



The School Performance Report: A Guide for Parents

What is the School Performance Report?

It is a report on key accountability indicators (i.e., test scores and/or graduation rates) for every school. It tells parents and schools how their school is performing on those indicators. It also identifies strengths and challenges. It is produced by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

What data does the report contain?

Every school that administers state tests (known as CMT or CAPT) will earn a “score” based on the performance of all students on those tests. This score is called a **School Performance Index (SPI)**. The SPI ranges from 0 to 100. The CSDE expects that schools will have an SPI of 88 or above.

Each report displays the following:

- overall school SPI for the past four years;
- whether differences in SPI exist between student groups/subjects; and
- whether SPI targets were achieved for 2012-13.

For high schools, the report also includes **graduation rates** and whether targets were achieved (note: graduation data are always a year behind). The CSDE expects that every high school will achieve a graduation rate of 94%.

Based on these indicators, a school is placed into one the following classifications: *Excelling*, *Progressing*, *Transitioning*, *Review*, *Focus*, or *Turnaround*. Excelling is the highest classification.

What questions should you ask as you read the report?

- What is the school’s classification?
- How has the SPI changed over four years?
- Is the overall SPI in 2012-13 at or above 88?
- How does the SPI differ between groups of students and among different subjects?
- Did the school achieve its SPI target in 2012-13?
- For High Schools: What is the trend in graduation rates? Is it above 94%?

How can I use the performance report?

Ask the school to sponsor a parent meeting to talk about the reports and explore the school’s strengths and areas that may need improvement.

Ask your school principal how parents can help to improve the school.

Attend school events such as family learning nights with your child.

Join your school’s parent organization to learn more about school programs and ways you can volunteer your time at the school.

Ask your teacher how you can help your child improve and meet or exceed grade-level expectations.

To view performance reports for all schools and districts, ask your school or visit <http://www.sde.ct.gov>