



## CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### **Canton Students Make Major Progress in 2023 MCAS Testing** *District meets or exceeds most major goals*

**EMBARGOED until Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

CANTON, Mass.— 2023 MCAS results have been released and Canton Public Schools is proud to announce that the district has met or exceeded many District and state goals.

“Last year we set bold goals to increase the number of students achieving in the meeting or exceeding expectations categories in the math section of the MCAS test,” said Josh Fogel, Canton Public Schools Director of Technology and Data Analytics. “We have learned that we achieved that goal and increased by 5 percent across grades three to 10, which is outstanding.”

In particular, the District saw significant improvements in geometry:

- In 2022, Canton scored 3 percent above the state average.
- **In 2023, Canton scored 58% above the state average.**

Fogel credits the work of teachers and students for these gains.

“Geometry can be challenging because this section of the test is becoming very literacy rich,” said Fogel. “It challenges students to produce multi-step responses. There aren’t as many multiple-choice questions, and a lot of justification is required. In addition, teachers shifted some unit sequencing and reimagined lesson designs to really maximize student understanding and practice, which now we can see led to significant growth.”

While the entire district made strides, students at the Galvin Middle School saw major growth.

- In 2022, Canton middle school students maintained a 2% higher achievement on correct responses when measured with the state average in math.
- **In 2023, Canton middle school students achieved a 16% difference on correct responses when measured with the state average.**
- The middle school saw an increase of 11 percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Third grade students were in kindergarten when Covid disrupted their school year, and they spent first grade learning in a hybrid model. During second grade – their first year back in the classroom – students were learning math through our legacy math curriculum. As third graders, they were introduced to our new math curriculum.

“Third-graders demonstrated significant achievement and no sign of an implementation dip due to the new math curriculum,” said Fogel. “This was a group we were watching closely, and the fact they did so well is a testament to the strength of our elementary schools’ leaders, teachers, and students.”

Canton’s students who are served through special education also fared well on the test and showed gains of two points in English and four points in math.

“As a district we saw significant progress towards all our MCAS goals,” said Derek Folan, Canton Public Schools Superintendent. “Special education students, and students at risk of being marginalized, fared exceptionally well. This demonstrates our commitment to all students. I want to commend our staff and teachers as well as our students. While MCAS is only one metric of our work, it is an important tool to help the district identify areas of strengths and areas where we need additional focus.”

Folan will present 2024 MCAS goals to the School Committee this week.

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