

Students improve on state test

Elementary schools across town improve on NECAP

HANNAH PIECUCH
hpiecuch@ricentral.com

.....
COVENTRY — Statewide results show that Coventry students tested above the state average in reading and mathematics.

The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) scores released earlier this month don't show much of a significant change since last year in Coventry, according to Assistant Superintendent Michael Convery, who oversees district-wide curriculum development. But there were some significant improvements in necessary areas.

Overall, 78 percent of students were considered proficient in read-

ing, up from the 76 percent last year; 63 percent of students were considered proficient in mathematics up from 61 percent last year. Both of these were above the statewide averages of 70 percent and 54 percent for the 2009 NECAP tests.

Students take the test in grades 3 through 8 and 11.

Hopkins Hill Elementary School had a large improvement in their math scores, Convery pointed out, moving from 60 percent proficient to 72 percent. In reading, Hopkins Hill went from 70 percent proficient to 73

percent.

Although most of Oak Haven Elementary School went to Tiogue Elementary School, he added, when the disaggregated results of the scores come out later in the school, he will be able to trace how the Oak Haven students did on the test.

Another thing that the more detailed scores will show is how specific groups of students are doing. For an instance, at Blackrock Elementary School, students with individual education plans (IEP) needed to improve in reading according to

last year's test.

The overall scores show that reading went up 8 percent at Blackrock this year, jumping from 71 percent to 83 percent proficient. But it won't be until later that he can see the difference for the IEP students.

So overall, Convery said, the elementary schools show progress.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry is not statistically different from last year, he said, but it remains good with a slight drop in reading from 80 percent proficient last year to 78 percent this year and remaining the same in mathematics proficiency at 64 percent.

**WATCH THIS SPACE
NEXT WEEK FOR WEST
WARWICK'S NECAP
TEST RESULTS**

Cov. schools show reading proficiency

Continued from Page A-1

The high school was the same, he said, reading went up slightly from 67 percent to 75 percent with a slight drop from 30 percent proficient to 27 percent proficient in math. The state math average is 28 percent.

Coventry has had a major push in literacy for the last seven years, Convery said, that has helped with their NECAP scores. When Superintendent Kenneth DiPietro came to the district, he initiated a focus on

reading throughout the district.

Now, the district has started to focus on mathematics.

"At an elementary level we're focusing on more consistency and rigor. That's going to be a long term change," Convery said.

At each of the five individual elementary schools, each teacher is trying to be as consistent as possible across the district, he said. To help with this district has implemented in-house common assessment tests to make sure that all teachers

are covering the same material in the same grades.

The school leadership teams are using these assessment tests and materials from the Dana Center, out of Texas, to make sure that mathematics are being taught effectively and uniformly, Convery said.

At the middle and high school levels, the same kinds of assessments are being performed, he said.

"We're looking for that same consistency, so that my algebra one is the same as your algebra

one, if you're also a high school math teacher."

While many of the questions in the common assessments are similar to the material covered by the NECAP, Convery said, "the tests measure the standards that the kids need to know, and would need to know whether it was on the NECAP or not."

Change never happens quickly in cross-district initiatives of this sort, he added, but he is confident that the math initiative will bear fruit in the next few years.