



*A snapshot of  
our communities*

METRO HARTFORD  
**PROGRESS  
POINTS**

**2014**

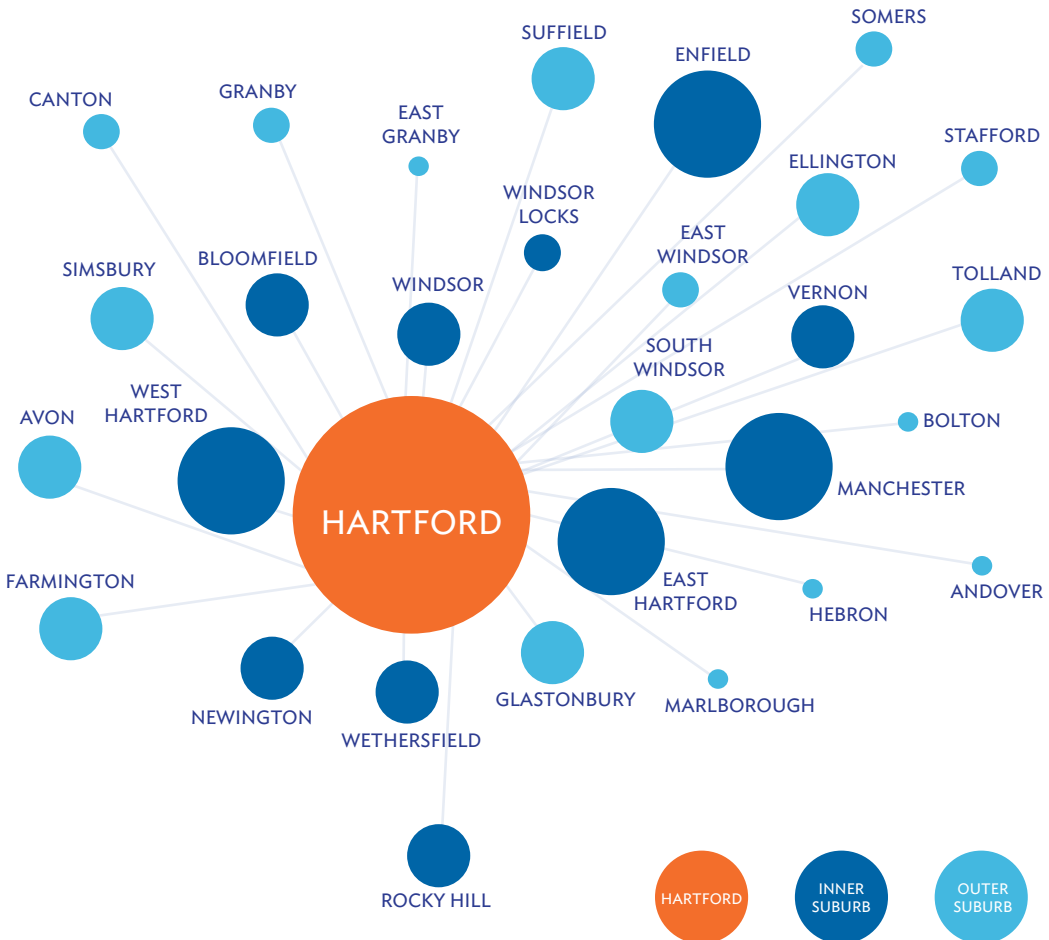
# What is the state of our region? How will we know progress when we see it?

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Metro Hartford Progress Points takes a look at the forces shaping Hartford and the region today, both the connections across it and the critical education, income and opportunity gaps within it. It is a call to action for groups and individuals throughout Metro Hartford to recognize all that we share, to join forces to address our challenges and to create more vibrant and prosperous communities for all. To learn more, visit [MetroHartfordProgressPoints.org](http://MetroHartfordProgressPoints.org).

## What do we mean by “Metro Hartford”?

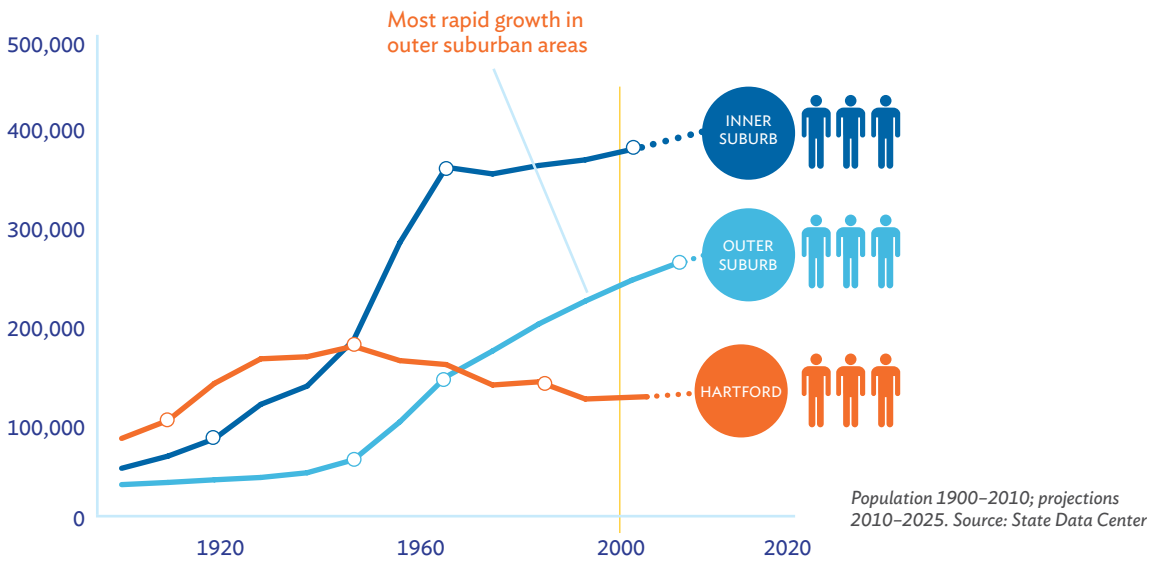
The Hartford region consists of 750,000 people living in the city of Hartford, its surrounding inner-ring suburbs, and outer-ring and rural towns that have historical, economic or social ties with the city. We refer to “Metro Hartford” and “Greater Hartford” interchangeably.



\* Inner suburbs have higher population density and poverty levels than outer suburbs. See footnotes for more detail.

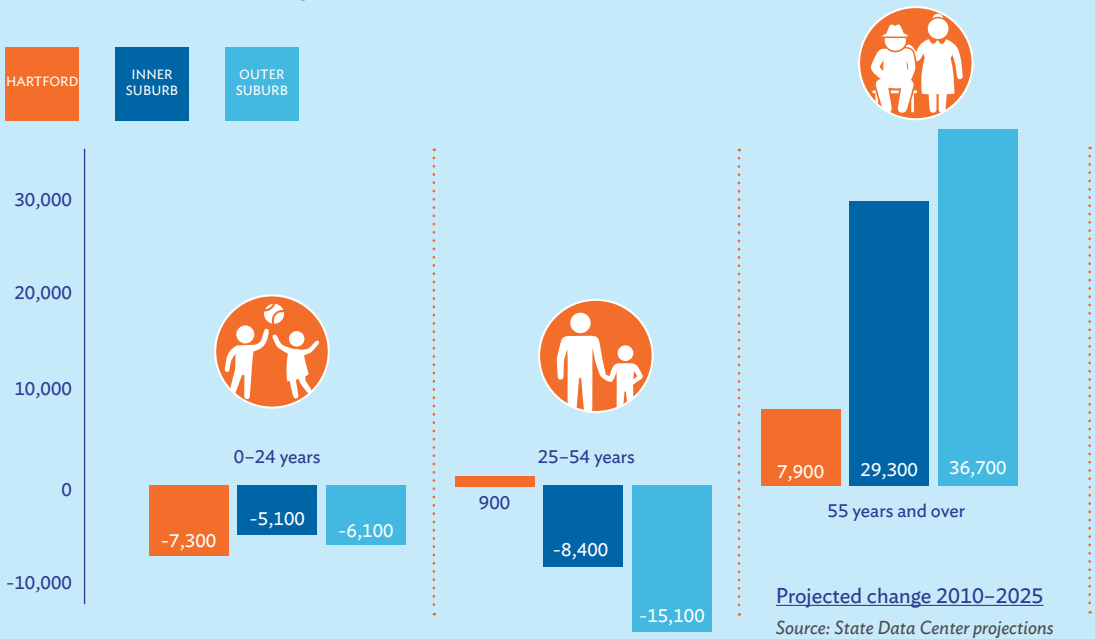
## Long-term shift from urban to suburban

Following World War II, people gradually moved from the city of Hartford to the suburbs. Beginning in the 1960s, most of the population growth has been farther afield in formerly rural towns beyond the inner-ring suburbs. Both Latino and Asian populations have grown rapidly throughout the region for the last 25 years. The black population has shifted from living mostly in the city of Hartford to a majority now living in the inner suburbs. The white population has shrunk overall, with growth only in the outer suburbs.



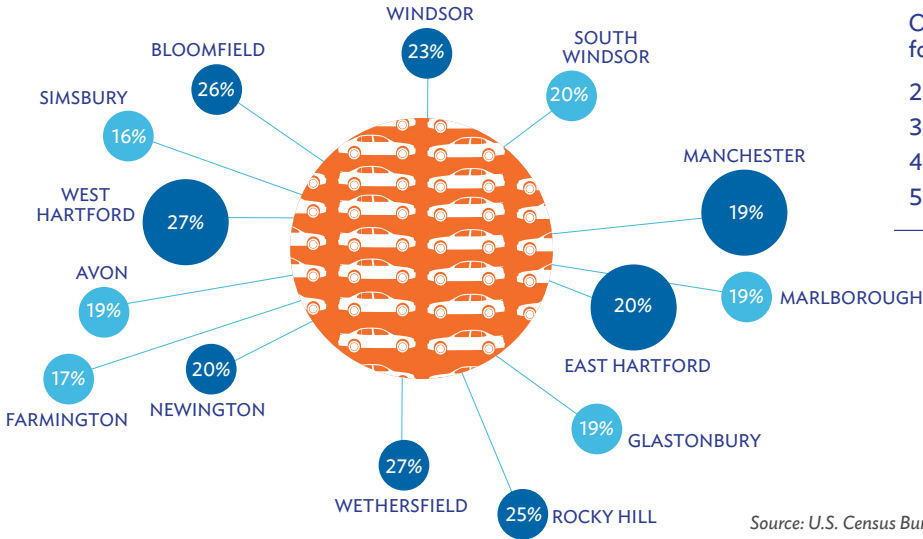
## Aging population across the region

Fewer young people are projected to live and work in the region while growing numbers of aging workers will reach retirement age in the next decade, particularly in the suburbs.



## Jobs draw people in and out of Hartford

The population of Hartford doubles each workday, as commuters travel from all over the region to jobs in the city—which tend to be concentrated in highly skilled professions such as insurance and finance. 82 percent of the region’s workers commute within the region.



Other top destinations for commuters include:

- 2 | East Hartford
- 3 | Manchester
- 4 | Windsor
- 5 | West Hartford

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

**81%**  
of all Metro Hartford workers commute alone by car

**83%**  
of the 121,000 jobs in Hartford are filled by commuters

**65%**  
of Hartford residents with jobs are employed outside of Hartford

**75%**  
of Hartford workers who commute outside of Hartford make less than \$40K

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

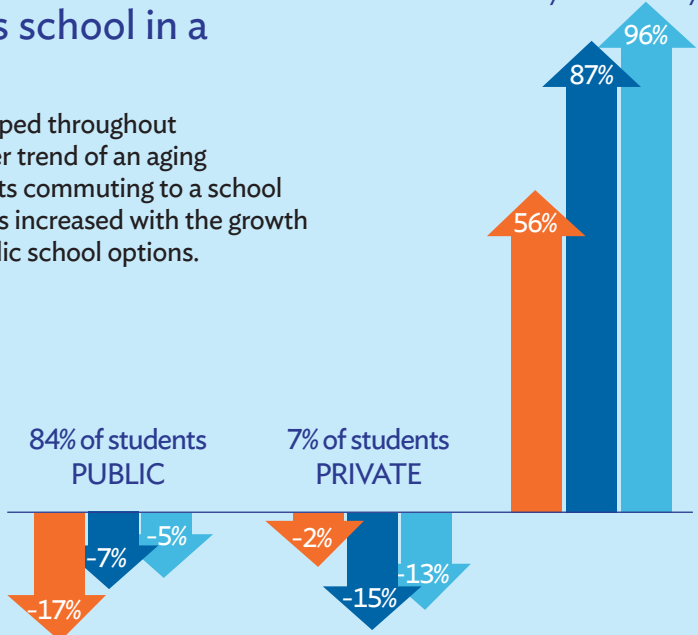
## 1 in 6 students attends school in a different town

Even as school enrollment has dropped throughout the region—a reflection of the larger trend of an aging population—the number of students commuting to a school that is not in their neighborhood has increased with the growth of magnets, charters and other public school options.

Growth 2006–2011

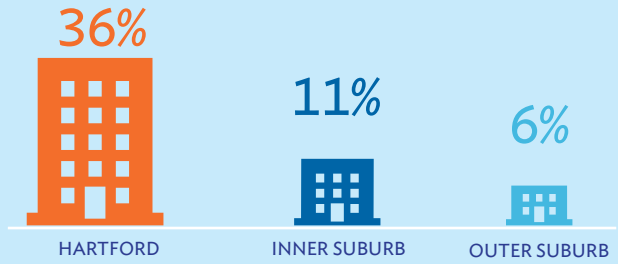
Source: State Department of Education

9% of students  
MAGNET/CHARTER/CHOICE



## Affordable housing options concentrated in Hartford

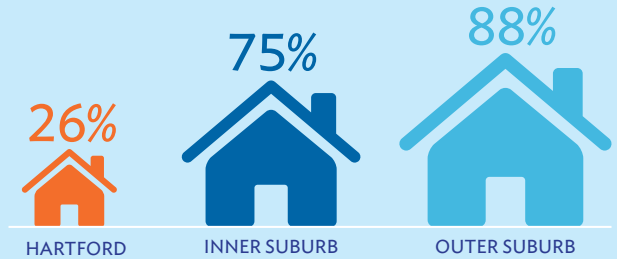
Those seeking more affordable housing options won't find many in the inner and outer suburbs. In turn, this tends to concentrate lower-income families in the city of Hartford and limits options for families in the suburbs.



Source: Department of Housing, 2008–2012

## Homeownership dramatically higher in suburbs

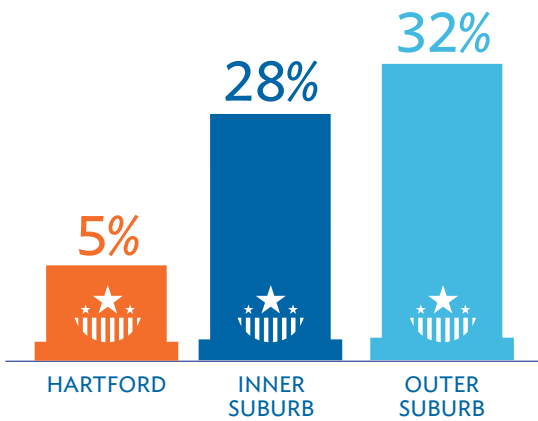
Homeownership is one of the strongest features of a “vibrant community.” While homeownership rates are typically lower in cities, the gap between the percent who live in owner-occupied homes in Hartford and suburban communities is high compared to other regions.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2008–2012 estimates

## Voter turnout significantly lower in Hartford

There is a significant difference in turnout among registered voters between Hartford and its neighboring towns. Lack of engagement in the electoral process makes it difficult for residents to make changes in their community.

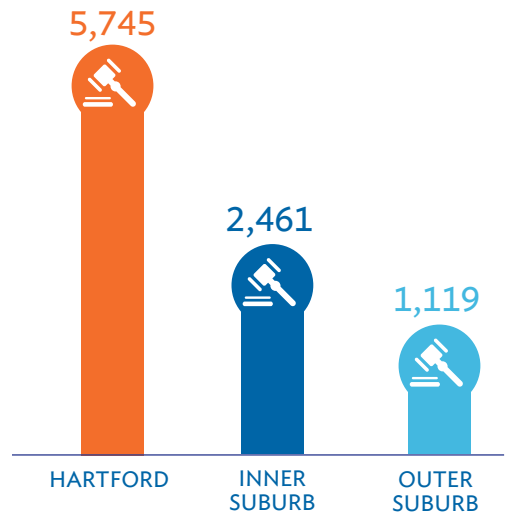


2013 ELECTION TURNOUT

Source: Secretary of the State, November 2013 election results.

## Lower crime rates in suburbs, but higher housing costs

While crime in Hartford has decreased in recent years, neighboring communities and suburban areas still have higher levels of public safety than their counterparts in the city. Unfortunately, low incomes and a lack of available/affordable housing mean that many cannot afford to live in lower-crime areas outside the city.



NUMBER OF TOTAL CRIMES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

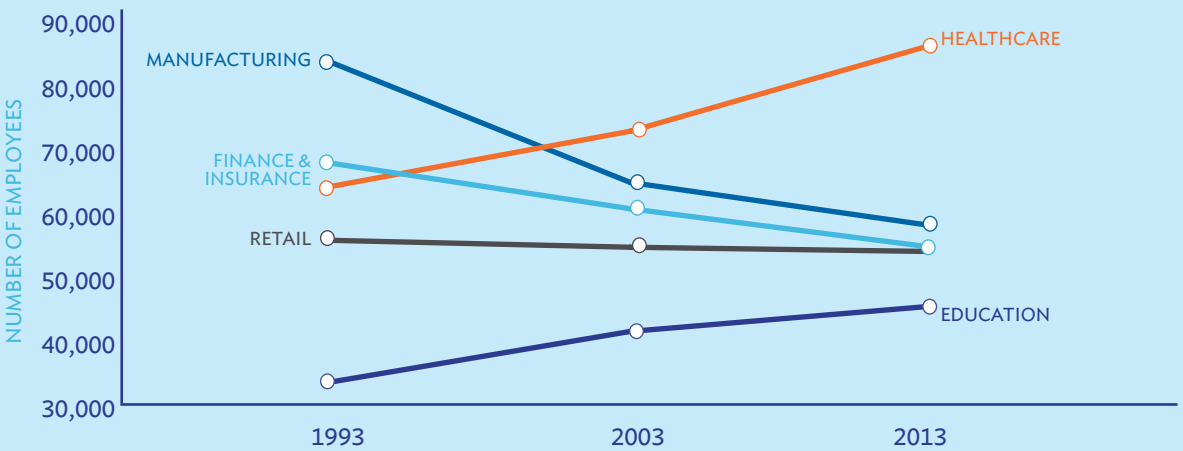
Source: CT Data, Department of Public Safety.

## Growing job opportunities in caring for our aging population

While the Hartford region is still providing large numbers of jobs, its historically strong sectors of finance, insurance and manufacturing have seen their numbers decrease over the past decades. Many of the sectors with recent growth involve service industries related to meeting the needs of an aging population in the outer suburbs—specifically, in healthcare.

 <b>On the decline</b>  Construction Manufacturing Finance & Insurance	 <b>Holding steady</b>  Government Administrative Support Retail Transportation	 <b>On the rise</b>  Healthcare Education Real Estate Scientific & Technical
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## Shifting top 5 job sectors over past 20 years



Source: Department of Labor, 1993–2013.

## Metro Hartford employment snapshot

- **70%** of the unemployed residents in the region live in the suburbs
- **3,000** people return from prison to the region—just over half to Hartford—each year
- **29%** of those unemployed in the region are between the ages of 16 and 24



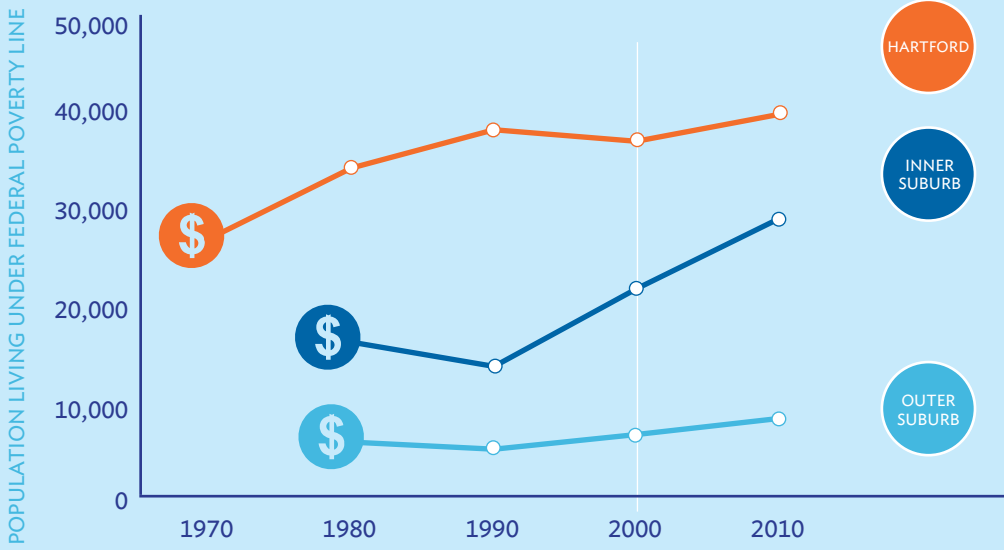
**7,600** Hartford residents are looking for work and cannot find jobs

**25,000** suburban residents are looking for work and cannot find jobs

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2012 estimates; Department of Labor, 2013 local area estimates.

## Poverty growing beyond the city limits

In Hartford, a high proportion of the population is living under the federal poverty line (about \$23,000 for a family of four). But the sharpest increases in poverty have been outside the capital city, mostly in the inner suburbs.



Source: State Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau.

Poverty rates in Hartford highest of all CT cities

HARTFORD	38%
NEW HAVEN	26%
BRIDGEPORT	25%
WATERBURY	25%
NEW BRITAIN	24%

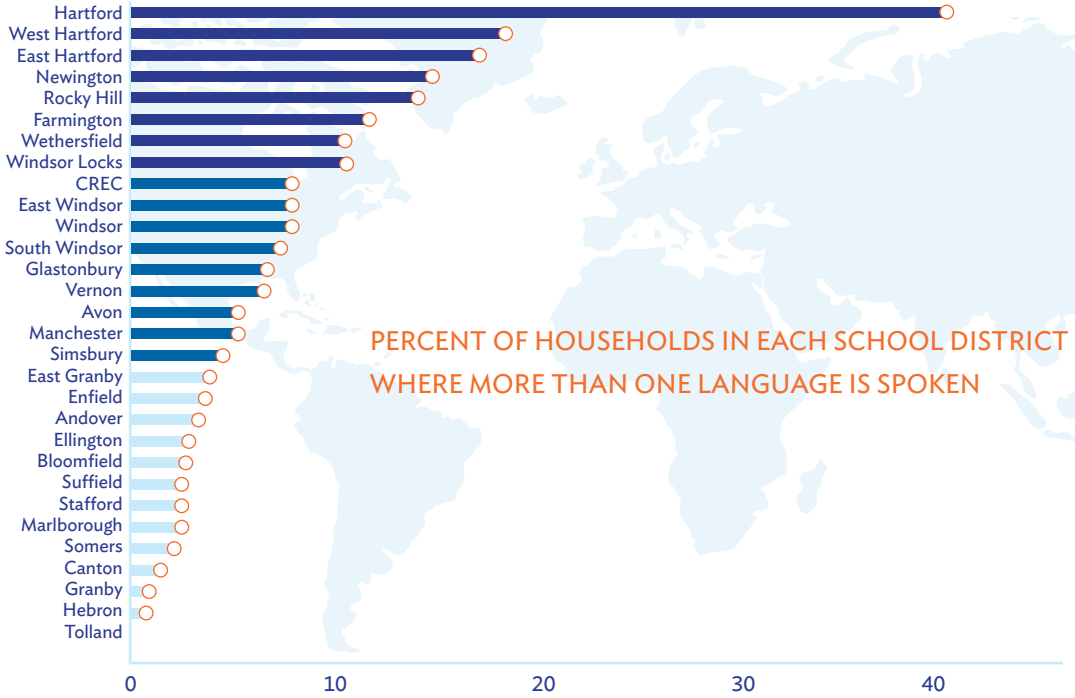
And on par with the poorest cities in the U.S.

DETROIT, MI	42%
CAMDEN, NJ	39%
FLINT, MI	39%
YOUNGSTOWN, OH	39%
SPRINGFIELD, MA	33%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 estimates.

## Increasing globalization through immigration

Schools are more ethnically and culturally diverse than at any time in our history. More than 100 different languages are spoken in homes throughout the region, bringing diversity to our schools and our towns.



Source: State Department of Education.

## A great variety of languages spoken in homes across the region

Because more foreign-born families are immigrating to the region, we have more ELL (English language learner) students than ever before.

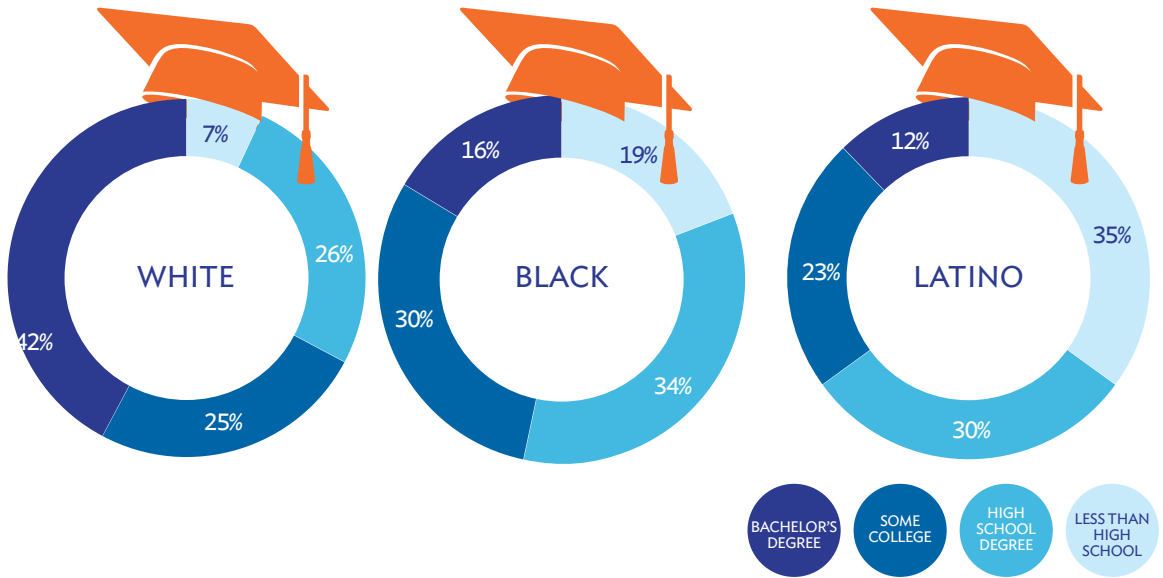
Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Serbo-Croatian, Gujarati, Karen, Polish, Portuguese, Malayalam, Arabic, Korean, Albanian, Urdu, Russian, Telugu

Source: State Department of Education, 2010–2011.



## Racial and ethnic disparities in educational attainment

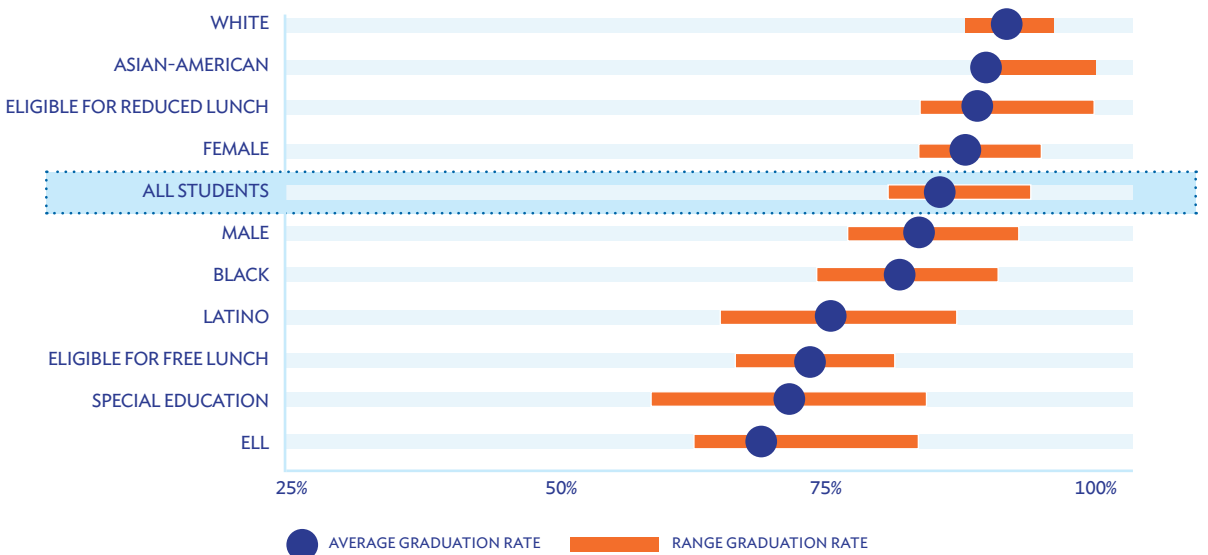
While Greater Hartford continues to enjoy a highly skilled workforce, those skills are not equitably distributed across all residents. More white residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher than their black and Latino counterparts. In fact, one-third of all Latinos in the region lack a high school diploma.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2012 estimates.

## Range of high school graduation rates varies greatly

High school graduation rates are higher on average for whites and Asian-Americans, but the range of results for individual schools shows that other groups—including low-income, special education and ELL students—find success in at least some schools in the region.

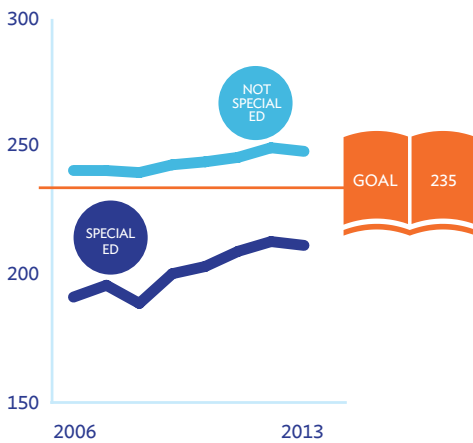
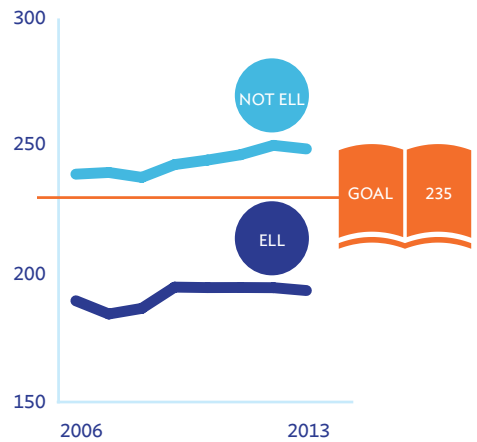
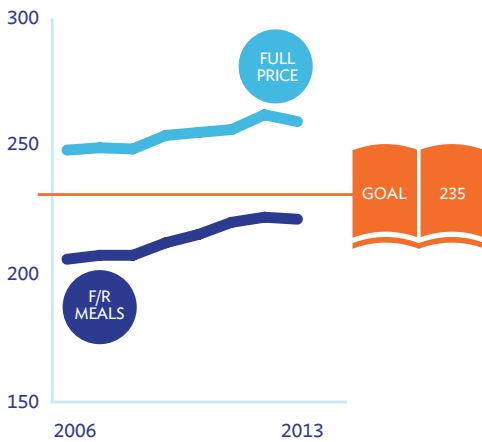
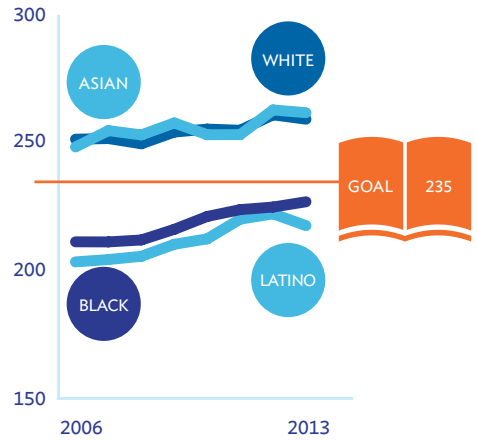
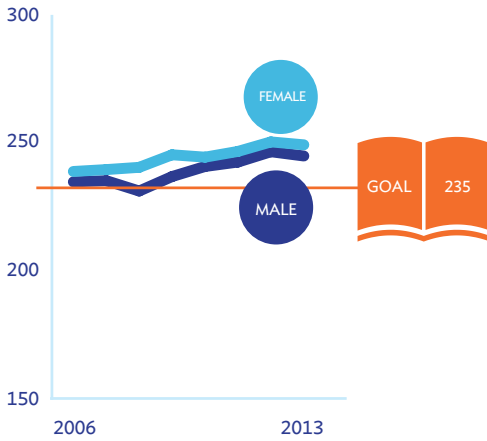


Source: State Department of Education, 2010–2012

# STUBBORN EDUCATION GAPS (CONTINUED)

## 3rd-grade reading scores vary widely across different groups

Although third-grade reading scores are increasing overall, the gaps aren't narrowing much when viewed by race/ethnicity, income and other dimensions.



ELL = English language learners

F/R Lunch = Students receiving free or reduced cost lunch

Early childhood education provides the foundation for school success.

4 in 5 children in the region have preschool experience prior to kindergarten. Many who do attend pre-K programs do so regionally, with 2 in 5 kids attending school-based programs outside their home district.

Source: State Department of Education, 2006–2013.

## Where do we go from here?

Increased job opportunities, a growing population, high-quality, affordable housing, educated workers, engaged citizens and cultural diversity are just a few of the factors that make a community a place where all kinds of people want to live, work and raise their families. How do we get there?

Consider the following in a discussion of Progress Points in your community:

- Where is home to you?
- Where do you and your family live, work, shop, learn, worship and play?
- How does your community connect to the rest of the region?
- How do we build stronger connections among the communities of Metro Hartford?
- What are the greatest assets of the Metro Hartford region?
- What are its greatest challenges?
- How can we together address our greatest challenges and capitalize on our greatest assets for the good of all residents throughout the region?

Progress Points represents the start of a collective effort to address the root causes of our region's challenges, toward a vision of more vibrant and prosperous communities for all.

We, the institutional partners behind Progress Points, hope that this report will prompt groups and individuals across Metro Hartford—state and local government, academic institutions, businesses, nonprofits, faith- and community-based organizations, advocacy organizations and institutions—to work together to make real progress on the issues illustrated by this report.

Please visit [MetroHartfordProgressPoints.org](https://MetroHartfordProgressPoints.org) to learn more.



Center for  
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