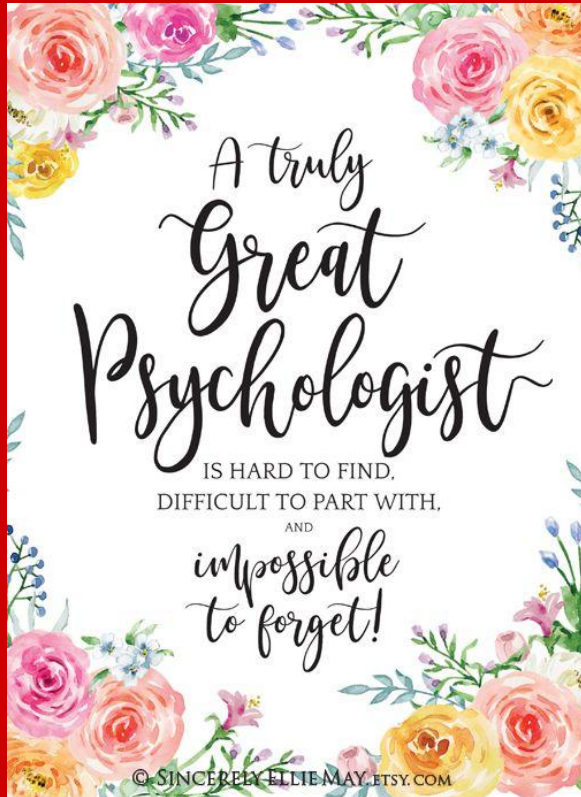




National School Psychologist's Week



November 3 - 7, 2025



Thank you to our incredible School Psychologists:

Karen Ference, Derby High School

Jenna Gogliettino, Irving School

Jessica White, Derby Middle School

Jennifer Zitnay, Bradley School



Data and Student Achievement Analysis



Big Idea: Being Present



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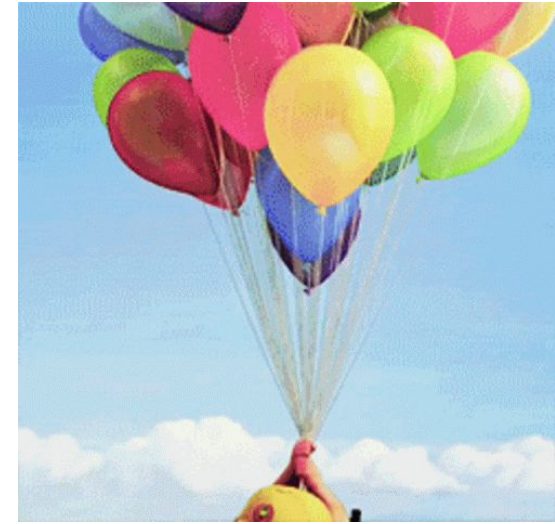
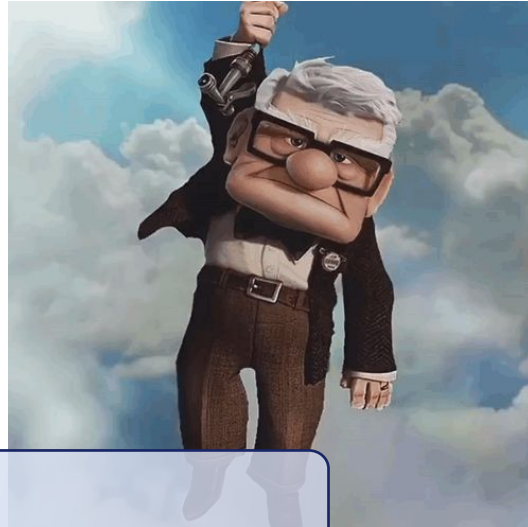
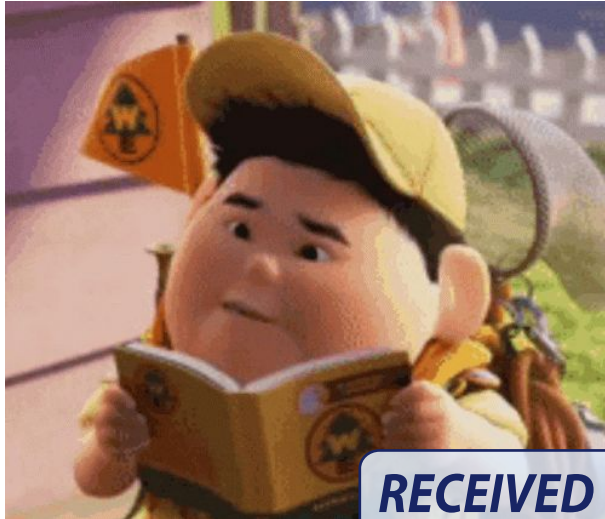
By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:52 am, Nov 04, 2025



Data and Student Achievement Analysis



Up



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Data and Student Achievement Analysis



1. **What significant patterns or correlations across multiple measures are emerging?**
2. **What big-picture story does the data tell?**
3. **Where do results stand out, either positively or negatively?**
4. **What is unique about the grade levels, classrooms, or subgroups showing these differences?**

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Data and Student Achievement Analysis



Two Strategies

Knowing Who You Are (Identity)

Knowing Where You Are (Attend)



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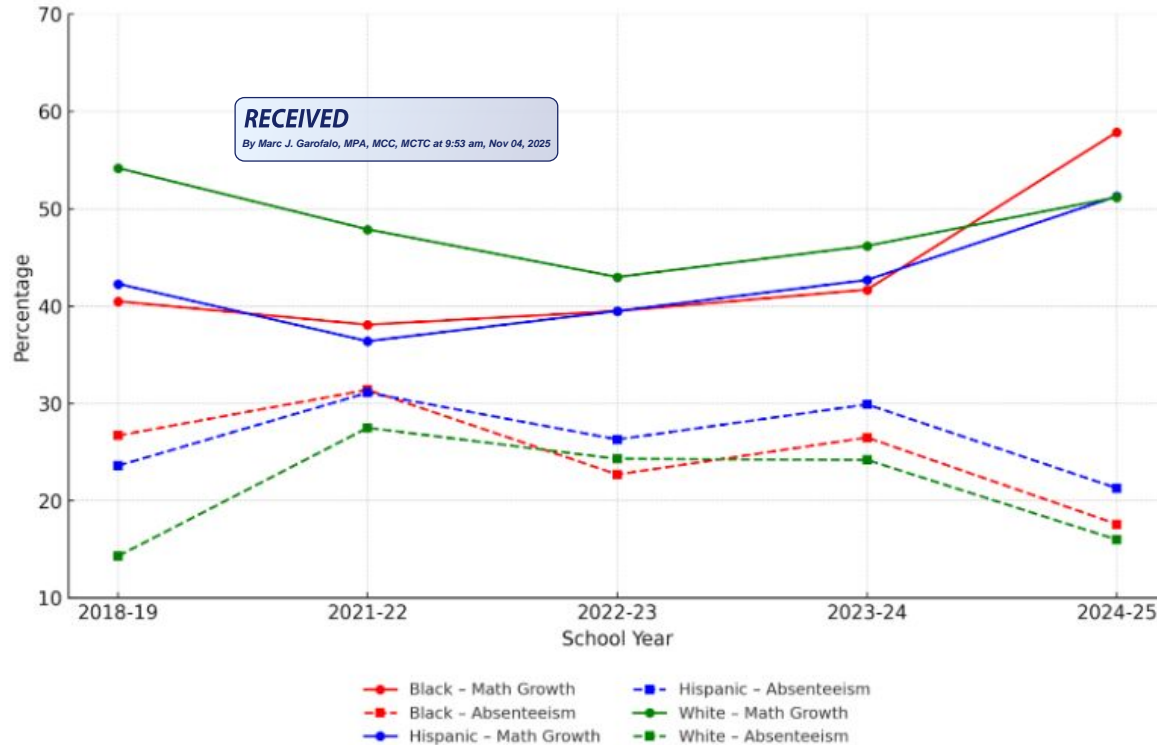
Data and Student Achievement Analysis



Visual Evidence: Attendance and Math Correlation



Chronic Absenteeism (dashed) vs Math Growth (solid) by Race/Ethnicity
2018-19 to 2024-25

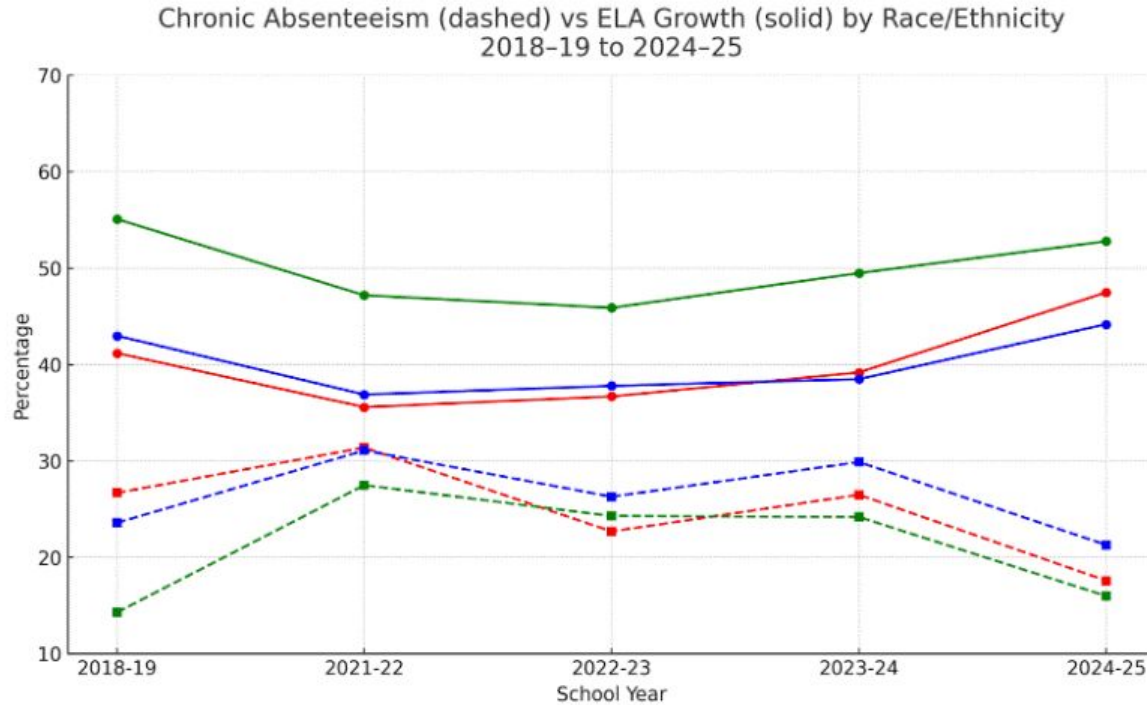




Data and Student Achievement Analysis



ELA as a Supporting Trend



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- Black - ELA Growth
- Black - Absenteeism
- Hispanic - ELA Growth
- Hispanic - Absenteeism
- White - ELA Growth
- White - Absenteeism

About These Charts

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Our strategy illustrates that closing equity gaps requires both access and opportunity. By focusing on chronic absenteeism within all areas to include Race/Ethnicity groups, and linking it to Math and ELA performance, Derby created the conditions for historic gains. The strategy did not just raise scores; it closed gaps, proving that when students are present, they can and will achieve at high levels.

The Gap After Our Strategy

Through targeted interventions at both the school and district levels, we addressed chronic absenteeism and instructional gaps simultaneously. On the attendance side, schools strengthened family engagement through consistent newsletters, enhanced communication, and focus group discussions to identify and address barriers. They also implemented attendance data trackers that allowed for real-time monitoring and immediate follow-up. At the same time, barriers such as transportation, health, and food insecurity were addressed through partnerships and wraparound supports. As a result, chronic absenteeism rates declined significantly: Black students improved from 26.7% in 2018–19 to 17.6% in 2024–25 (a 9.1-point reduction), Hispanic students from 23.6% to 21.3% (2.3-point reduction), while the Black–White gap narrowed from 12.4 points to just 1.6 points over the same period.

On the instructional side, schools accelerated math growth by leveraging small-group instruction guided by data analysis, regularly scheduled Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs), and math screeners three times per year. Additional supports included deploying K–8 math interventionists and building external partnerships with WestEd and Assisments to provide high-impact tutoring in Grades 3–8. These strategies led to measurable improvements in student learning: the achievement gap between high-needs and non-high-needs students narrowed by 9.6 points since the 2021–22 school year, representing a 31% reduction, and math proficiency among high-needs students increased steadily from 13.5% to 16.5% over four years. ⁷



Data and Student Achievement Analysis



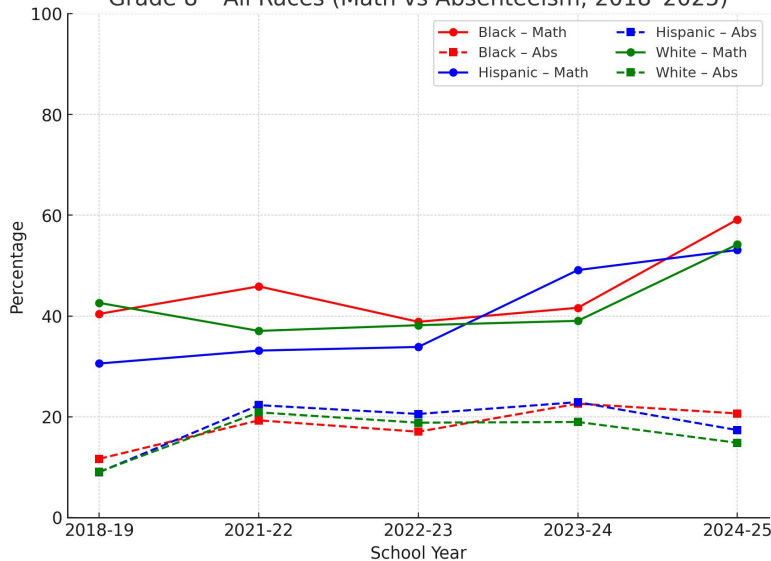
Click here to view grade level [cohort data](#) for Math

Click here for grade level [cohort data](#) for ELA

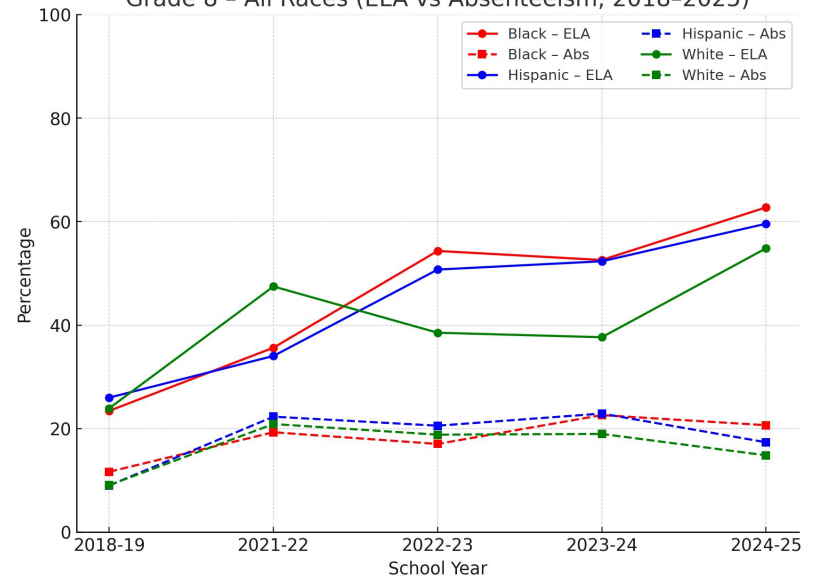
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Grade 8 - All Races (Math vs Absenteeism, 2018-2025)



Grade 8 - All Races (ELA vs Absenteeism, 2018-2025)



Math and ELA Proficiency (All Subgroups)

Proficiency trends mirror growth gains. As attendance stabilized, more students met on-grade expectations across subgroups.

Why It Matters

Attendance is the foundation of equity; instruction is the engine. Addressing both produced measurable improvements in outcomes and narrowed gaps across multiple subgroups from 2021–22 to 2024–25.

Next Steps

1. Sustain attendance improvements via ongoing barrier removal and engagement.
2. Target math acceleration where proficiency gaps remain, especially for Special Education and low-income students.
3. Maintain aligned data cycles connecting attendance, intervention participation, and growth outcomes.
4. Extend partnerships with Assisments and TNTP and Partner Bookworms Districts

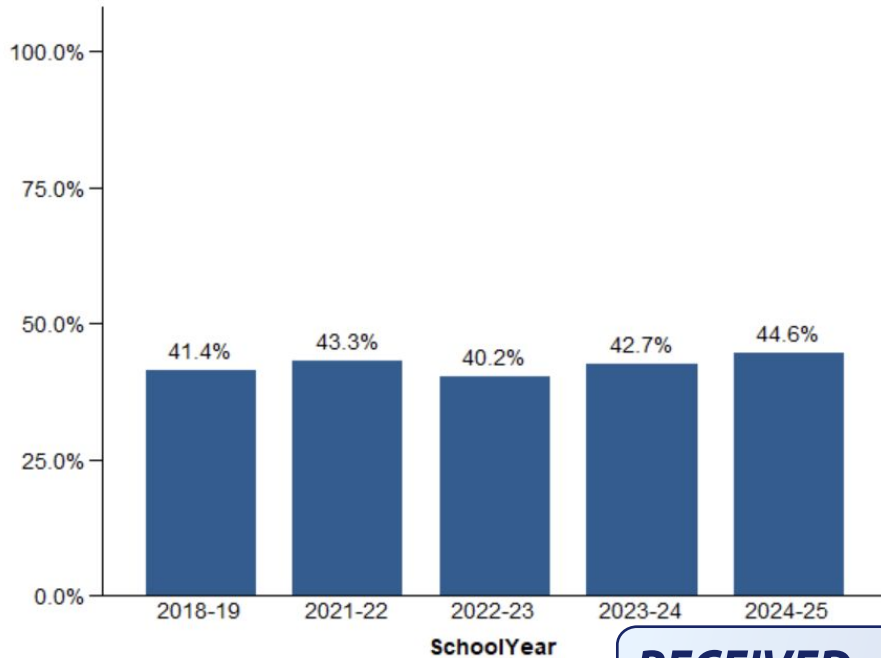
SBAC Growth ELA Grade 4

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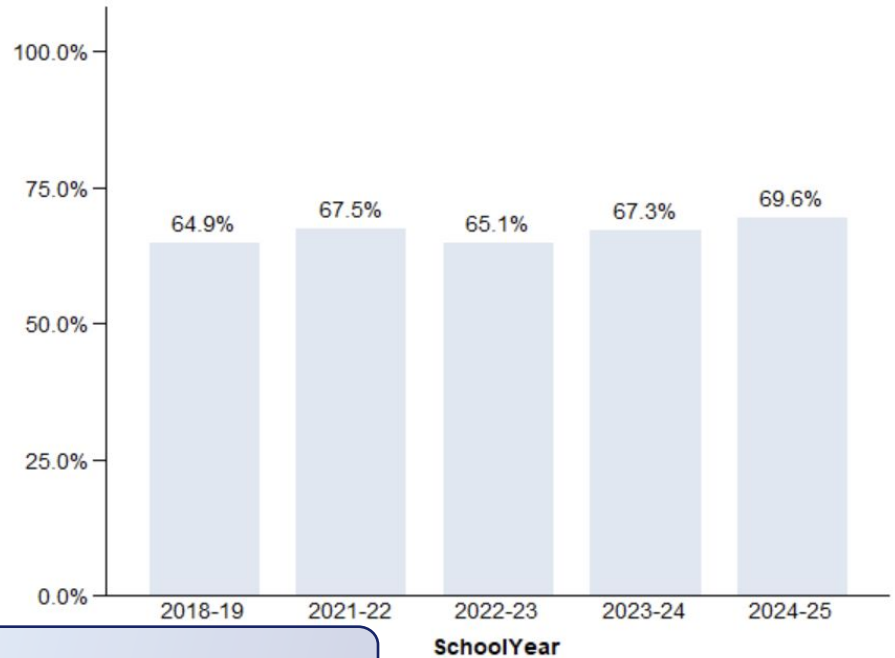
ELA Growth Rate

Percentage of students who met their growth targets



ELA Average Percentage of Target Achieved

Percentage of target that was achieved by students on average



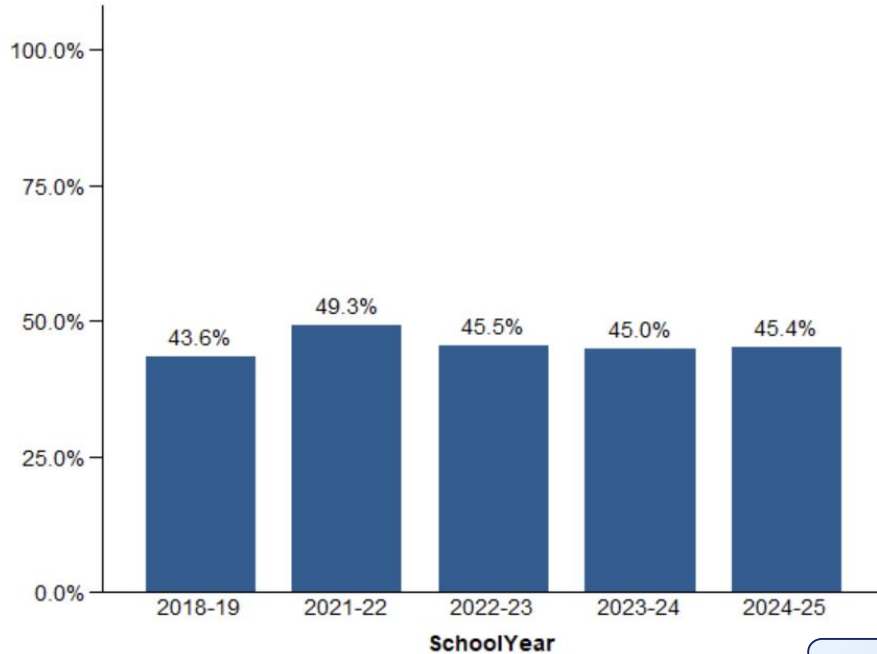
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SBAC Growth Math Grade 4

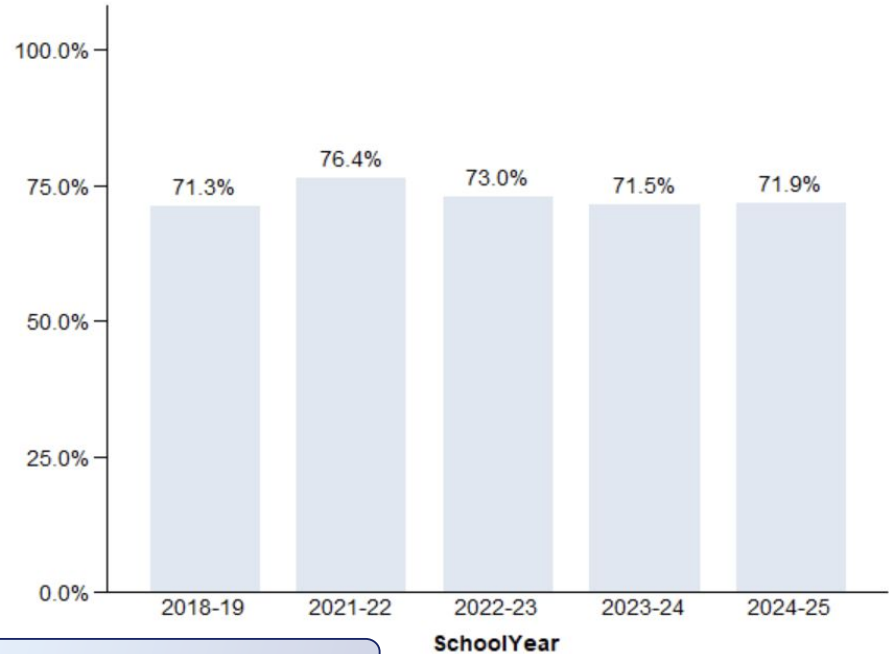
Math Growth Rate

Percentage of students who met their growth targets



Math Average Percentage of Target Achieved

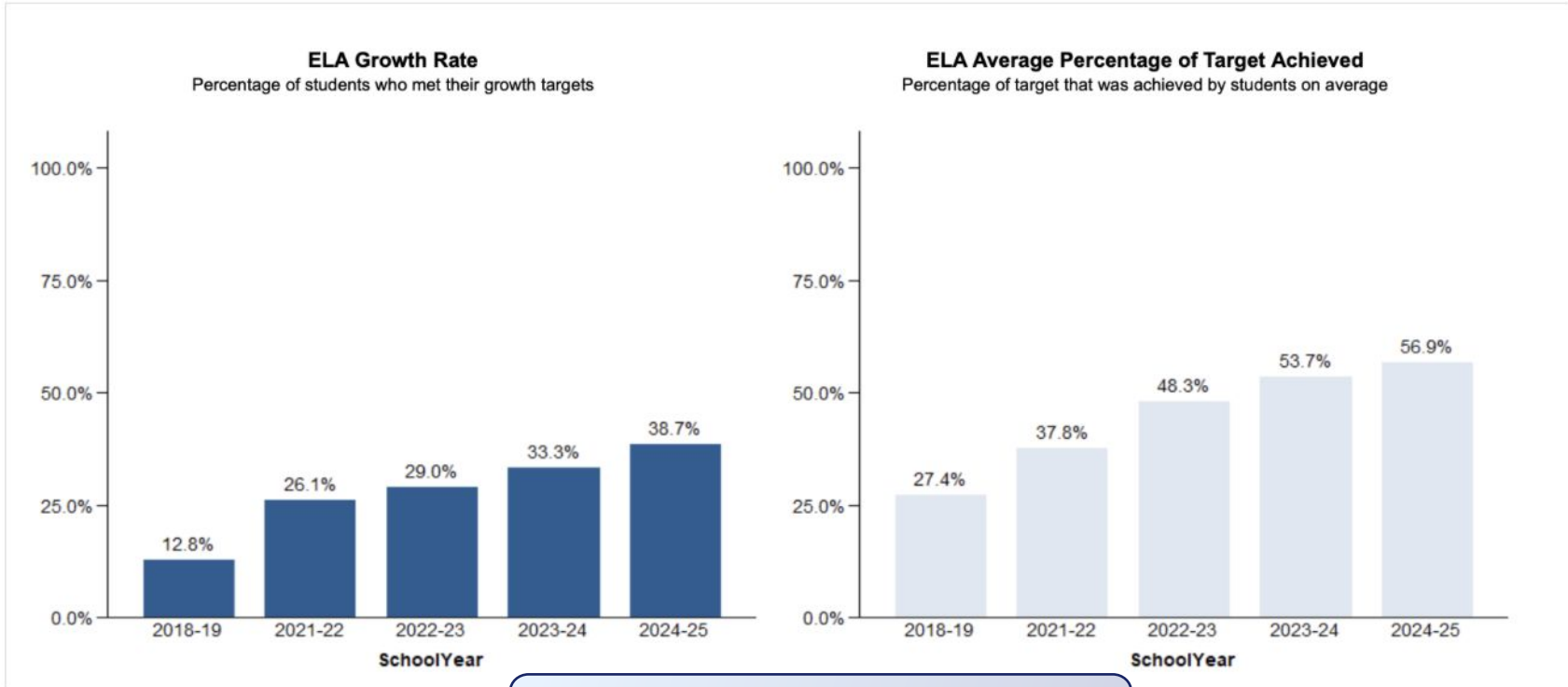
Percentage of target that was achieved by students on average



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SBAC Growth Grade 8 ELA

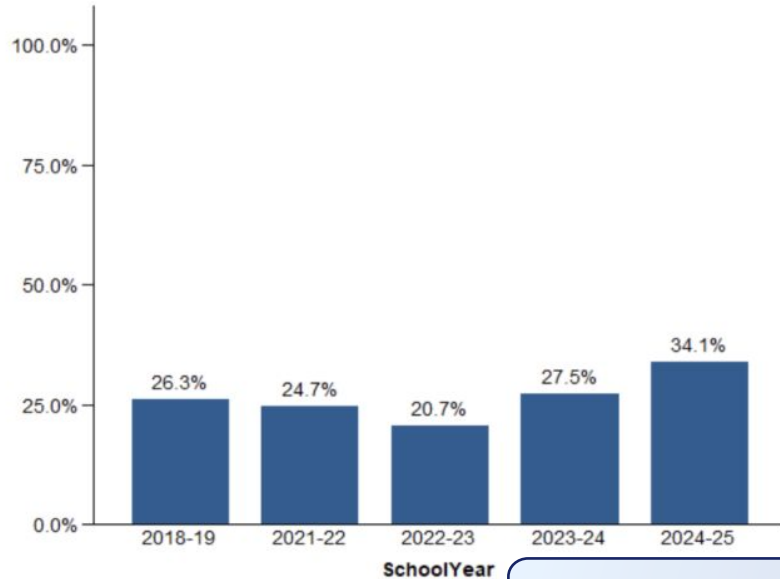


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SBAC Growth Grade 8 Math

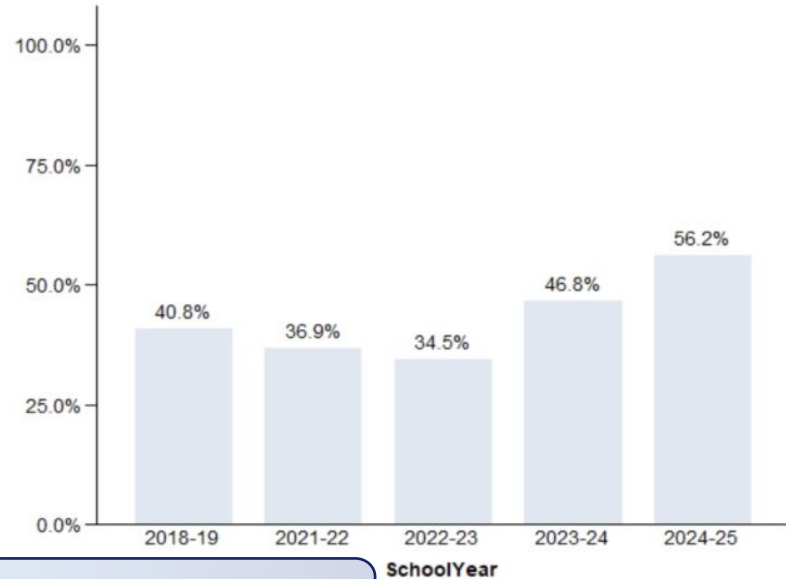
Math Growth Rate

Percentage of students who met their growth targets



Math Average Percentage of Target Achieved

Percentage of target that was achieved by students on average



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DMS Math Data 2024-2025

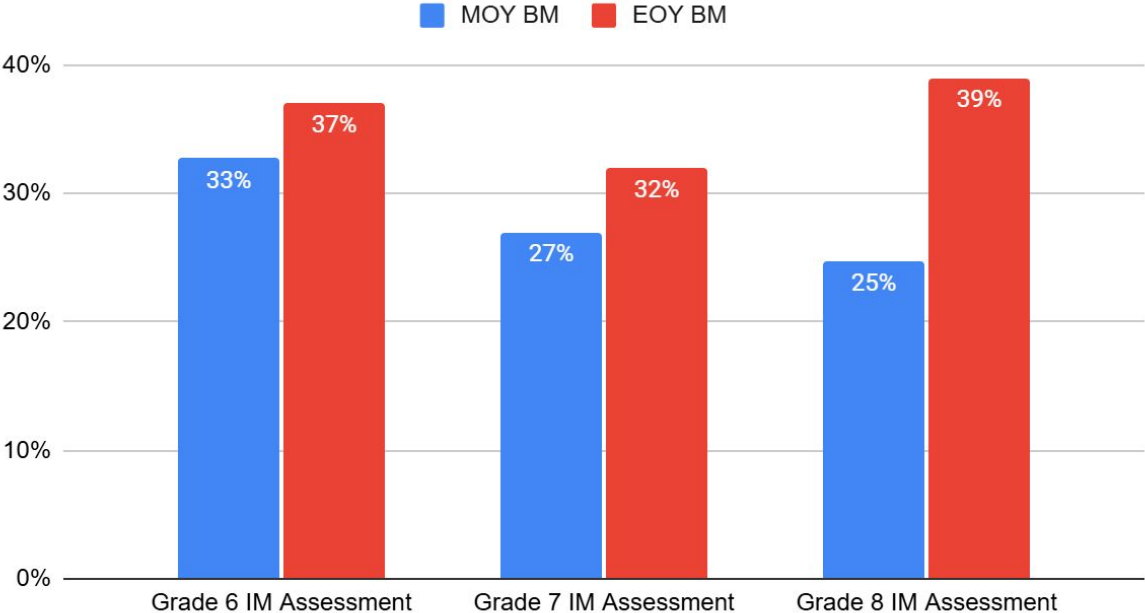
<u>SCHOOL NAME</u>		<u>IDENTIFICATION:</u>				
DMS		MATH Proficiency				
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Subgroup</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Winter '24/25</u>		<u>Spring '25</u>	
		<u>Assessment Name(s)</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Actual</u>
6	ALL	Assistments Unit Asse	50%	37%	50%	54%
7	ALL	Assistments Unit Asse	50%	16%	50%	53%
8	ALL	Assistments Unit Asse	50%	29%	50%	58%

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Growth from Common Assessments

MS Math MOY vs EOY Growth 2024



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Unit Assessment Items by CCSS

	4.5.NF.A.3	5.5.NF.A.4	5.5.NF.B.7	6.5.NF.A.1	6.5.NF.B.7	7.5.NF.B.7	8.5.NF.B.7
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9th Grade Algebra 1 Unit 2 Data

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Key Observations

All grades showed an increase in the percentage of students reaching benchmark from MOY to EOY

Grade 6 went **Up** from 33% to 37% benchmark (4% increase)

Grade 6 went **Up** from 37% to 54% benchmark (17% increase)

Grade 7 went **Up** from 27% to 32% benchmark (5% increase)

Grade 7 went **Up** from 16% to 53% benchmark (37% increase)

Grade 8 went **Up** from 25% to 39% benchmark (14% increase)

Grade 8 went **Up** from 29% to 58% benchmark (29% increase)

Red = Last years Data (23-24') Black = This years data (24-25")

This pattern of increasing percentages at EOY benchmark across all grades indicates a positive trend in math performance at this is an **Upward** trend for the past two years.



Data and Student Achievement Analysis



Our strategy illustrates that closing equity gaps requires both access and opportunity. By focusing on chronic absenteeism within all areas to include Race/Ethnicity groups, and linking it to Math and ELA performance, Derby created the conditions for historic gains. The strategy did not just raise scores; it closed gaps, proving that when students are present, they can and will achieve at high levels.

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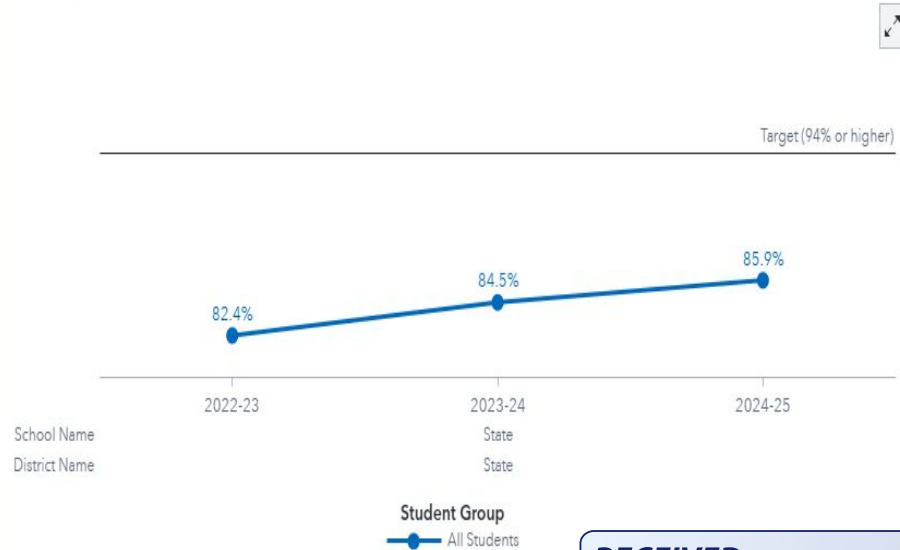
By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:59 am, Nov 04, 2025

Key Observations

Derby outperformed the state year over year in number of 9th grade students on track to graduate. Note: Of the 13.9% (12 students), who were retained only 3 students were enrolled in Derby schools for more than 1-½ years. Four (4) students enrolled in the spring of 2025. 2 students left the district but are included in our count.

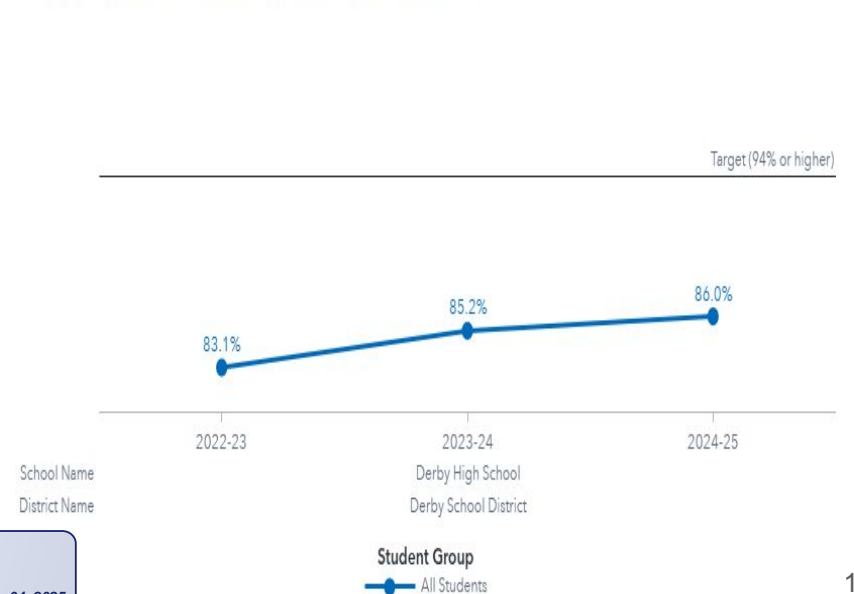
Percent of Students On-Track to High School Graduation in 9th Grade

Percentage of 9th graders earning adequate full-year credits during the year.



Percent of Students On-Track to High School Graduation in 9th Grade

Percentage of 9th graders earning adequate full-year credits during the year.

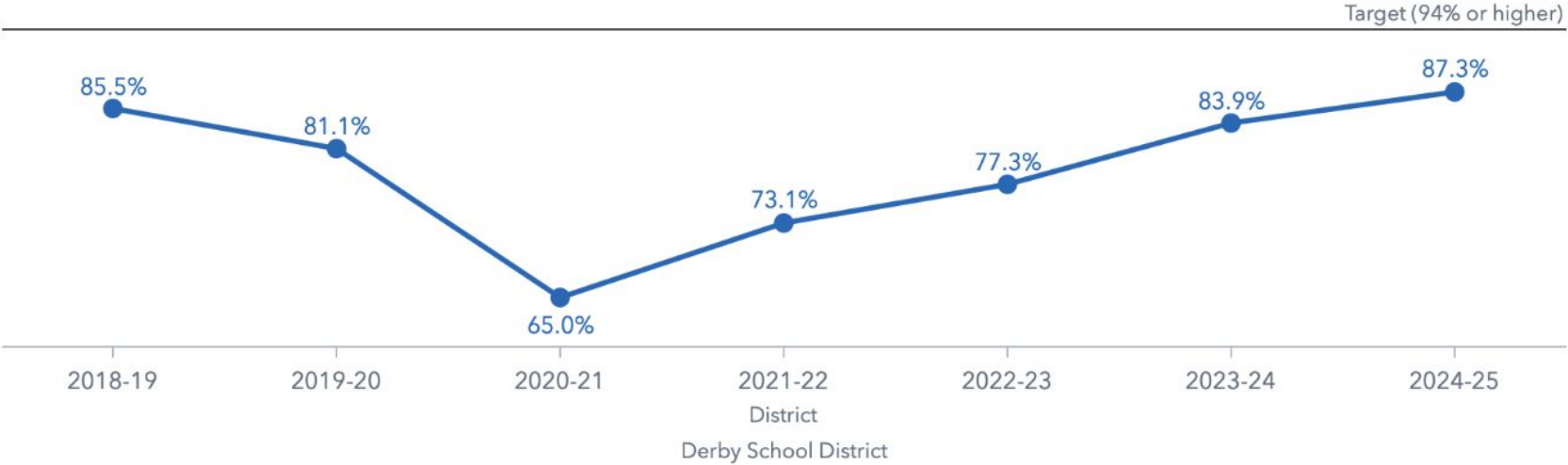


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Percent of Students On-Track to High School Graduation in 9th Grade

Percentage of 9th graders earning adequate full-year credits during the year.

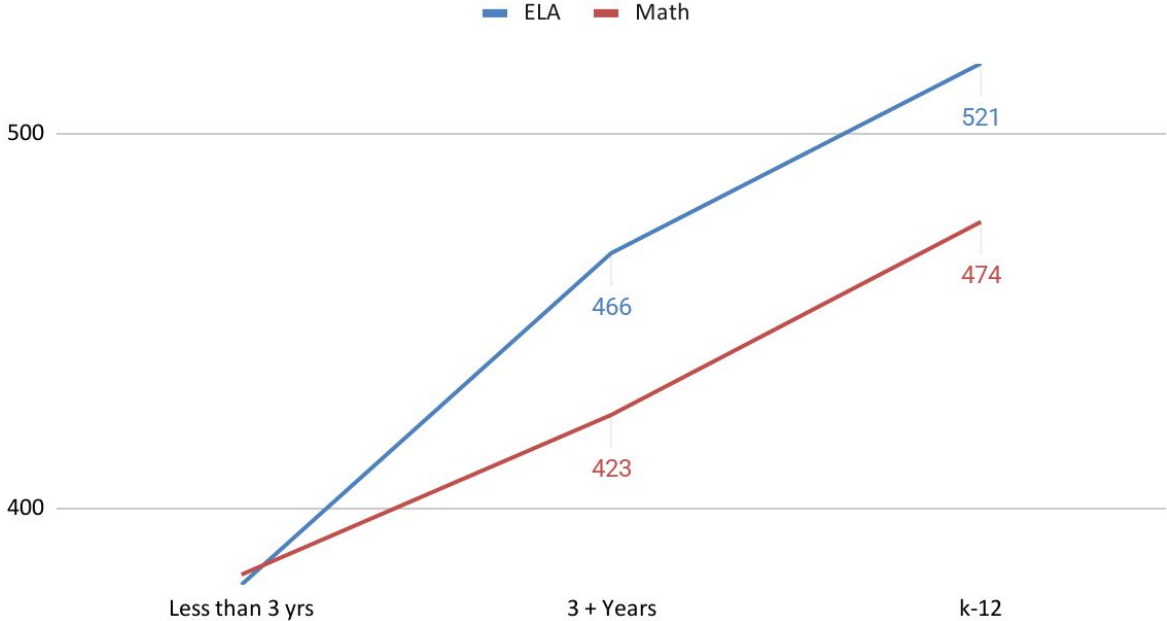


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Student Group
● All Students

Derby outperformed the state average (ELA 497 Math 472) in both Math & ELA when based on scores of Derby students enrolled in Derby since Kindergarten.

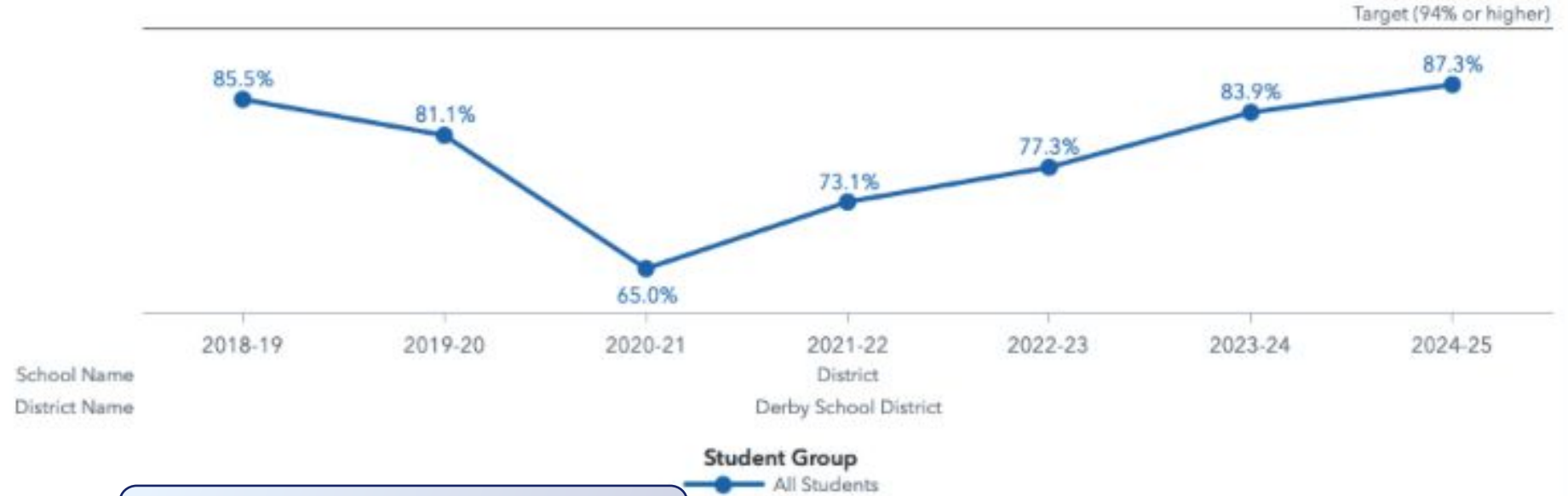
SAT Data Avg Score on years in District



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:59 am, Nov 04, 2025

Percent of Students On-Track to High School Graduation in 9th Grade

Percentage of 9th graders earning adequate full-year credits during the year.



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:00 am, Nov 04, 2025

District

Indicator	Index/Rate	Diff 22-23-24-25	Derby
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	57.3	1.1	▲
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	52.9	0.8	▲
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	50.6	2.8	▲
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	46.3	2.4	▲
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	49.9	1.6	▲
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	45.4	1.5	▲
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	53.40%	0.30%	▲
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	49.00%	-0.80%	▼
2c. Math Academic Growth - All Students	53.80%	10.00%	▲

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Indicator	Index/Rate	Diff 22-23-24-25	Derby
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	45.5	1.8	▲
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	38.1	0.7	▲
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	39.9	3.2	▲
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	35	3.4	▲
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	44.5	1.2	▲
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	39.3	0.1	▲
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	.		
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	.		
2c. Math Academic Growth - All Students			

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Indicator	Index/Rate	Diff 22-23-24-25	Derby
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	57.9	-0.5	▼
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	52.9	-0.8	▼
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	46.6	0.6	▲
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	41.7	-0.1	▼
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	48	-0.9	▼
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	42.9	-1.6	▼
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	51.20%	-4.20%	▼
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	48.50%	-2.30%	▼

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Indicator	Index/Rate	Diff 22-23-24-25	Derby
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	54.4	0.5	▲
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	53.3	1.6	▲
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	50.3	1.6	▲
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	48.5	1.7	▲
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	51.8	5.7	▲
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	48.4	4.7	▲
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	54.20%	4.50%	▲
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	50.60%	1.60%	▲

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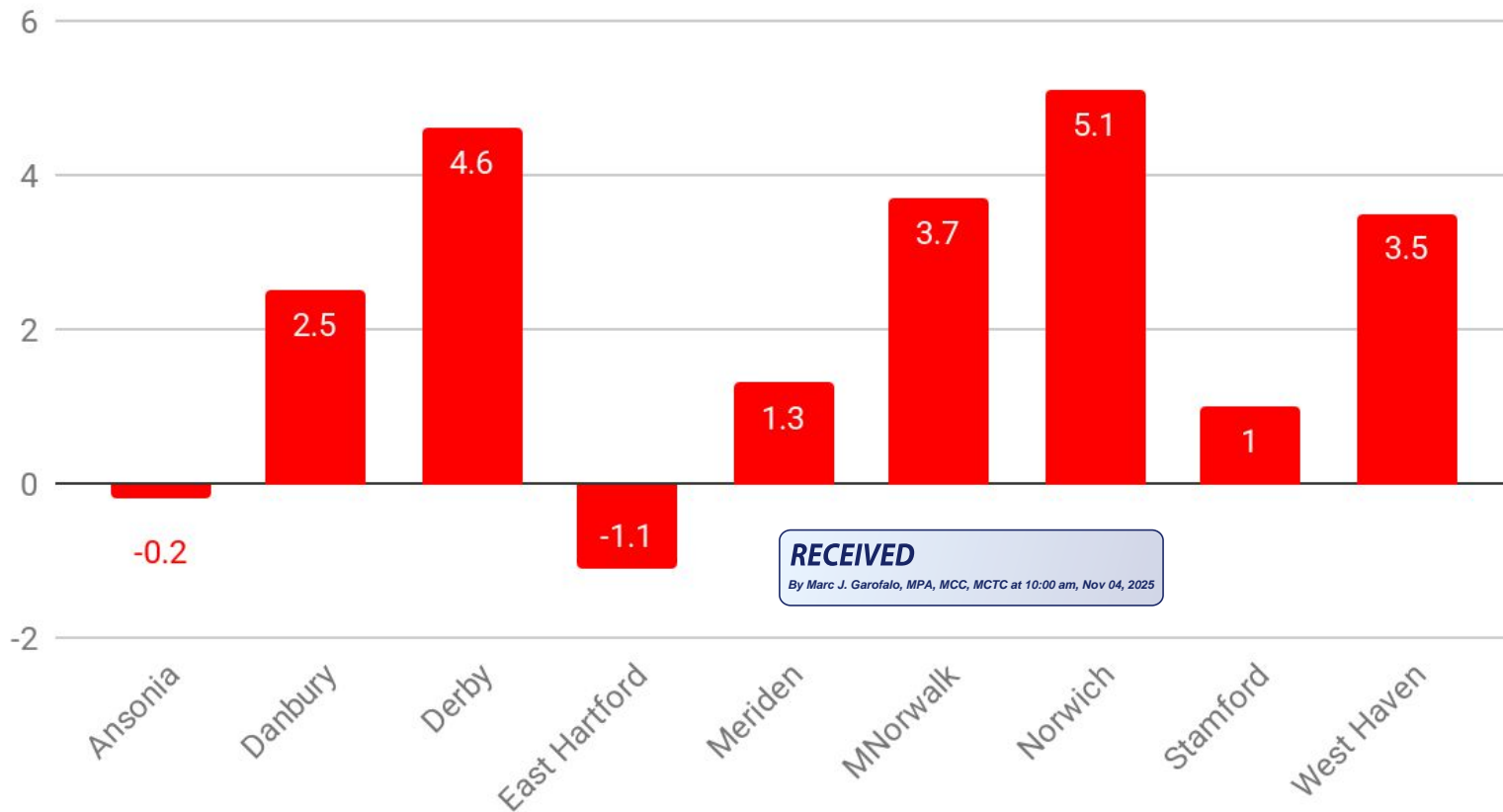
By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:00 am, Nov 04, 2025

Indicator	Index/Rate	Diff 23/24-24/25	Derby
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	65.5	1.3	▲
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	59.2	-0.9	▼
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	65	6.4	▲
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	59.1	5.5	▲
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	61.6	2.8	▲
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	57.3	6.3	▲
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	60.40%	10.70%	▲

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DRG Districts





Nowhere but **Up**

- All 4 schools Accountability Index score went **Up**
The percentage of Derby's students enrolled in grades 3-8 Math Performance Index - All Students went **Up 2.80%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of 1.30%
- The percentage of Derby's students enrolled in grades 3-8 Math Performance Index - High Needs Students - went **Up 2.40%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of 1.40%
- The percentage of Derby's students enrolled in grades 3-8 Math Academic Growth - High Need Students went **Up 8.60%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of .8%
- The percentage of All Derby students chronically absent decreased **8.80%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average increase of 2.0%
- The percentage of Derby's high need students chronically absent decreased **9.80%** compared to the state average increase of 2.90%
- The percentage of Derby's students passing courses in Preparation for CCR went **Up** from 65.80% to 66.30%
- The percentage of Derby's students on-track for graduation went **Up** from 83.90% to 87.30% **3.40%** compared to the state average increase of 1.50%.
- Derby went **Up** in performance in 19 of 21 categories for all schools

Hang on we are about to *double* it **Up**

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- The percentage of Derby's students enrolled in grades 3-8 Math Academic Growth - High Need Students went **Up 10.10%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of .9%
- The percentage of Derby's high need students enrolled in grades 3-8 who achieved growth on Progress Toward English Proficiency - Literacy went **Up 18.6%** in 2024-25 compared to the state average increase of 10.4%
- The percentage of All Derby High students chronically absent decreased **13.7%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average increase of 2.0%
- The percentage of Derby High Students passing the Physical Fitness test went **Up 36.00%**
- The percentage of Derby's high need students chronically absent decreased **17.3%** compared to the state average increase of 2.90%
- The percentage of Bradley School students enrolled in grades 3-8 who achieved growth on ELA went **Up 10.70%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of 1.90%
- The percentage of Bradley students enrolled in grades 3-8 who achieved growth on Math went **Up 26.6%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of 0.90%
- The percentage of Bradley high need students enrolled in grades 3-8 who achieved growth on Math went **Up 33.00%** percent in 2024-25 compared to the state average of 0.80%

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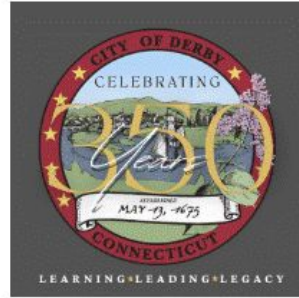
By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:01 am, Nov 04, 2025



Data and Student Achievement Analysis



What's Next?



Derby Public Schools

2

Districtwide Action Plan 2025–2026

Learning • Leading • Legacy

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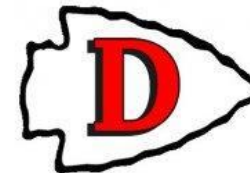
Early Childhood Program



Oct., 2025



Pre-K Students



School	Full day	Bus students
2 - 3 year old class	30	6
2 - 4 year old classes	30	5

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Academics



Unit Topics: Autumn

Big Idea: Students will be able to identify the seasonal changes that occur in the fall. Students will be able to identify fall colors

ELDS Strands: Early learning experiences will support children to develop....)

Cognition A: effective approaches to learning
Language & Literacy E/B: gain knowledge of print and its uses & children to use language

Math C: understand attributes and relative properties of objects

Science A: understand features of the earth

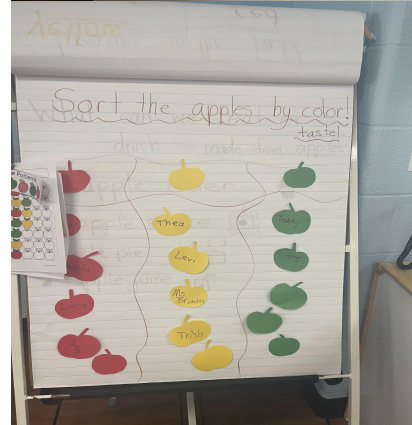
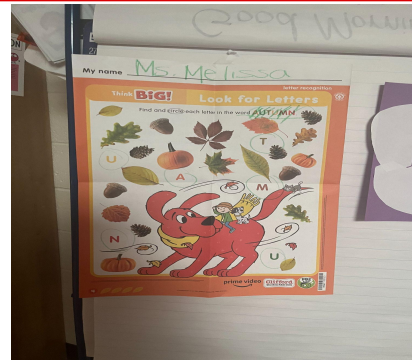
Social & Emotional H: self-awareness, self concepts and competence

Physical Dev. C: acquire adaptive skills

Creative Arts B: explore and respond to creative

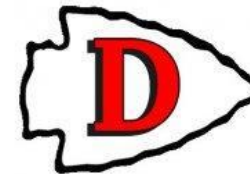
Social Studies C: understand change over time

Weekly SEL: 4 year olds use The Second Step Program 3 year olds use PATHS - Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

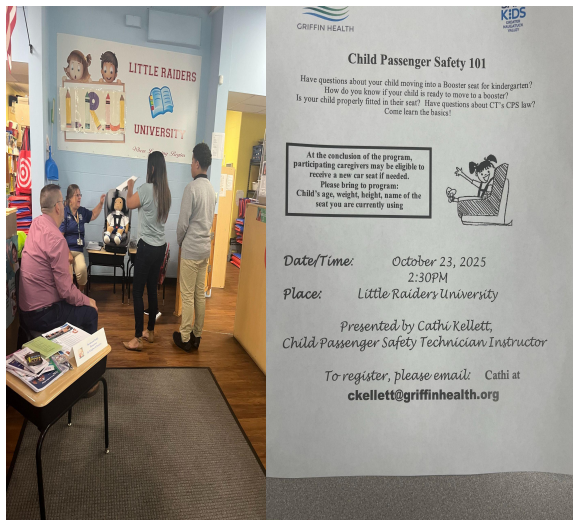




Operations



Car Seat Safety Event Oct 23, 2025



Cathi Kellet - Coordinator Safe Kids Greater Naugatuck Valley Coordinator

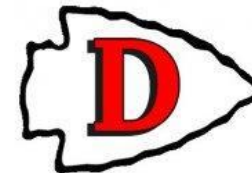
Cathi was able to give 3 families car seats.

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Human Capital



Collaborating with DHS - James Piazza's class visited and assisted in our pumpkin painting event



Thank you for your time!!!



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:02 am, Nov 04, 2025



Bradley School

155 David Humphreys Road • Derby, CT 06418-2250

Dr. Mario Ciccarini, Principal

Nicole Giardini, Dean of Students

Phone: (203) 736-5040 • www.derbyps.org/Bradley

Email: MCiccarini@derbyps.org

At Bradley School, we leave our P.A.W.S. on everything we do. We Persevere, Act Responsibly, Work and Play Safely, and Show Respect. These characteristics define us and help us become positive role models in our school and community.

November 2025 Monthly Report

Academics

- 10/02 - StoryWalk on blacktop (Lisa)
- 10/15 - Fast Heroes program starts (Grades 1/2)
- 10/31 - HalloRead Book Giveaway (K-5)

Human Capital

- Various - Goal-setting meetings with certified staff
- 10/01 - Learning center check-in meeting
- 10/01 - Bradley School PLC
- 10/06 - CAS Elementary Board of Control meeting (Mario)
- 10/07 - Admin council meeting
- 10/09 - CAS Legal Summit workshop
- 10/09 - BTC workshop (Tracy)
- 10/14 - Coaches meeting
- 10/20 - CABE Connecticut School Climate workshop (Mario)
- 10/20 - TEAM meeting (after school)
- 10/23 - TNTP Debrief Meeting (IRV & BRD)
- 10/27 - PBL visit to Brewster School (Nicole and teachers)
- 10/27 - Character Counts meeting
- 10/29 - Coaches meeting with Dr. Rafferty

Operations

- 10/01 - ESES Interviews
- 10/07 - Monthly Safety & Security review (with staff)
- 10/08 - ESES Screener Interviews
- 10/14 - Cancellation calls with Dr. Conway (grades 4/5)
- 10/14 - ESES Screener Interviews
- 10/15 - DAA Executive Board Meeting with Dr. Conway

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- 10/16 - All-Star Bus Evacuation Drills
- 10/16 - ESES Interviews
- 10/20 - DEA check-in meeting
- 10/22 - Bradley School Flu Clinic
- 10/25 - Medication Take Back Day
- 10/30 - November emergency drill (Lockdown)

Culture/Climate

- 10/01 - cARTie Meet & Greet with teachers
- 10/02 - Family Literacy Night planning meeting
- 10/06 - Safe Walk to School event (Grades K-2)
- 10/08 - Scouts STEM after-school program begins (K-2)
- 10/10 - Hotchkiss Hose visits grades 1-3
- 10/16 - Derby Pink-Out Day
- 10/16 - Kindergarten visits Hotchkiss Hose
- 10/21 - Reptile Awareness Day field trip to Kellogg (Grades 3/4)
- 10/23 - Buttermilk Farm field trip (K)
- 10/24 - Favorite Color Dress Down Day (for Literacy Night)
- 10/29 - WTNH visiting Fast Heroes program
- 10/31 - October birthday celebrations



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Derby Middle School

73 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418

(203) 736-1426 • fax (203) 736-3234 • www.derbypride.org

Principal, Rachael Caggiano

Assistant Principal, Tracey Quartiano

October 2025

Academics

- ASSISTments Ongoing Training, Teacher Meetings, and Administrative Check-Ins
- Comprehensive Learning Center - Raider Cafe Open weekly to Staff
- Talk Tuesday Attendance - Chronic Absenteeism tracking and training
- Attended Alliance Beginning of the Year Monitoring Meeting
- Attended Data Review with Members of the Board of Education
- High School Presentation from Emmett O'Brien High School
- Italian Heritage Activity with Derby High School students
- DHS Class of 2030 Student and Parent Presentation

Human Capital

- Attended the Bi-Weekly Principals Meetings
- Held Pareeducator Interviews (Currently 1 vacancy in RISE Room)
- Held October Staff Professional Development - Teacher Growth Goal Planning
- Attended CAS Board of Directors Meeting
- Attended CAS Executive Committee Meeting (Serving as Middle Level Vice President this year)
- Attended Middle Level Principals Connections meeting
- Attended CT LeadHERship Collective
- Ongoing Teacher Growth Goal meetings and Observations
- Attended TEAM Orientation for New teachers with Ms. Anroman and Mrs. Landolfi
- Attended Drake University Character Counts Session

Operations

- October Safety Drill held (Lockdown Drill)
- Participated in the ACES Regional Crisis Team meeting and training
- Monthly Union Meeting Held
- The DAA Executive Board held a meeting with Dr. Conway

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Culture/Climate

- Celebrated Custodian Appreciation Day
- Participated in District-Wide Pink Out Day
- Participated in Unity Day
- Members of NJHS and Student Council volunteered at the DPD Touch a Truck Event
- Held Student Council Elections

What's New at DMS!



Elected Member of the DMS Student Council

Executive Board:

President: Paige Beauton

Vice President: Asia Roberts

Secretary: Larry Amaya

Treasurer: Keheen Mekael

Historian: Mia Ortiz

Grade Level Representatives:

Mia Umpierre (6th Grade)

Teagan Hoyt (6th Grade)

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Mila Nuzzo (7th Grade)
Kendra Joseph (7th Grade)
Daijamy Santana Cortes (8th Grade)
Maria Ortiz (8th Grade)
Student Council Advisors:
Ms. Drezek and Ms. White

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:03 am, Nov 04, 2025



9 Garden Place
Derby, CT 06418
203-736-5043

Marc V. Russo
Principal, Irving School
mrusso@derhyps.org

Nicole Giardini
Dean of Student Affairs
ngiardini@derhyps.org

*At Irving School, we use our P.A.W.S. to persevere, act responsibly, work and play safely,
and show respect to ourselves, each other, and our school!*

November 2025 Monthly Report

Academics

- 10/1 - Professional Development (Early Dismissal)
- 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 - STEM Classes to Derby Public Library
- 10/3, 10/10, 10/17 - Flexible Friday Meetings
- 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 - Student Success Team Meetings
- 10/10 DIBELS Window Closes
- 10/10, 10/17, 10/24 - Flexible Friday Meetings
- 10/29, 10/30 - ASSISTments Meetings
- 10/31 - Book-or-Treat (Book Giveaway, Reading Department)

Human Capital

- 10/1-10/31 - Goal-setting meetings with certified staff
- 10/1-10/10 - Check-In Meetings with Special Education and Pupil Personnel Staff
- 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24 - Pupil Personnel Team Meeting
- 10/6 - Attendance Team Meeting
- 10/07 - Admin Council Meeting
- 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28 - Coaches Meetings
- 10/09 - CAS Legal Summit Workshop
- 10/15, 10/29 - Principals' Meetings
- 10/23 - TNTP Debrief Meeting (IRV & BRD)
- 10/27 - K/1 Play-Based Learning Visit to Brewster School (Durham)
- 10/27 - Character Counts Meeting
- 10/29 - Coaches Meeting with Dr. Rafferty

Operations

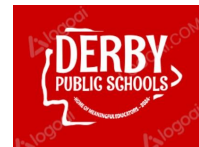
- 10/01 - ESES Interviews
- 10/8 - PTO Executive Board Meeting
- 10/08 - Staff Safety & Security Review
- 10/08 - ESES Screener Interviews
- 10/14 - ESES Screener Interviews
- 10/14 - Cancellation calls with Dr. Conway (grades 4/5)

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9 Garden Place
Derby, CT 06418
203-736-5043



Marc V. Russo
Principal, Irving School
mrusso@derbyps.org

Nicole Giardini
Dean of Student Affairs
ngiardini@derbyps.org

At Irving School, we use our P.A.W.S. to persevere, act responsibly, work and play safely, and show respect to ourselves, each other, and our school!

- 10/16 - PTO Monthly Meeting
- 10/16 - All-Star Bus Evacuation Drills
- 10/16 - ESES Interviews
- 10/20 - DEA check-in meeting
- 10/24 - Monthly Emergency Drill (Lockdown)
- 10/25 - Medication Take Back Day

Culture/Climate

- 10/3 - cARTie Meet & Greet with K/1 Teachers
- 10/10 - Storm Ambulance Company Fire Prevention Program for K/1/2
- 10/14, 10/29 - Cub Scouts STEM Program
- 10/17 - cARTie Program for K/1
- 10/17 - Derby Pink-Out Day
- 10/24 - Blue Yellow Spirit Day for Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- 10/24 - PTO Halloween Dance
- 10/29 - October Community Meeting
- 10/30 - Best Buddies October Event
- 10/31 - Halloween Spirit Day

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Derby High School Athletics
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
203-736-5032 ▪ www.derbypride.org
Athletic Director, Jennifer Moffat CMAA



- X-Country finished State Championship results from 10/25
 - Girls finished 7th in the Class S race (the team's highest finish since 2021)
 - Sasha Capelle finished 22nd out of 114 finishers and was the 3rd fastest Freshman in Class S
 - Boys finished 11th in the Class SS race
 - Joel Capelle placed 7th out of 155 finishers. Joel earned Class SS All State Honors and will compete at the CT State Open Championship on 10/31
- NVL Championship Meet Results
 - Girls placed 5th
 - Sasha Capelle placed 6th and earned First Team All-NVL Honors, while Sophia Rudus (15th) and Julianne Meagher (24th) both earned Second Team All-NVL Honors
 - Boys placed 6th
 - Joel Capelle placed 2nd and earned First Team All-NVL Honors, while Colton Shields (20th), Mac Gray (21st) and Jayson Drayton (26th) earned Second Team All-NVL Honors
- Volleyball has completed the regular season with a record of 7-13 as they were 1 game shy of qualifying for the state tournament.
- Girls Soccer has finished for the season with a record of 2-14. Juniors Kiera Boyles and Roujda Mekael earned Second Team All-NVL honors
- Boys Soccer has finished for the season with a record of 0-16 but improved tremendously from day 1 throughout the end of the season. This year was a rebuilding year with a new coaching staff and very few returning players
- Football continues and is currently 3-3 with wins over Watertown, Kennedy (Double OT) and Wilby
- Our Cheerleading team volunteered on 10/11 at the Southern CT Pop Warner State Cheerleading Competition
- Unified Sports is off to a Spooky start at DHS as we hosted a Spooky Soccer event with Oxford on 10/24. We will be hosting the CIAC Unified Flag Football tournament on November 3rd. Oxford, Woodland and Enfield will be joining us! We will also play a red vs white game at halftime of our Nov 7th football game vs St. Paul. We will be receiving our official banner from the CIAC/CT Special Olympics at our Homecoming pep rally on 11/7
- The DMS soccer seasons have finished up. X-Country will compete at the State meet on Saturday 11/1
 - NVL Championship Meet Results: Myla Kapusta finished 11th, Lyra Krause 46th, Moiseyls Cruz 49th, Karen Amartey 53rd, Tyomi Diah 57th, Hana Kham 62nd and Mia Umpierre 65th
- Varsity Jackets will be on sale Nov 3-Nov 30

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:03 am, Nov 04, 2025



Derby High School
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
(203) 736-5032 ▪ www.derbyps.org
Principal, Jennifer Olson

Update to Board of Education -October 2025 Presented November 2025

Academics:

- Held **PSAT School Day** for students in Grades 9-11; Grade 12 students worked with school counselors for post-secondary planning activities
- Journalism students attended **High School Journalism Day** held at the Southern Connecticut State Univ. Students participated in breakout sessions and had a keynote address from Kent Pierce from WTNH news. Journalism & Yearbook students were issued a journalist notebook and a “press pass” which grants them free access to school-sponsored events like sports games, shows, and events so they can write articles about these events for the *Raider Press* and the *Lookout*
- **Student Council elections for 8 class reps** were held. Students campaigned and created posters, signboards, and videos about why students should vote for them.
- Held **Voter Registration** with Town/City Clerk & Registrar to educate students about their right to vote and registered/pre-registered nearly 40 new voters
- Held planning meeting for the 25-26 **American Legion Oratorical Contest** and invited via Zoom DHS alumni Vincent Trinh ('25) and Kevin McGuire ('25) from their college campuses to speak to interested students about their successful experience in the competition.
- Held attendance and credit review meetings with students. Introduced the 25-26 **student trackers** to self-monitor grades/attendance to remain academically eligible and on-track to graduation.
- Teachers have begun to utilize a new engagement protocol, “**Harkness Discussions,**” a student-led, roundtable discussion method where students sit in a circle to analyze an article/text with the teacher acting as a facilitator. The goal is for students to take ownership of the conversation by listening, analyzing, and verbalizing their own ideas and questions, rather than being passive recipients of information from the teacher.
- **American Legal** students began working with Attorney Susman in preparation for the upcoming Mock Trial in Dec. This year’s case involves an apparent accidental overdose involving an opioid. Our students will compete and take roles as attorneys and witnesses for the state and the defense.

Human Capital

- Held professional development for teachers and certified staff on Teacher Goal Setting, and the **SAT exam**
- School administrators & teachers participated in district safety & PDEC meetings

Operations

- Hosted a **welcome event for the future Class of 2030 and the 8th grade teachers-** pep band and cheer performed, student leaders and staff spoke to students



- Hosted **Parent Night for the future Class of 2030**. Goal of our early outreach to students and parents is to provide information about the opportunities that exist at Derby High School and to generate interest/excitement and create a sense of belonging.
- Hosted the “**Speak Sobriety**” Program with Stephen Hill to share about risky behaviors, drug and alcohol addiction, and sobriety. Program was sponsored by Youth Bureau and facilitated with John Saccu.
- Held fall **College Fair** to engage students in exploring post-secondary options with 2 year, 4 year colleges, trade schools, and military. Received program support from John Saccu, Youth Bureau
- Conducted **planned emergency drill (lockdown)** to promote safety and security
- New **student-run thrift shop** launched. Funds to start the program were through a Donor’s Choose project by Mrs. Sheridan.
- Fee **FAFSA** financial aid application assistance promoted with parents (Jessica Odlum, The College Place)
- Counselors met with all seniors to introduce the **Common App** as a tool to apply for college admission
- New **bike rack** installed at DHS to support students riding bicycles, scooters and ebikes to school
- Held **Senior portrait sittings** and **school picture** retake day

Climate/Culture:

- Launched our new **in-school clubs** that meet 1x p/week on Thursday’s during school (Advisory time) including: Art, Basketball, Best Buddies, Crating/Painting, Book Club, Calculus, Chess, Embroidery, Event Planning, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Gaming I/II, Just Dance!, Movie Club, Podcasting, Rotary Interact, Spanish Club, Sports Card Collecting, Student Council, Thrift Shop Retail, Weightlifting, Writing Club, Yearbook Club, Yoga, and more!
- Recognized **Unity Day** (Orange Out); **Domestic Violence Awareness** (Purple Out) and **Breast Cancer Awareness** (Pink Out) to promote support of these causes and build a sense of community and care. STUCO Made a donation to agencies that support individuals and these causes using funds raised in school-wide Coin Wars.
- The Student Council hosted our planned the **Homecoming Dance** with “A Night in Paris” theme
- Hosted the NVL Unified Spooky Soccer tournament
- Began the annual **NHS Thanksgiving Food Drive**
- Participated in the **Derby-Shelton Rotary** luncheon recognizing senior football players and cheerleaders
- Held fall sport **Senior Night** recognizing senior athletes with their families and coaches
- **Empanada & Churro** sale during Hispanic Heritage month to raise money for Spanish Club/Spanish Honor Society. New mural inspired by Hispanic artist Joan Miro painted by students.
- Students partnered with the **Blanket Fairy and Southford Falls** quilters to create 61 fleece blankets for students for children in CT’s foster care
- 10 student-athletes attended the annual **CIAC Sportsmanship Conference** focused on leadership
- DHS named national banner **Unified Champion** school by Special Olympics
- Successful **Bocce fundraiser** held at the Sons and Daughters of Italy Club to support the Class of 2027
- Celebrated **Custodian Appreciation Day** recognizing their contribution to DHS

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October Newsletters

Oct 26 - Nov 1 <https://secure.smores.com/n/c59nw>

Oct 5 - 11 <https://secure.smores.com/n/15qd3-derby-high-school-news>

Oct 12 - Oct 18 <https://secure.smores.com/n/8ytsk>

Sept 28 - Oct 4 <https://secure.smores.com/n/kdhjs>

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:04 am, Nov 04, 2025



**Special Education
Derby Public Schools
Derby, Connecticut 06418**

*Pre K-Elementary Supervisor: Interim: Carl Gross
Secondary Supervisor: Michael Giordano*

Update to Board of Education - November 5, 2025

Our Shared Focus and Priorities:

- Supporting and growing teacher practice.
- Collaboration with and support of families.
- Continuing educational opportunities for inclusion and individualized growth.
- Develop and grow Special Education programs within the district.

Current Happenings

Academics

- Planning and Delivering Scientific Research Based Interventions.
- Attending PPT's, (Review/Revise, Annual Review, Manifestation and Re-Evaluations)
- Collaboration between coaches/interventionist/special education staff.
- Conducting initial assessments to determine eligibility.
- Conducting evaluations and programming for children transitioning from Birth to Three.
- Coffee Cart continues to run successfully, the cart at the High School has created snacks for sale as well. Trailmix and Halloween themed snacks such as chocolate covered pretzels.

Human Capital

- Hired four stipend positions for Best Buddies Coordinators for each of the four schools.
- Coordinating staffing and support for Resource and Learning Centers.
- Working with School-Based Clinician Program (BHCare), weekly meetings.
- Completed Goal Setting Conferences with all Special Education Staff.
- Giordano - scheduled 1:1 meetings with all paraprofessionals within DHS. DMS will be next.
- Completed Formal Observations in the last week of October.

Operations

- Hosting Bi-Weekly Special Education Meetings for Middle and High School.
- Attended CTSEDS Data-Manager monthly meeting.
- Attended EdAdvance Transition Meeting. Planning and establishing contracts for OOD students.
- Securing transportation for DPS students and outplaced students.
- Ordering of supplies and resources for teachers/staff.

Culture/Climate

- Provide positive feedback to all staff.
- Coaching and support of new staff in support of students with disabilities.

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