

Manchester Public Schools Report Card

July 2023

Data Sources:

Connecticut State Department of Education: <https://edsight.ct.gov>

School + State Finance Project: <https://schoolstatefinance.org/>

Manchester Public Schools: <https://www.mpspride.org/>

Alliance Districts: CT.gov: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Alliance-Districts/Alliance-and-Opportunity-Districts>

National School Boards Association: Learning to Read, Reading to Learn:
<https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/cpe-learning-to-read-reading-to-learn-white-paper-2015.pdf?la=en&hash=8E0E470C3E263C66E4491EC035224DC9018C6D5F>

Rev 1

GENERAL OUTLINE AND TOPICS COVERED

BOE Mission: The Manchester Board of Education is responsible for managing the school system, implementing policy and procedures for maintaining academic excellence. We recognize that managing a school system is a difficult and complex task. Unfortunately, the state and local data show that Manchester’s academic performance has continued to decline over the past 10 years. The Manchester Public School System does not meet the expectations of parents, students and teachers. Many people are concerned and upset, and rightly so. Together let us examine some of the statistics to better understand where we are today.

1). Alliance District, Opportunity District

Alliance Districts are school districts with among the lowest Accountability Index measures in the state or those previously designated as Alliance Districts for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013 through June 30, 2017. The Alliance District program was initiated in 2012-13 in accordance with C.G.S. 10-262u. The initial cohort of 30 districts were identified for a period of five years. Beginning in 2017-18 there are 33 Alliance Districts. The steps used for identification are included below:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Alliance-Districts/Alliance-and-Opportunity-Districts>

Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System: How the Dept of Education evaluates school systems. https://edsight.ct.gov/relatedreports/nextgenFAQ_revisedJan2018.pdf

1. Manchester is an Alliance District because it scores among the 30 lowest accountability scores in the state.
2. Because of this low ranking, Manchester receives increased Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding from the state.

Opportunity Districts are a subset of Connecticut's Alliance Districts. Opportunity Districts are the 10 lowest performing districts in the state based on the Accountability Index.

1. Manchester is an “Opportunity District”, meaning it is one of the worst 10 performing school districts in the state.
2. Manchester ranks among the bottom 10 out of 172 school districts in the state.
3. Manchester has a State Dept of Education Accountability Index of only 62.3%
4. List of 2022-2023 Connecticut Opportunity School Districts.

(2). National School Boards Association Says: “Learning to Read, Reading to Learn, Why third grade is pivotal year for mastering literacy.

“Why every child should be able to read by third grade. The young children who enter your classrooms each year are eager for new knowledge and new experiences. They live in a world of words— sung, spoken, written, displayed on signs and screens, words of power and meaning that they are keen to grasp. The children’s needs are many: for safety, good food and health, affection, confidence, and all the care their families and teachers can provide. But their most important academic challenge is learning to read.”

“The research is clear: if children cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade, they face daunting hurdles to success in school and beyond. Third grade marks a pivot point in reading. In fourth grade, students begin encountering a wider variety of texts. By then, able readers have learned to extract and analyze new information and expand their vocabularies by reading (O’Brien, 2008). But struggling readers rarely catch up with their peers academically and are four times more likely to drop out of high school, lowering their earning power as adults and possibly costing society in welfare and other supports (Hernandez, 2011). Indeed, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reported in 2010 that “every student who does not complete high school costs our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.” (Feister, 2010).”

Source: complete study report.

National School Boards Association: Learning to Read, Reading to Learn:

<https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/cpe-learning-to-read-reading-to-learn-white-paper-2015.pdf?la=en&hash=8E0E470C3E263C66E4491EC035224DC9018C6D5F>

(3) Smarter Balanced Assessments, Test Scores, Trends

1. Only **28.1%** of Manchester students are at grade level for **English** Language Arts.
2. Down from 40.3% from 2015.
3. That means 72% of students are BELOW grade level in English reading, writing.
4. Only **20.1 %** of Manchester students are at grade level for **Math**.
5. Down from 29.7% from 2015.
6. That means 80% of students are BELOW grade level in Math.
7. If our students can not read, write and do math at state grade level standards, then we have failed as a Board of Education and as a School system. We have sentenced our children to years of academic struggle, poor paying jobs and poverty.

(4) School Budget

8. Manchester Board of Education Budget for 2022 is \$182,349,000. (\$182 million dollars)
9. Manchester Central Office Budget is expenditures are 9.1% of the town Education budget. Compared with a 3.4% state average.
10. How is spending 3 times more on administrators helping our kids learn? Or increase or test scores?
11. Manchester spends more per student than other towns, yet still has lower state accountability scores and lower test scores.

(5). Data Packet #2

1. Graphs:
2. Student Enrollment is down, from 6256 students in 2103 to 6195 students in 2022.
3. Educational Staff has increased from 1158 people in 2012 to 1383 people in 2022.
4. Educational Budget has increased from \$130 million dollars in 2013 to \$182 million in 2022.
5. Number of administrators has increased from 45 in 2014 to 61 in 2022
6. Connecticut Report cards website shows that Manchester spends more per pupil than other towns. Yet the high school graduation rates are lower, Smarter Balanced Assessment test scores are lower, and the state accountability index is lower.