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Columnists

School test scores a matter for pride

Published: 04:17 p.m., Friday, July 16, 2010

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Good news does not come in bunches for the Bridgeport public school system.

And let's face it, for any number of the reasons that hamper inner-city systems, Bridgeport teachers, administrators, students and parents have their work cut out for them.

So it must have been quite pleasing to all those parties to see near-uniform improvement in the scores in grades three through eight in the Connecticut Mastery Tests.

Among the highlights, 50 percent of city sixth-graders -- the tests were given last March -- met the state goal in math.

That was an increase from 40 percent who met goal in 2009.

Likewise, that same group jumped from 36 percent to 49 percent in reading.

School officials attribute the improvement to teacher training and to using prior year test data to target instruction.

With all the obligations that have been imposed over the years on public school systems -- responsibilities for transportation, feeding, preschool and after-school programs, alternative classrooms, special education and so on -- one would think the act of teaching sometimes gets elbowed aside.

Everyone from Schools Supt. [John Ramos](#) and his team, the often-contentious [Bridgeport Board of Education](#) and the teachers and administrators who are in the schools should take pride in the 2010 scores.

The struggle, though, in a city like Bridgeport is unending.

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