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Schools Exiting Focus Status: 2016-17

In March 2016, the Connecticut State Department of Education identified 96 schools as Focus schools. This group of schools was identified as contributing to academic achievement gaps and graduation rate gaps by having either the lowest academic performance in a subject area for the High Needs subgroup or a six-year graduation rate for High Needs students that was below 70 percent for two consecutive years. This 2016-17 reporting cycle is the first opportunity for Focus schools to demonstrate progress and exit Focus status. The sixteen schools listed below are no longer identified as Focus schools. The exit criteria are included at the end of this document.

Reporting District Name	District Code	School Name	School Code	Low Grade	High Grade	School Category 2014-15	Support Classification 2014-15	School Category 2016-17
Berlin School District	0070011	Berlin High School	0076111	9	12	4	Focus ELA	3
Branford School District	0140011	Branford High School	0146111	9	12	4	Focus Math	2
Bridgeport School District	0150011	Biotechnology, Research and Zoological Studies HS at the Fairchild-Wheeler Magnet Campus	0150611	9	12	4	Focus ELA	2
East Haven School District	0440011	Joseph Melillo Middle School	0445111	6	8	4	Focus Math	3
Ellington School District	0480011	Ellington High School	0486111	9	12	4	Focus ELA	1
Hamden School District	0620011	Church Street School	0620211	PK	6	4	Focus Science	3
Meriden School District	0800011	Lincoln Middle School	0805211	6	8	4	Focus Math	3
Middletown School District	0830011	MacDonough School	0830911	K	5	4	Focus Science	3
New Haven School District	0930011	John S. Martinez Sea and Sky STEM School	0930811	PK	8	5	Focus Math	2
New Haven School District	0930011	Quinnipiac Real World Math STEM School	0933511	K	5	4	Focus Math	3
Regional School District 07	2070012	Northwestern Regional High School	2076112	9	12	4	Focus ELA	2
Regional School District 08	2080012	RHAM High School	2086112	9	12	4	Focus Math	2
Regional School District 16	2160012	Woodland Regional High School	2166012	9	12	4	Focus Math	2
Stamford School District	1350011	Roxbury School	1350911	PK	5	5	Focus Science	3
Vernon School District	1460011	Center Road School	1461411	PK	5	4	Focus Math	3
Vernon School District	1460011	Maple Street School	1460211	PK	5	4	Focus Math	2

Criteria for Exiting Focus "Elementary/Middle" Schools

Elementary/Middle schools were identified as Focus schools if the school performance index (SPI) for the High Needs subgroup in a subject area was in the bottom 10 percent of all schools statewide. This was done using the 2014-15 assessment results. To exit focus school status, the school was expected to substantially improve High Needs index scores (or) achieve above average student growth for the high needs group in the subject area that was the basis for identification. To determine whether the Focus school can be exited based, the CSDE utilized the following criteria:

- The school's high needs index is not in the bottom 10% statewide for any subject in 2015-16 and 2016-17; ***and***
- The school's high needs participation rate in 2016-17 is not less than 95% for any subject

or

- The school's high needs average percentage of growth target achieved in the subject area that was the basis for identification, exceeds the state average for all students in that subject area in 2015-16 and 2016-17; ***and***
- The school's high needs participation rate in 2016-17 is not less than 95% for any subject.

Criteria for Exiting Focus "High" Schools

For high schools, initial identification was based on the Smarter Balanced assessments. To exit Focus school status, the school was expected to substantially improve High Needs index scores. However, the assessment administered in high school has changed to the SAT. Therefore, to determine whether the Focus high school can be exited based on the improvement of their high needs group, the CSDE utilized the following criteria:

- The school's high needs index cannot be in the bottom 10% statewide for any subject in 2015-16 and 2016-17; ***and***
- The school's high needs participation rate in 2016-17 cannot be less than 95% for any subject; ***and***
- The school's high needs six-year graduation rate is not consistently underperforming i.e., is not less than 70 percent in all three of the most recent cohorts (i.e., 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12).