An Exceptional Year for Woodstock Public Schools

October 27, 2026

Historic Performance for WPS in Achieving Highest Levels since the Inception of the Growth Model for Accountability, which Began in 2015-2016

Dear Woodstock Community,

Today, we celebrate an extraordinary 2025-2026 school year for Woodstock Public Schools and the remarkable people who made it possible. Our students have risen to the challenge and shown what they can accomplish. Our staff have brought exceptional skill, care, and commitment to their work. And our families and community have stood behind our schools with unwavering support. I could not be more proud of what we have achieved together.

For the first time in WPS history, a WPS school has achieved School of Distinction status. Woodstock Elementary School has been named a School of Distinction. **WES earned all five available distinction designations, placing it among just 16 schools statewide to achieve a perfect 5 out of 5. This includes recognition for performance in the state's top 10 percent**. Additionally, the overall accountability index at WES moved from 67.2 to 84.4, an increase of 17.2 points. This is an outstanding accomplishment; one that reflects the determination of our students, the dedication of our educators and staff, and the strength of the entire WES community.

Woodstock Middle School also achieved its highest accountability results to date. **Its overall accountability index rose from 68 to 78.9, an improvement of 10.9 points. WMS students earned 81.3% in math growth, coming within just 0.53 percentage points of the 81.83% distinction threshold**. These results are cause for tremendous pride and demonstrate the progress our middle school community is making.

WMS was not eligible for distinction designations this year because its assessment participation rate in the prior year fell below the state's 95% requirement. The school met the participation threshold this year, creating a strong opportunity to qualify in the next accountability cycle, provided it continues to meet the participation requirement and the other state criteria.

A respected retired Connecticut superintendent and school reform leader has shared that research "***associates an increase of 10 or more points in a school's accountability index with growth equivalent to two years of expected progress in a single academic year.***" WMS's 10.9-point increase is a tremendous milestone and a powerful sign of what can happen when students and educators work together toward ambitious goals.

Across Connecticut, only two of the 136 Schools of Distinction were middle schools. WMS is close to that level of recognition, and its progress gives us every reason to feel proud, energized, and excited for what comes next.

What it takes to earn a School of Distinction designation

For a school to be recognized in one of the Highest Growth categories, it must:

- Be in Category 1, 2, or 3.
- Have no outlier achievement gap between students identified as High Needs and students who are not identified as High Needs in English language arts, math, or science.
- Have no outlier gap in the six-year graduation rate between those student groups.
- Meet the state's 95% assessment participation requirement for both All Students and High Needs students in English language arts, math, and science in the applicable school years.

These accomplishments belong to all of Woodstock. To our students: your hard work, curiosity, and perseverance inspire us. To our teachers, our leaders, and staff: your belief in every student and your daily dedication make this progress possible. To our families and community: your partnership, encouragement, and confidence in our schools make a lasting difference. To our Board of Education, your support and countless hours of volunteerism make leadership and high-quality classroom instruction possible. A special thanks as well to our town leaders.

Thanks to all departments, our nurses, our paraeducators, our front office staff, and our cafeteria staff. Also, thanks to WEF, our PTO, parent volunteers, our retired teachers who always give back at Quasset School, and for all who gave up time to coach and support our students because it makes a difference. Thanks to our first responders for always keeping our schools safe and looking out for us. Also, a special thanks to WINY for always allowing us a platform to tell our story every 4th Friday of the month at 9am. We appreciate everyone.

This is a moment to celebrate, and a springboard for even greater things. We have proven what we can accomplish when we come together with a shared purpose. With our students' potential, our staff's commitment, and our community's support, the sky is truly the limit for Woodstock Public Schools!

*****And also, take a look at our statewide ranking in growth as we focused on growth this year!**

YEAR OVER YEAR GROWTH IN THE WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Year	Math All Students APTA Growth	High Needs APTA
Woodstock 24-25	Rank #115	Rank #89
Woodstock 25-26	Rank #5	Rank # 5

Year	ELA All Students APTA Growth	High Needs APTA
Woodstock 24-25	Rank #170	Rank #146
Woodstock 25-26	Rank # 10	Rank # 7