
Area schools earn ‘distinction’ status

By **MICHELLE FIRESTONE**
Chronicle Staff Writer

While several area schools were recognized as “Schools of Distinction,” one school, RHAM High School in Hebron, was recognized for further improvement.

That news comes following recently released results from the Next Generation Accountability system.

The system is used to measure school and district success in providing students with a quality education.

The state Department of Education released results earlier this month based on data from 2016-17.

Schools were evaluated based on 12 indicators.

According to the state, RHAM (Regional School District 8) is one of 16 focus schools exiting focus status.

Focus schools are schools that are among the lowest subgroup achievements in the state.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law could not be reached for comment.

Schools of distinction have performed in the top 10 percent in various categories.

According to the DOE, 124 schools were identified as “Schools of Distinction” based on 2016-17 data, including the following local schools:

- Mansfield: Dorothy C. Goodwin School received one distinction in the “highest performing elementary/middle schools” category.

Southeast Elementary School received two distinctions, one for “highest performing elementary/middle schools” category and another in the “highest growth for all students” category.

This is the third year Southeast School was recognized and the first year Goodwin School was recognized.

“We’re very pleased to know that, this year, two of our schools were recognized,” Mansfield Superintendent of Schools Kelly Lyman said. “That means a lot to us that our students and staff are performing at such a high level.”

Lyman said the report indicates the schools have been successful at helping students meet growth targets.

She said the district will continue

(Schools, Page 4)

Schools earn 'distinction' status

(Continued from Page 1)
its attention “on monitoring student performance over time.”

- In Windham, Windham Center School received one distinction in the “highest growth for high needs students” category, one of 23 Alliance District schools recognized as a School of Distinction.

Alliance Districts are the 33 lowest-performing school districts in the state and are targeted for special state investments.

“We would like to congratulate them,” Windham Superintendent of Schools Patricia Garcia said, referring to Windham Center School students and staff. “We are

extremely proud of our Windham Center School.”

In a press release, she said the district’s “Theory of Action” emphasizes student achievement will improve when there is a high level of support for teachers and strong accountability.

“The district will continue to focus on student learning and success by monitoring the implementation of the strategic plan and supporting teachers, administrators and students,” Garcia said in the press release.

- In Coventry, George Hersey Robertson School (GHR) received two distinctions, one in the “highest growth for all students” category and another in the “highest

growth for high needs students” category.

“I believe this recognition speaks to the outstanding talent of the teachers and paraprofessionals at GHR,” Coventry Superintendent of Schools David Petrone said in an email. “Through their continued work analyzing data to inform and refine their instructional practices, their students continue to excel.

“We are fortunate in Coventry to have such skilled educators that have no greater goal than to ensure our students are prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.”

Other area schools noted included:

- Center School in Willington received one distinction

in the “highest performing elementary/middle schools” category.

- Andover Elementary School received one distinction in the “highest performing elementary/middle schools” category.

- Scotland Elementary School received two distinctions, one in the “highest performing elementary/middle schools” category and another in the “highest growth for all students” category.

- Hampton Elementary School received one distinction in the “highest growth for all students” category.

The data is available on the state Department of Education’s data portal, EdSight, at edsight.ct.gov.