



“Unlocking the Potential in ALL Students”

Press Release

Middletown, Connecticut- May 28, 2020

Middletown Superintendent Dr. Michael T. Conner joined Connecticut Commissioner of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona in praising the continued and sustained growth in statewide graduation rates, which were released by the Commissioner’s office on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The data released by the Connecticut State Department of Education, from the 2018/19 academic year, demonstrates that federally reported statewide on-time graduation rates, for most student groups, are at their highest levels in Connecticut since 2010/11.

Conner said, “This is a credit to the work of Commissioner Cardona and his team at the state level

and our work in Middletown Public Schools. Locally, we are seeing the benefits of our strategic investments. Middletown Public Schools exceeded the state average for "all students" by 3 percent over the five-year study period. If we look at this year in isolation, our Middletown High School graduation rate reached its highest mark in five years at 97%.”

Conner and the Office of Teaching and Learning also released Middletown High’s specific cohort graduation rates. “For the 2018/19 academic year, and even over time, we see exponential gains,” said Dr. Magda Parvey, the district’s Chief Academic Officer. “We, as a district, are anywhere from 4% to nearly 9% above the State numbers,” she said.

Parvey said, “Achieving a high school diploma is so important. It can both alter life and for some, it

	2019 Grad Rate	2019 compared to State Average
State of CT	88.5%	
Middletown High School	97.0%	↑ 8.5%
Black Students	97.0%	↑ 8.5%
Latinx Students	97.4%	↑ 8.9%
White Students	97.6%	↑ 9.1%
Special Education Students	96.3%	↑ 7.8%
High Needs	94.3%	↑ 5.8%
Free Meal Eligibility	94.4%	↑ 5.9%
Paid Meal Eligibility	100%	11.4%



can be a first. To see our data increase and reach an all-time high is gratifying and affirming. I'm proud of our staff and students."

"This is terrific data and when we look deeper at specific student cohorts with an equity lens, we see that our Black and Latinx graduation rates are at its highest in years," said Conner.

He also said, "what it means is that we are reaching kids and raising expectations across the board. The data is important, but behind every number is a student -- even better-- a graduate that we can celebrate. Principal Weiner, her administration, teachers, and staff worked hard to set each graduate on a promising journey with their diploma in-hand."

Middletown Board Chairwoman Deborah Cain concurred with both Conner and Parvey by stating, "at the end of 13 years, it's gratifying to see and hear that our students are accomplishing that important goal of getting a high school diploma at numbers higher than ever before. I know I speak for the whole board in expressing pride in our teachers, administrators and most of all in our students."

The Middletown Public Schools serves over 4,500 students with nearly 1,200 faculty, paraprofessionals, student-centered staff and administrators dedicated to unlocking the potential in **ALL** students.

	2019 Grad Rate	2019 compared to 2015
State of CT	88.5%	↑ 1.3%
Middletown High School	97.0%	↑ 1.8%
Black Students	97.0%	↑ 1.2%
Latinx Students	97.4%	↑ 12.2%
White Students	97.6%	↑ 1.6%
Special Education Students	96.3%	↑ 6.3%
High Needs	94.3%	↑ 0.6%
Free Meal Eligibility	94.4%	↑ 3.8%
Paid Meal Eligibility	100%	2.9%

