



Needs Assessment Youth Success

1. Reduce Achievement Gap
2. Increase investment in early childhood programs
3. Expand services for young adults 18-24

Achievement Gap

- **Achievement gap** refers to disparity in academic performance or educational attainment between different groups of students, such as white students and minorities or students from higher-income and lower-income households.
- Underlying causes of achievement gap include unequal access to educational opportunities, family support, nutrition, healthcare, lower-quality schools, ineffective teaching, and English language skills

Where Do Connecticut's Scores Rank Nationally?

	4 th Grade Math	4 th Grade Reading	8 th Grade Math	8 th Grade Reading
Overall	26 of 50	6 th best	20 of 50	4 th best
Low-income	4 th worst	31 of 50	3 rd worst	17 of 50
Black/African American	10 th worst	21 of 41	27 of 39	11 of 42
Hispanic/Latino	6 th worst	18 of 47	2 nd worst	23 of 46
English Language Learners	22 of 41	19 of 42	2 nd worst	10 th worst

Note: Ranks are calculated using a total number of states with data reported for each measure. In some cases and groups, this is less than 50.

Where Do Connecticut's Achievement Gaps Rank Nationally?

Gap Between	4 th Grade Math	4 th Grade Reading	8 th Grade Math	8 th Grade Reading
Low-income and Non-Low-income	3 rd worst	7 th worst	Worst	10 th worst
Black/African American and White	6 th worst	3 rd worst	5 th worst	3 rd worst
Hispanic/Latino and White	2 nd worst	6 th worst	Worst	4 th worst
English Language Learners (ELL) and Non-ELL	20 of 41	23 of 42	2 nd worst	5 th worst

Note: Ranks are calculated using a total number of states with data reported for each measure. In some cases and groups, this is less than 50.

2015: SBAC Results

8th Grade Students Performing At a Level 3 (at grade level) or 4 (above grade level) on the 2015 Smarter Balanced Testing

	Math	ELA
Stamford	38.6%	49.1%
Norwalk	23.1%	41.0%
Darien	89.7%	89.4%

- Disparities in test scores across DRGs for the SBAC were far greater than those for the CMTs

Implications of Achievement Gap

- Low-achieving students are more likely to drop out of school and earn less than their more educated peers or be unemployed.
- 34% of the student population in CT—more than 190,000 students—live in low-income situations and only 60% of them are likely to graduate from high school
 - In Connecticut, more than 8,000 students drop out of high school each year costing the State more than \$4 billion lost revenues and increased social service costs over the life of those students
 - A student who drops out of high school is 3x more likely to be incarcerated than a high school graduate

Disparity in graduation rates

- For students who attended Connecticut public high schools and began college, the graduation rate is:
 - 54% percent for white college students compared to 24 % for black and 24% for Hispanic students.
 - Only 19 % of Connecticut's economically disadvantaged students who attend college earn a college degree

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

- One-third to one-half of the achievement gap exists before children start school
- 2015-2016 school year, in District Reference Group A—our wealthiest school districts, such as Darien and Westport—virtually all (97 percent) students had attended preschool. By contrast, in District Reference Group I—our poorest school districts (all of which are large and urban)—fewer than a quarter of students had attended preschool for even a single day

Return on Investment

- Research shows that quality early care increases children's chances of finishing school, finding jobs, staying healthy and avoiding crime
- Early childhood care and education programs have some of the highest returns-on-investment of all services
 - Estimated that every \$1 spent on quality early care and education programs can generate \$7.30 - \$8.60 in benefits
 - Research found that students who attended preschool programs earned between \$19,000-\$24,000 more per year

Since last needs assessment:

- CT created Office of Early Childhood to oversee licensing, training, quality and access to ECE. CT pledged to invest more in ECE.
- In 2016, cut enrollment for Care4Kids – largest child care subsidy program. Wait list now 5,769 families.

Recommendations

- Preschool is critical for low-income children. Giving all young children access to high-quality and developmentally appropriate early care and education is essential to reduce the achievement gap and break the cycle of poverty
- Provide Affordable Before- and After- School Enrichment Programs and Summer Support
 - Successful programs include wrap around services that address socio-emotional well-being as well as academic support

Emerging Need: Young Adult Population

- There are 100,000 young people ages 16 to 24 living in Fairfield County. One in eight are unemployed — the 15th highest rate in the nation. Each year, 800 students drop out of Fairfield County high schools.
- 2,600 youth ages 16-19 in Fairfield County are neither employed nor in school
- Supportive Housing Works estimated that there are 3,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness in CT. CT's project to end homelessness found that 17% of CT teens are unstably housed
- More than 23,000 children will age out of the US foster care system every year without positive familial supports or any family connection at all. After reaching the age of 18, 20% of the children who were in foster care will become instantly homeless. Within 18 months of emancipation 40-50% of foster youth become homeless

Youth Opportunity Index

	<u>Darien</u>		<u>Norwalk</u>		<u>Stamford</u>
Number of youth 16-24	1,635		6,653		12,674
Youth 16-19 not employed or in school	23		220		273
Annual high school dropouts	0		34		122
Age 16-24 unemployment	9%		12%		13%
College completion (all residents)	63%		40%		38%

Local Programs to address YA gaps in services

- YA adult population has specific challenges and needs
- In 2016 Pacific House started a young adult program separate from its men's emergency shelter. PH is seeking funding for permanent YA group home
- ODS opened Smilow Life Center to offer on site job training
- Our grant to Laurel House supports Resources-to-Recover youth specialist