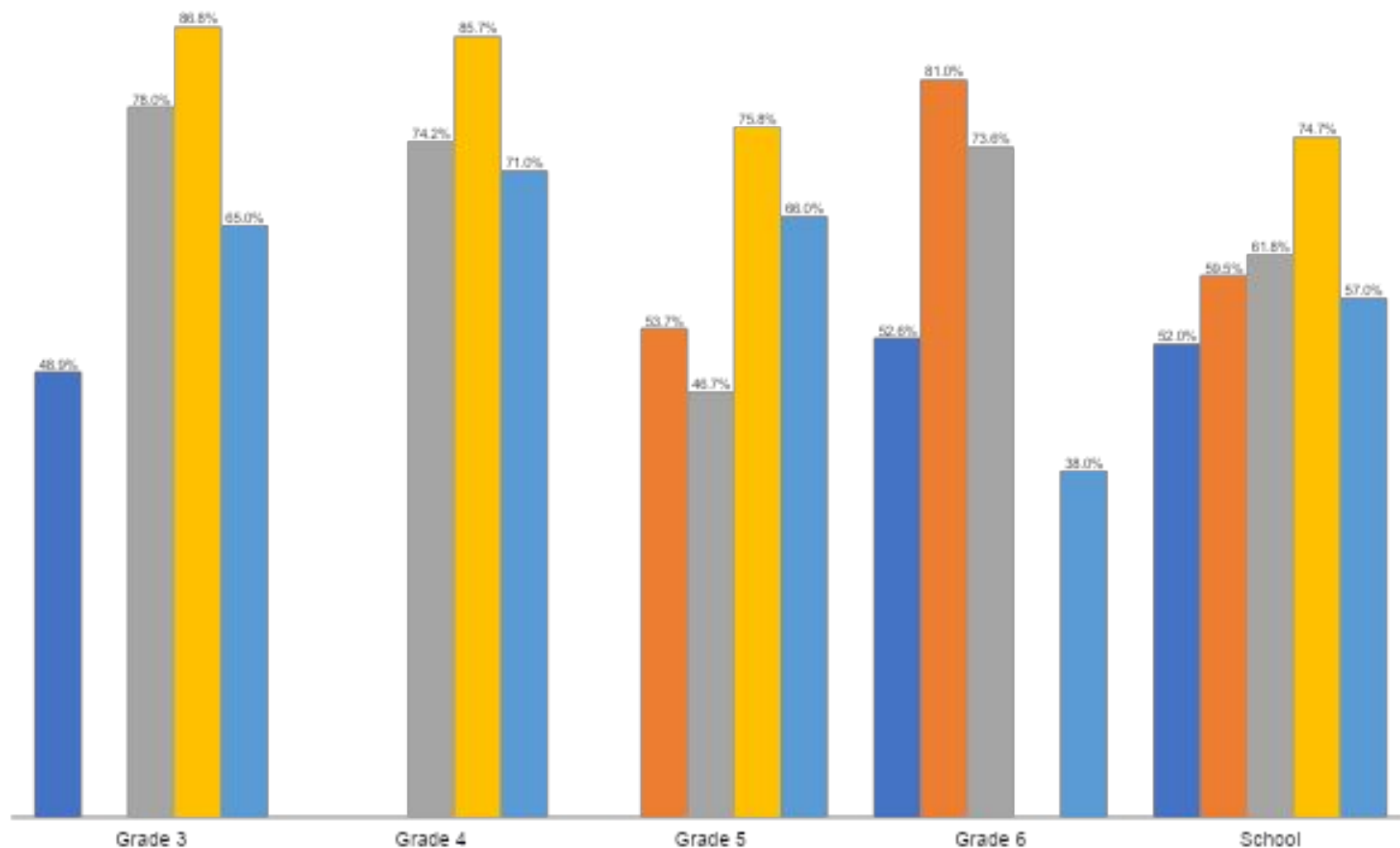
ELA Performance- Deep River Elementary 5 Year Trend by Grade Level

■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



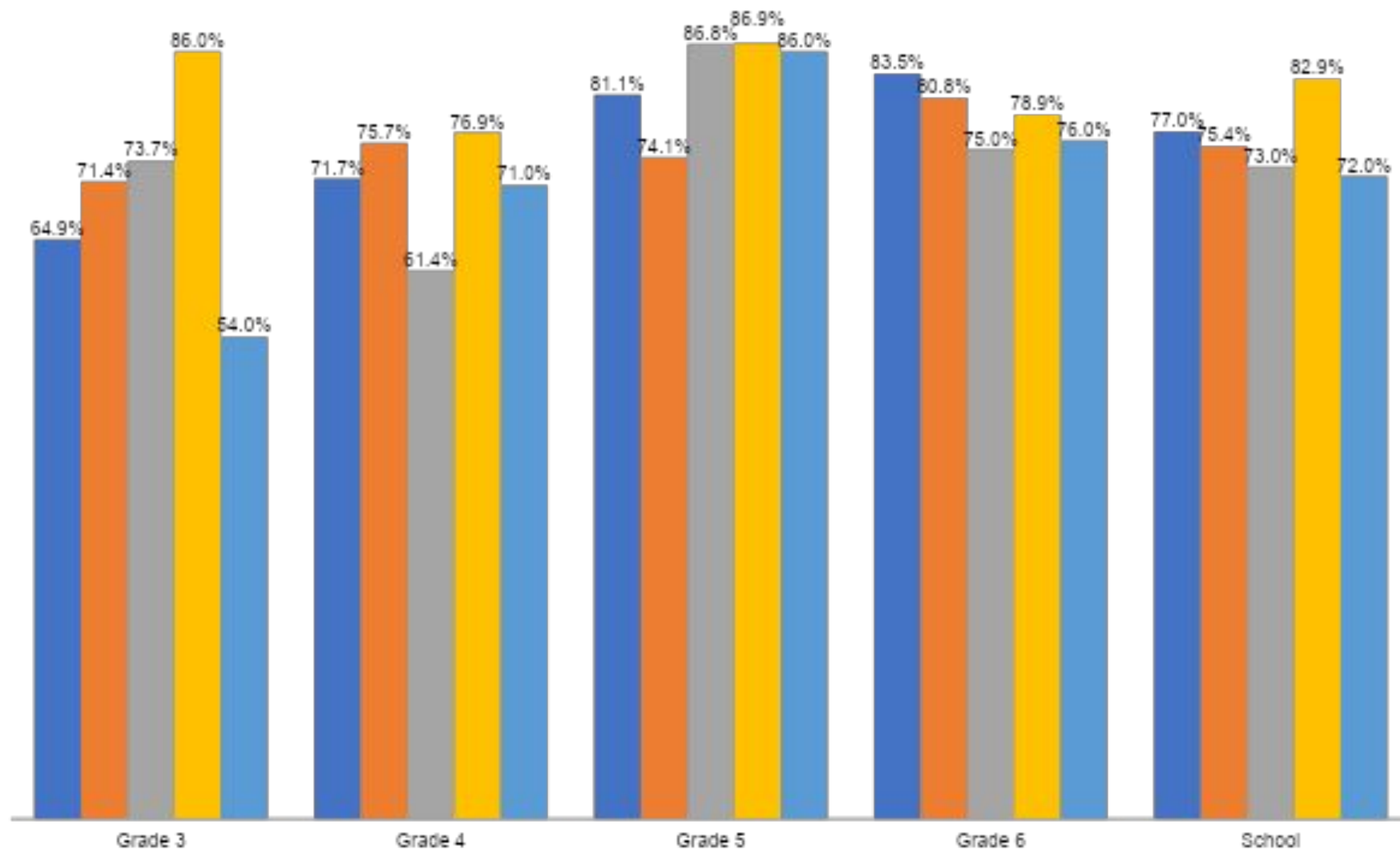
Math Performance- Deep River Elementary 5 Year Trend by Grade Level

■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



ELA Performance- Essex Elementary 5 Year Trend by Grade Level

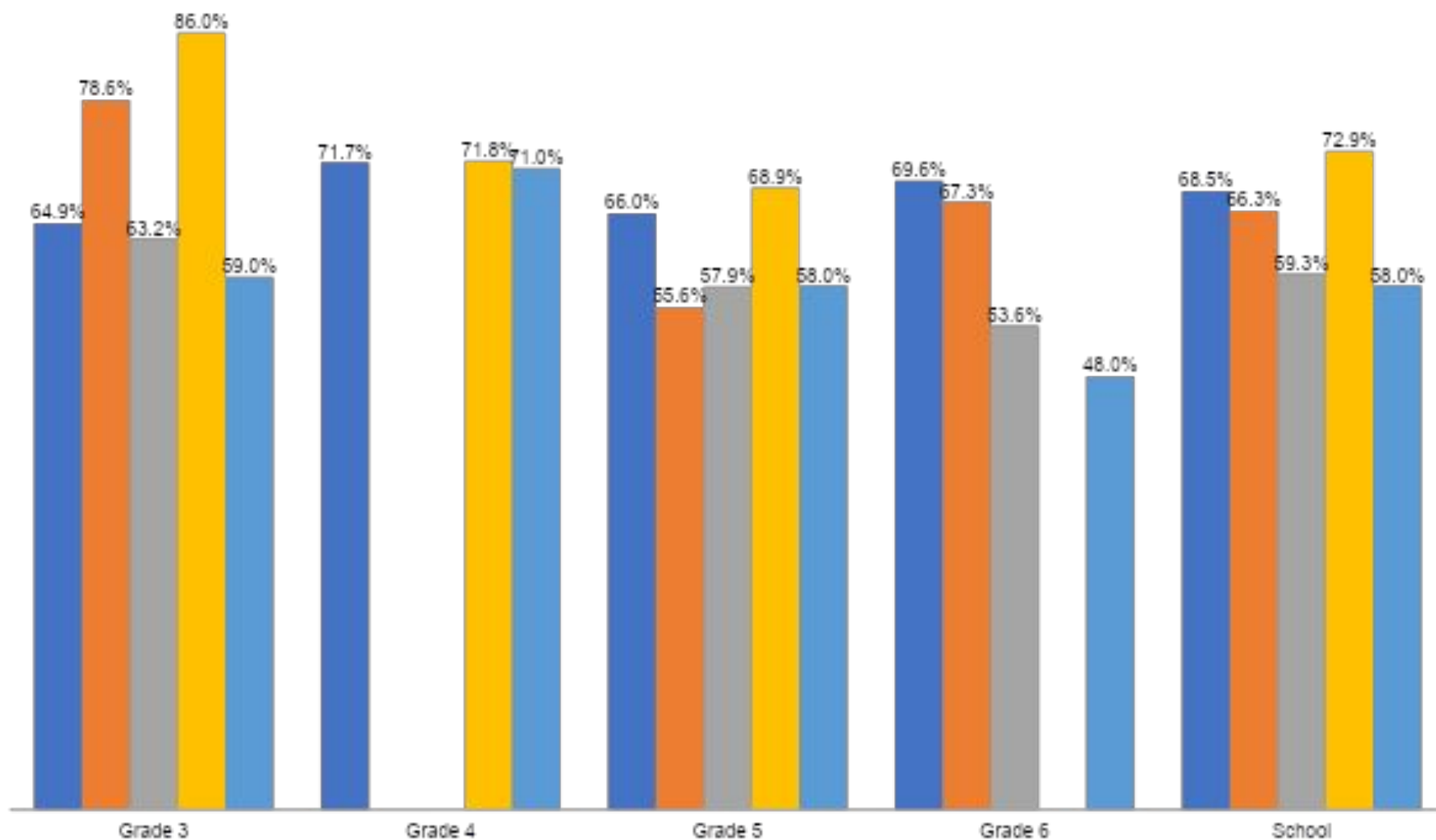
■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



Math Performance- Essex Elementary

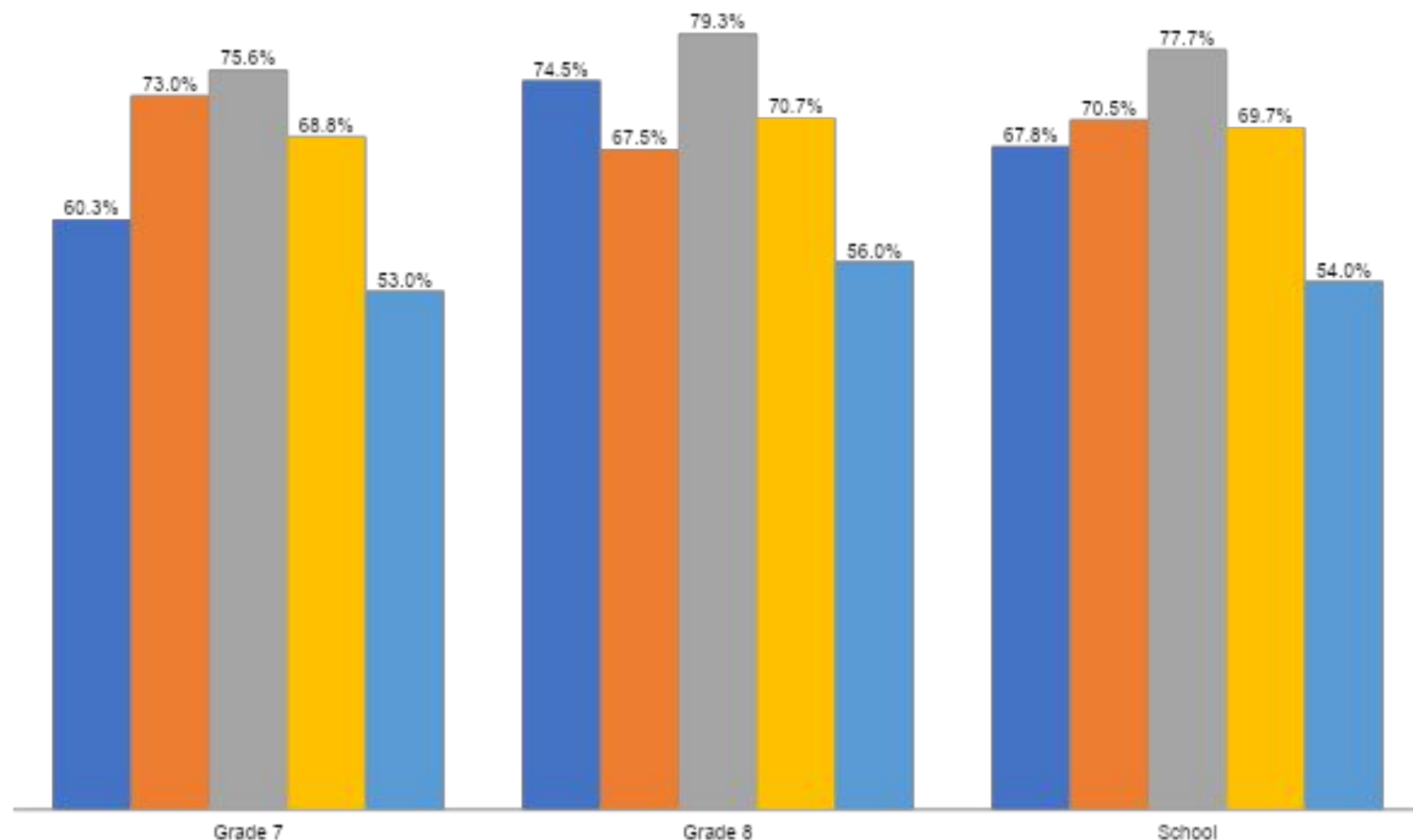
5 Year Trend by Grade Level

■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



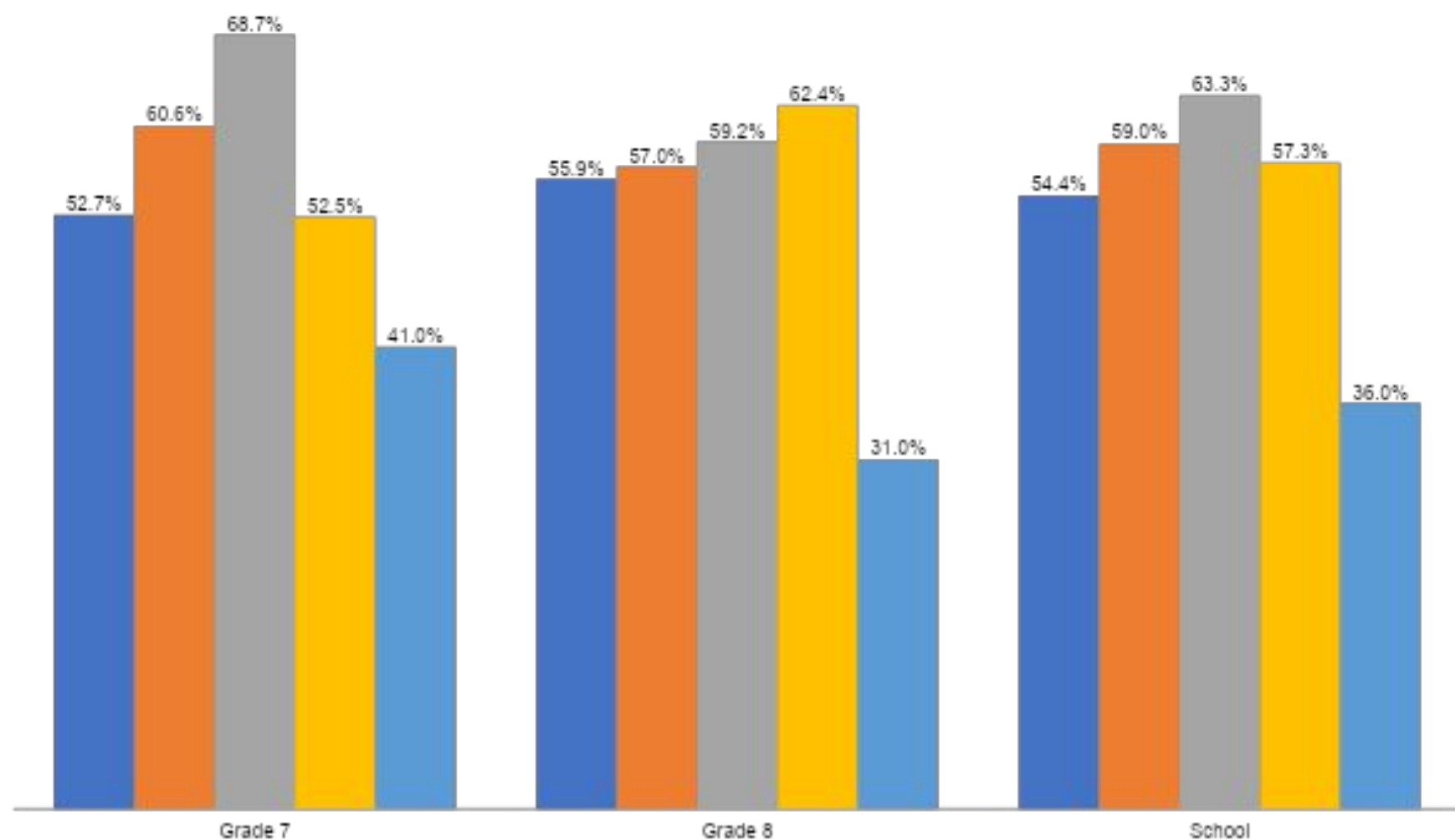
ELA Performance- John Winthrop Middle School
5 Year Trend by Grade Level

■ Smarter Balanced 2016 ■ Smarter Balanced 2017 ■ Smarter Balanced 2018 ■ Smarter Balanced 2019 ■ Smarter Balanced 2021*



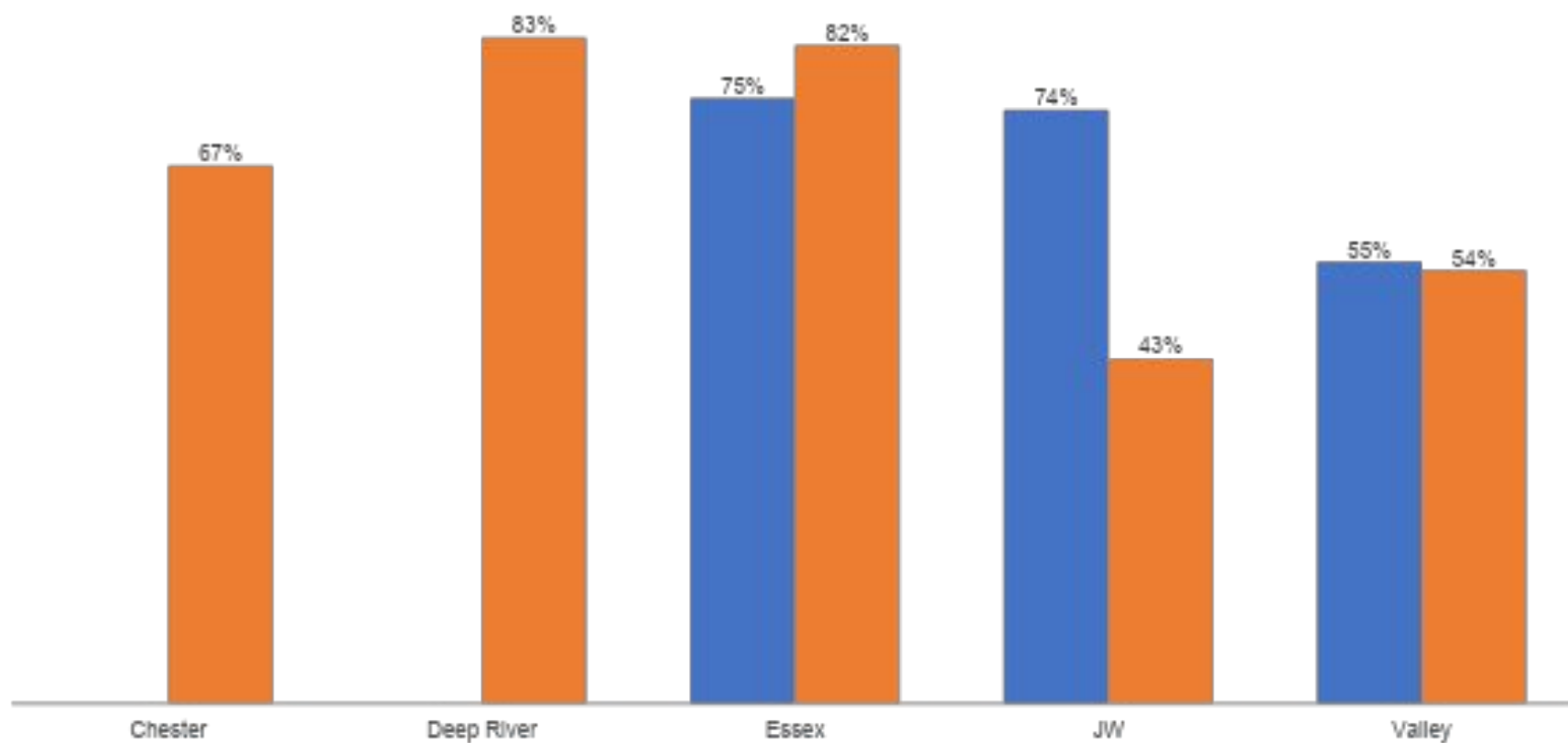
Math Performance- John Winthrop Middle School
5 Year Trend by Grade Level

Smarter Balanced 2016 Smarter Balanced 2017 Smarter Balanced 2018 Smarter Balanced 2019 Smarter Balanced 2021*



Next Generation Science Standards

■ 2019 ■ 2021*



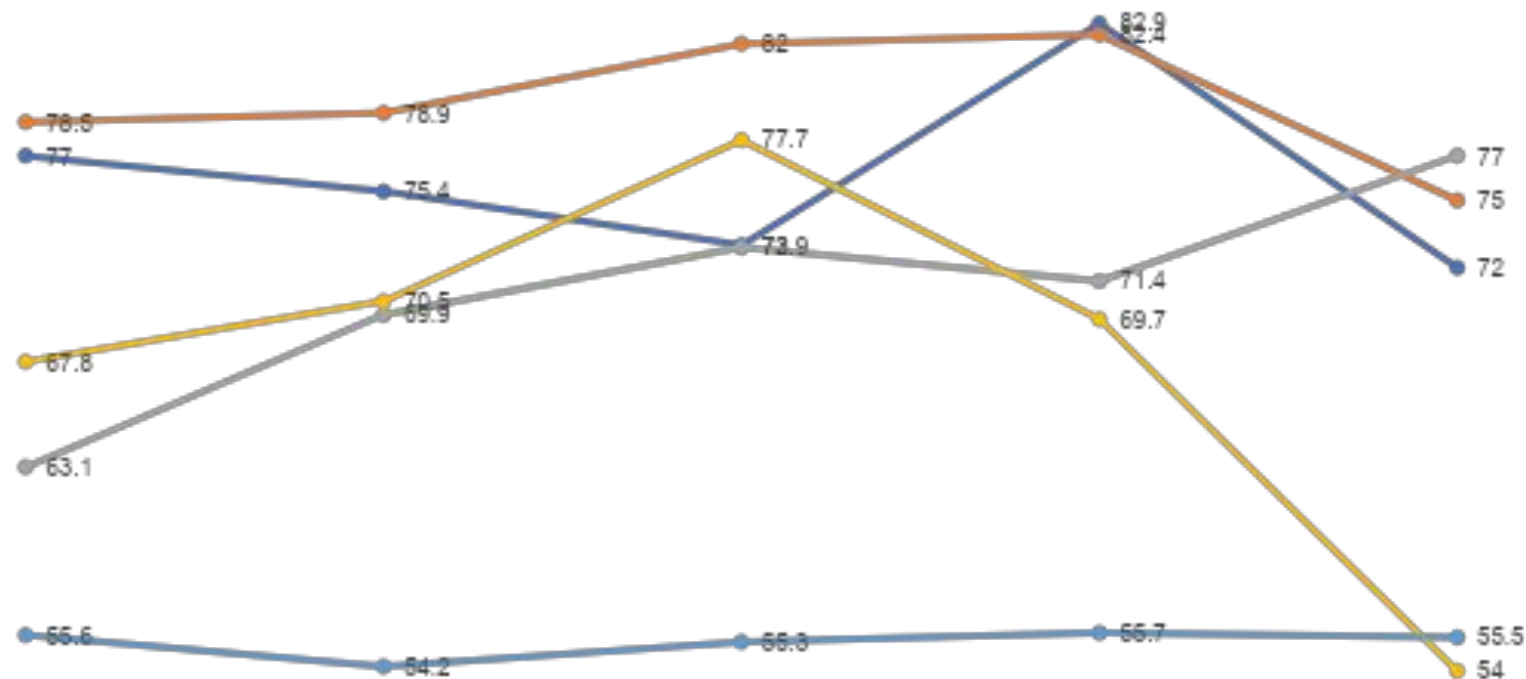
ELA Performance

Essex
Connecticut

Chester

Deep River

Region 4



Smarter Balanced 2016

Smarter Balanced 2017

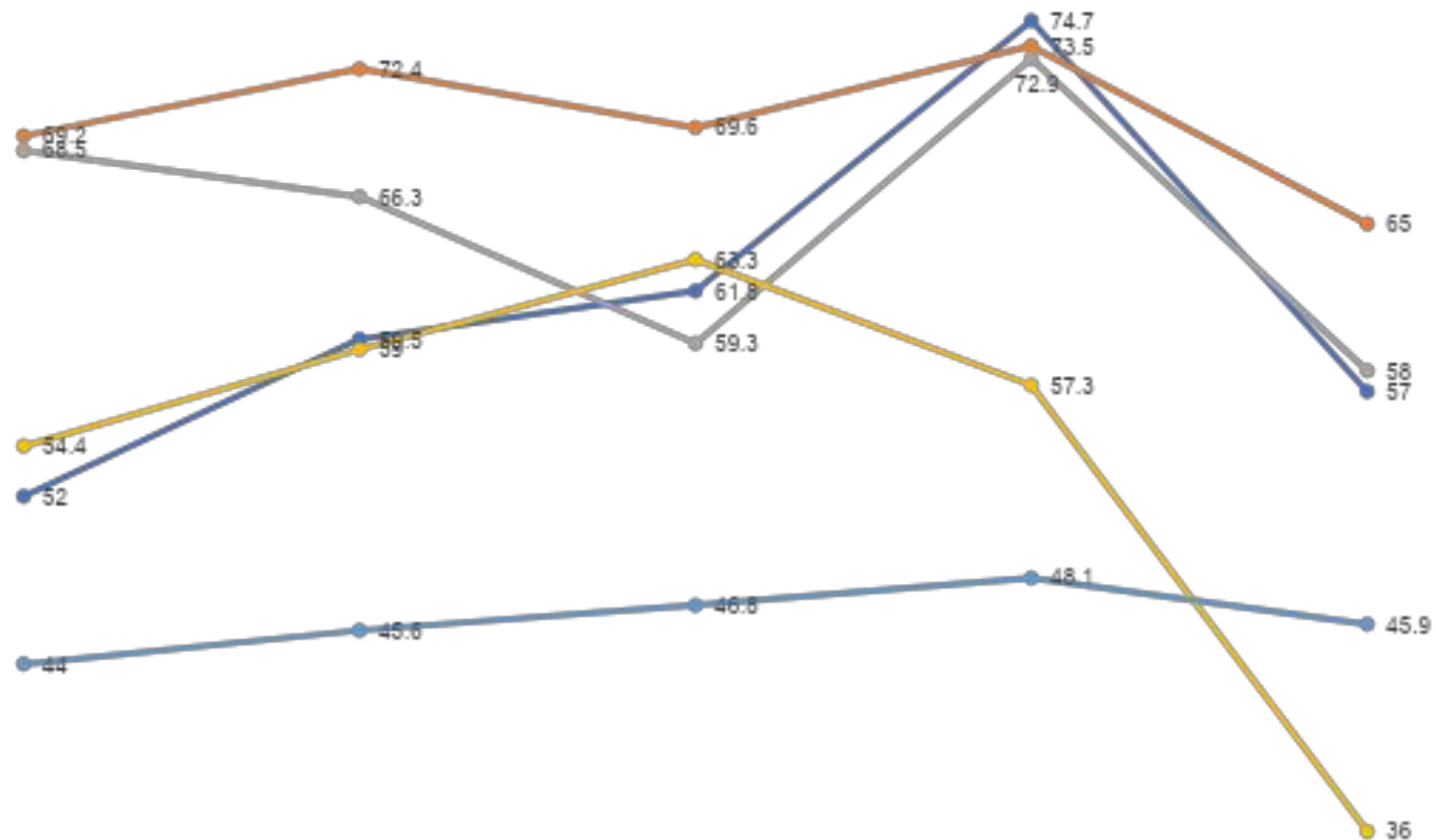
Smarter Balanced 2018

Smarter Balanced 2019

Smarter Balanced 2021

Math Performance

● Deep River
● Chester
● Essex
● Region 4
● Connecticut



Smarter Balanced 2016

Smarter Balanced 2017

Smarter Balanced 2018

Smarter Balanced 2019

Smarter Baanced 2021



Enrollment Analysis

Chester– Deep River– Essex– Region 4

Joint BOE Meeting
December 02, 2021

Board of Education Policy 6116.11: Class Size Guidelines

Class size guidelines for the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 are anchored in educational research and best practices. The research overwhelmingly demonstrates the long-term benefit of smaller class sizes, especially in kindergarten through grade three. Best practice supports progressively larger class sizes in grades four through twelve. In addition, other factors leading to positive student outcomes include sound instructional strategies, positive school climate, excellent student/teacher/parent relationships, and quality teacher professional development.

Historical K-12 Enrollment

Year	Chester	Deep River	Essex	John Winthrop	Valley Regional	Total Enrollment
2011-2012	259	357	519	337	617	2089
2012-2013	251	347	477	365	624	2064
2013-2014	228	330	451	355	617	1981
2014-2015	219	312	407	333	630	1901
2015-2016	211	304	362	316	599	1792
2016-2017	206	285	334	333	607	1765
2017-2018	205	276	313	327	609	1730
2018-2019	194	242	299	289	608	1632
2019-2020	186	235	298	257	582	1558
2020-2021	199	221	279	244	595	1538
2021-2022	209	208	269	244	565	1495
2022-2023*	220	201	258	240	505	1424
Change	-39/-15%	-156/-43%	-261/-50%	-97/-29%	-102/-16%	-665/-32%

*Projected

Source: New England School Development Council, 2021
John Winthrop data prior to 2015-16 from EdSight, CSDE
Valley Regional data prior to 2015-16 from EdSight, CSDE

Elementary Schools



Elementary Schools

<u>Elementary School</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
Grades K-3	14-16
Grades 4-5	16-18
Grade 6	16-20

Elementary class size may vary from the above guidelines by two students as dictated by the needs of the students and the considerations listed previously.

Elementary Classroom Teacher Staffing

	Chester		Deep River		Essex	
	Enrollment	Classroom Teachers	Enrollment	Classroom Teachers	Enrollment	Classroom Teachers
2016-2017	206	19.5	285	24.7	334	28.0
2017-2018	205	19.5	276	23.6	313	26.9
2018-2019	194	17.5	242	20.5	299	25.3
2019-2020	186	17.5	235	20.0	298	25.3
2020-2021	199	16.5	221	20.0	279	24.3
2021-2022	209	16.5	208	18.5	269	24.8
Change	+3/+1.5%	-3/-15.4%	-77/-27%	-6.2/-25.1%	-65/-19.5%	-3.2/-11.4%

*Projected

Source: CT Department of Education, EdSight
2021-2022 PowerSchool/ Human Resources

Class Size Analysis

	Chester		Deep River		Essex	
	Enrollment	Average Class Size	Enrollment	Average Class Size	Enrollment	Average Class Size
Kindergarten	36	18	31	16	35	17
Grade 1	27	14	23	12	31	10
Grade 2	37	19	26	13	39	13
Grade 3	25	13	27	14	40	13
Grade 4	32	16	25	12	39	13
Grade 5	30	15	33	16	41	14
Grade 6	22	22	43	21	44	15
School	209	17	208	15	269	14

John Winthrop Middle School



Middle School

<u>Middle School</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
Grades 7-8	18-22

Middle school class size may vary from the above guidelines as dictated by the needs of the students and the considerations listed previously. Secondary school courses such as advanced placement, honors, world language, music, art, certain science, mathematics, technology, and language classes, and other specific classes may be offered at a lower or higher class size. Therefore, secondary class sizes have a lower limit of ten students and an upper limit of twenty-eight students.

John Winthrop Middle School Staffing

	Enrollment	Administrators	Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologist	General Education Teachers	Special Education Teachers	Paraeducators	Other (Nurses, LMS, Support)	Total
2016-2017	333	2	4.2	26.0	5.0	9.7	15.4	62.3
2017-2018	327	2	3.4	26.0	6.2	9.7	14.7	62
2018-2019	289	2	3.4	22.0	5	9.3	12.9	54.6
2019-2020	257	2	2.4	20.5	4	10.4	16	51.3
2020-2021	244	2	3.4	16.5	3	10.4	11.3	46.6
2021-2022	244	1.6	3.4	16.8	4	9.1	11.0	45.9
Change	-89/-26.7%	-.4/-20%	-.8/-19.5%	-9.2/-35.4%	-1/-20%	-.6/-6.2%	-4.4/-29%	-16.4/-26%

Current Enrollment (10/1/2021): John Winthrop Middle School

	Enrollment	Average Class Size
7th Grade	123	20.9
8th Grade	121	20.8

It is important to note:

Average PE class sizes are 30.5

Average Music classes in grade 7 are 31

Projected Enrollment (2022-2023)

	Enrollment	Average Class Size* Current Staffing Levels
7th Grade	116	18.1
8th Grade	124	20.8

Core Classes

Course	# Classes	Total Enrollment	Max.	Min.	Average	Recommended Range	# of classes exceeding range	# of classes below range
Grade 7	5	125	0	25	25	18-22	5	0
Grade 8	5	123	0	25	24	18-22	5	0

World Language Classes

Course	# Classes	Total Enrollment	Max.	Min.	Average	Recommended Range	# of classes exceeding range	# of classes below range
Spanish 7	4	76	26	12	19	18-22	2	2
Spanish 8	4	81	23	15	19	18-22	1	1
French 7	4	38	15	9	12	18-22	0	4
French 8	1	24	24	24	24	18-22	1	0

Unified Arts/Specialists Classes

Course	# Classes	Total Enrollment	Max.	Min.	Average	Recommended Range	# of classes exceeding range	# of classes below range
Art 7	8	125	24	17	21	18-22	2	1
Art 8	6	89	28	5	12	18-22	3	3
Computers 7	8	125	27	16	22	18-22	1	1
Computers 8	6	115	28	8	18	18-22	2	3
Life Manag. 7	8	125	20	15	18	18-22	0	4
Life Manag. 8	4	77	29	18	24	18-22	2	0
General Music 7	4	113	31	25	28	18-22	4	0
Band 7	1	35	35	35	35	18-22	1	0
Chorus 7	1	30	30	30	30	18-22	1	0
Band 8	1	8	8	8	8	18-22	0	1
Chorus 8	1	13	13	13	13	18-22	0	1
PE 7	4	125	40	22	31	18-22	2	0
PE 8	4	123	39	21	30	18-22	3	0
Health 7	8	125	18	14	16	18-22	0	8
Tech Ed 7	8	125	22	15	19	18-22	0	0
Tech Ed 8	4	65	27	6	17	18-22	2	2

Valley Regional High School



High School

<u>High School</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
Grades 9-12	18-22

High school class size may vary from the above guidelines as dictated by the needs of the students and the considerations listed previously.

Secondary school courses such as advanced placement, honors, world language, music, art, certain science, mathematics, technology, and language classes, and other specific classes may be offered at a lower or higher class size. Therefore, secondary class sizes have a lower limit of ten students and an upper limit of twenty-eight students.

Valley Regional High School Staffing

	Enrollment	Administrators	Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologist	General Education Teachers	Special Education Teachers	Paraeducators	Other (Nurses, LMS, Support)	Total
2016-2017	606	2.0	5.2	42.2	6.0	10.7	21.2	87.3
2017-2018	587	2.0	5.2	42.2	6.2	10.5	20.8	86.9
2018-2019	599	2.0	6.2	42.4	6.0	9.9	20.1	86.6
2019-2020	583	2.0	6.2	43.0	7.0	12.5	20.1	90.8
2020-2021	577	2.0	6.2	40.0	6.0	12.5	18.3	85
2021-2022	544	2.0	6	39.8	7.5	15	18.0	
Change	62	0/0%	+8/	-2.4/	+1.5	+4.3/		

Current Enrollment (10/1/2021): Valley Regional High School

	Enrollment	Average Class Size
9th Grade	110	15.4
10th Grade	139	15.4
11th Grade	129	15.4
12th Grade	166	15.4

Art Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
ART	199	10.5	20	3
Art Foundations	76	12.7	20	6
Ceramics	13	6.5	10	3
Drawing	11	5.5	8	3
Functional Ceramics	29	14.5	15	14
IB/Advanced Studio Art	10	10.0	10	10
Jewelry Design & Fabrication	31	15.5	18	13
Painting	20	10.0	11	9
Sculpture	9	4.5	5	4

Business Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
BUS	199	14.2	24	3
Accounting 1/2	13	13.0	13	13
Computer Applications 1 (L2)	25	12.5	16	9
Computer Programming (L2)	23	11.5	19	4
Entrepreneurship (L2)	35	17.5	20	15
IB-BUSINESS-HL-11/Global Business	15	15.0	15	15
IB-BUSINESS-HL-12	3	3.0	3	3
Marketing (L2)	13	13.0	13	13
Personal Finance (L2)	72	18.0	24	11

English Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
ENG	718	16.7	28	3
Academic Skills Lab - R/W - Fall	39	13.0	16	9
Academic Skills Lab - R/W - Spring	35	11.7	12	11
AP Eng Language & Comp	53	17.7	20	14
AP Eng Literature & Comp	43	21.5	24	19
Creative Writing (L2)	30	15.0	18	12
English 10 (L1)	76	19.0	22	12
English 10 (L2)	56	18.7	24	10
English 11 (American Lit) (L1)	25	12.5	17	8
English 11 (American Lit) (L2)	34	17.0	19	15
English 12 (World Lit) (L1)	51	25.5	28	23
English 12 (World Lit) (L2)	55	18.3	23	14
English 9 (L1)	46	23.0	25	21
English 9 (L2)	63	21.0	26	18
IB-CORE-11	20	6.7	9	5
IB-CORE-12	3	3.0	3	3
IB-LITERATURE-HL/SL-11/12	23	23.0	23	23
Public & Professional Comm (L2)	15	7.5	9	6
The Media and You (L2)	51	25.5	26	25

Family and Consumer Science Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
FCS	154	15.4	17	9
Intro to Early Childhood Education	25	12.5	16	9
Nutrition and Food Production 1	68	17.0	17	17
Nutrition and Food Production 2	32	16.0	17	15
Textiles and Design 1/2	29	14.5	17	12

Mathematics Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
MTH	468	16.7	26	5
Algebra 1 (L1)	16	16.0	16	16
Algebra 1 (L2)	56	18.7	20	16
Algebra 2 (L1)	70	23.3	26	20
Algebra 2 (L2)	40	20.0	23	17
Algebra Foundations (L2)	15	15.0	15	15
AP Calculus AB	17	17.0	17	17
AP Calculus BC	9	9.0	9	9
AP Statistics	18	18.0	18	18
Geometry (L1)	50	16.7	23	11
Geometry (L2)	63	21.0	26	18
IB-MATH ANALYSIS-HL/SL-11	11	11.0	11	11
IB-MATH APPLICATIONS-SL-11	11	11.0	11	11
IB-MATH APPLICATIONS-SL-12	5	5.0	5	5
Pre-Calculus (L1)	39	19.5	21	18
Pre-Calculus (L2)	22	22.0	22	22
Statistics (L1/L2)	26	13.0	14	12

Music Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
MUS	125	13.9	31	2
AP Music Theory	7	7.0	7	7
Band	46	23.0	31	15
Chorus	43	21.5	26	17
Music Theory - UCONN	2	2.0	2	2
Piano	20	10.0	13	7
Vocal Class	7	7.0	7	7

Physical Education/Health Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
PEH	559	21.5	30	7
Health 1	116	23.2	28	18
Health 2	133	22.2	26	17
PE-Fit	15	7.5	8	7
Physical Education	295	22.7	30	10

Science Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
SCI	565	17.7	25	11
Anatomy & Physiology (L1/L2)	42	14.0	17	12
AP Biology	25	12.5	14	11
Biology (L1)	57	19.0	21	18
Biology (L2)	57	19.0	22	13
Chemistry (L1)	38	19.0	24	14
Chemistry (L2)	85	21.3	25	18
Forensics (L2)	76	19.0	21	17
IB-PHYSICS-SL	19	19.0	19	19
Integrated Science (L2)	19	19.0	19	19
Marine Biology (L2)	56	14.0	19	11
Physics (L1)	44	22.0	23	21
Physics (L2)	47	15.7	18	12

Special Education Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
SPED	202	6.5	12	2
Academic Assistance Fall	73	7.3	12	4
Academic Assistance Spring	57	6.3	9	3
Career and Transition Readiness	2	2.0	2	2
Concepts in Math	5	5.0	5	5
Functional Academics	20	6.7	8	5
Life Skills	13	6.5	8	5
Skill Center: Science	4	4.0	4	4
VRHSTP - Elective	7	7.0	7	7
VRHSTP - English	8	8.0	8	8
VRHSTP - Science	7	7.0	7	7
VRHSTP - Social Studies	6	6.0	6	6

Career and Technical Education Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
TEC	286	11.4	19	3
Adv Materials Processing	33	11.0	15	9
Adv Photography	24	8.0	9	7
Architectural Design/Adv	35	17.5	19	16
Bldg/Construction	16	8.0	10	6
Engineering Design/Adv	21	10.5	13	8
Graphic Arts 1	8	8.0	8	8
Manufacturing/Adv	28	14.0	17	11
Materials Processing	27	9.0	18	3
Photography (Chemical & Digital)	63	12.6	18	9
Technical Drafting	31	15.5	17	14

World Language Sections

	Sum of Enrollment	Average of Enrollment	Max of Enrollment	Min of Enrollment
WLA	344	17.2	29	7
AP Spanish: Language & Culture	11	11.0	11	11
French 1 (L2)	9	9.0	9	9
French 2 (L2)	29	14.5	17	12
French 3 (L1)	29	29.0	29	29
French 4 (L1)	7	7.0	7	7
IB-FRENCH-SL/HL	9	9.0	9	9
IB-SPANISH-SL/HL	24	24.0	24	24
Spanish 1 (L2)	23	23.0	23	23
Spanish 2 (L2)	96	19.2	27	10
Spanish 3 (L1)	62	20.7	25	17
Spanish 4 (L1)	38	19.0	20	18
TESOL	7	7.0	7	7

Next Steps

At each local Board of Education meeting we will:

- Develop a more in depth analysis about class size and potential programmatic implications
- Provide a detailed section analysis including individual class sizes
- Highlight staffing needs to ensure quality program offerings and ensure quality experiences for students