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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### East Hartford District, Schools Show Improvement on State Report Card

On February 22, 2019, CSDE publically released the accountability results for the 2017-2018 school year. The Next Generation Accountability System, known as the State Report Card, provides a high level overview of the performance of the East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS) district as measured by twelve indicators including test scores, academic growth, chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, college readiness, and arts access.

For its overall accountability rating, EHPS increased from 64.3 to 68.9. One of the major contributors to this growth in the total score can be attributed to the district's performance on last spring's Smarter Balanced assessment on which the district improved its score by 5% points in English Language Arts (ELA) and 6% points in Mathematics. East Hartford's overall increase to its accountability results was two and a half times greater than that of the state average. In addition to the overall improvement to the district's index score, ten of the thirteen schools also showed growth.

When asked to comment about the performance of the district on the State's report card, Board of Education Chairman, Bryan Hall stated, "I am really proud of the work of our schools and excited to celebrate the story of a school system and community that is getting real numbers about the success of our children. I hope these data points give everyone pride and the certainty that the investments in our schools are having real and tangible outcomes. I am confident in the continued growth and achievement of all our students and applaud our district teachers and staff on a job well done."

Once the overall accountability index rating has been determined, each district school is placed into a Category, 1 through 5. Category 1 schools are the highest performing, while those in Category 4 or 5 are those identified for State support. The Connecticut IB Academy (CIBA) was placed in Category 1 and three others schools— Norris, East Hartford Middle and Silver Lane— saw an increase in their overall ranking, with the latter two moving out of a state support designation.

As a part of this process, the Connecticut State Department of Education has identified 160 "Schools of Distinction," either for their high overall academic performance or for having the highest rate of growth for all students or for students with high needs. These schools include:

- Connecticut IB Academy, School of Distinction for High Performance
- Joseph O. Goodwin Elementary, School of Distinction for High Growth of High Needs Students in ELA
- Anna E. Norris Elementary, School of Distinction for High Growth of High Needs Students in Math

The district recognized several additional celebrations with respect to the following Next Generation Accountability Indicators:

- Indicator 1 (Academic Performance Growth): EHPS continued to outpace state growth trends in both ELA and Math performance indicators. In overall ELA performance, EHPS showed a 1.8 point increase for all students and 3.3 point increase in Math Performance for high needs students. Five schools—Sunset Ridge, Langford, O’Connell, Pitkin and Goodwin—outperformed the state average for academic performance in both ELA and Mathematics.
- Indicator 5 (College & Career Readiness): EHPS celebrated a 3% point increase of students taking Career and College Readiness Courses.
- Indicator 7 (On Track for Graduation): CIBA outperformed the state average for the percentage of students who had at least five full credits earned during grade 9 with 100% of last year’s freshman meeting this requirement.
- Indicator 8 (Graduation Rate): The Connecticut IB Academy had a 100% graduation rate and East Hartford High School (EHHS) celebrated a 94% graduation rate. Both of these measures met or exceeded state targets.
- Indicator 10 (Post Secondary Entrance): The district also saw a 2% point increase in students entering Post-Secondary Education as compared to a 1.1% point decrease in the State of Connecticut.

Upon review of the release of the State’s Report Card, Superintendent, Nathan D. Quesnel, explained, “The increases enjoyed by our district and its schools to the Next Generation Accountability Index are a direct result of the hard work and collaboration between our staff, students and families as we work to implement our strategic plan, EH2020, and realize our vision of *Schools that are the Pride of our Community.*”