



# North Hartford Ascend Pipeline

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education

September 20, 2023



North Hartford  
Ascend Pipeline



This meeting is being recorded and the recording will be posted on the Connecticut Children's website.

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Por favor recuerde seleccionar su lenguaje en el globo de la parte inferior de su pantalla para interpretación Desde su celular, toque los 3 puntos y seleccione su lenguaje.

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Please remember to select your language on the globe at the bottom of your screen for simultaneous interpretation. From your cell phone, touch the 3 dots and select your language.

# Incentive Available to Hartford Residents

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# Agenda

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- Welcome & Guidelines
- Ascend Announcements
- Ascend Overview
- August Meeting: Resource & Data Review
- Family Navigators with The Village for Families and Children
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

# Discussion Guidelines

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- Everyone deserves to be heard.
  - Online: Turn your camera on (we would love to see you), and keep your mic muted unless you're speaking.
  - Don't be afraid to use the chat!
- Listen and respond respectfully.
- Let's stay on topic— time is limited, so let's value each other's time.
- Successful dialogue is the responsibility of all participants.

# Ascend Announcements: FourteenG



## Be the Face of North Hartford Ascend!



### Calling North Hartford Promise Zone Residents:

- Adults
- Young Adults
- Children

Join us for an exciting  
Photoshoot to capture the real  
spirit of our community!

*Participants will be provided  
with a cash incentive for  
their participation.*

### Potential Photoshoot Locations:

*(In the North Hartford Promise Zone Areas)*

- Schools
- Community Landmarks
- Parks

**Scan the QR Code  
to Sign Up!**



# Please take our Community Branding Questionnaire

We need your help in capturing North Hartford Ascend's visions & values to assist us in building a vibrant brand identity that will resonate with the community.

## Questions will cover the following topics:

- Colors
- Logo Type
- Font Type
- Feedback & Ideas



# Join Us in Branding North Hartford Ascend

Are you a creative student, resident, or artist from the North Hartford Promise Zone?

We're seeking talented designers to help define our community's brand.

**Participants will be provided with a cash incentive for their participation.**

## Qualifications:

- Must have computer access
- Working knowledge of **Adobe Illustrator**
- Portfolio (*Preferred*)
- Availability to meet for **One-Day Workshop (4 Hours)**
- Interest in Branding and/or Graphic Design.

Scan the QR Code to apply



# North Hartford Ascend Pipeline

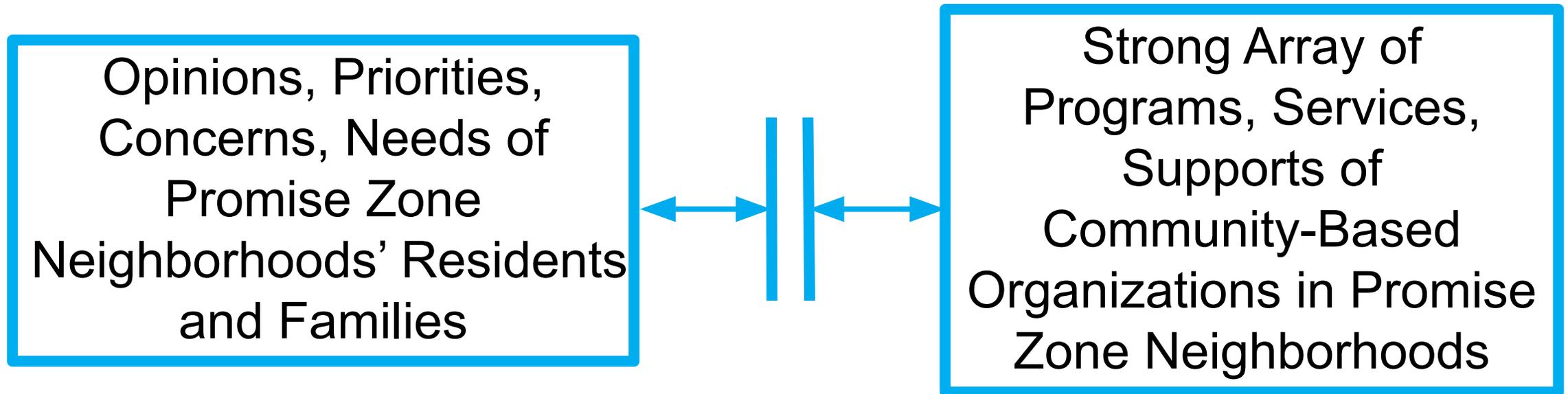
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## Purpose

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To collaboratively build an integrated and coordinated pipeline of services and supports that helps children and families reach their full potential.

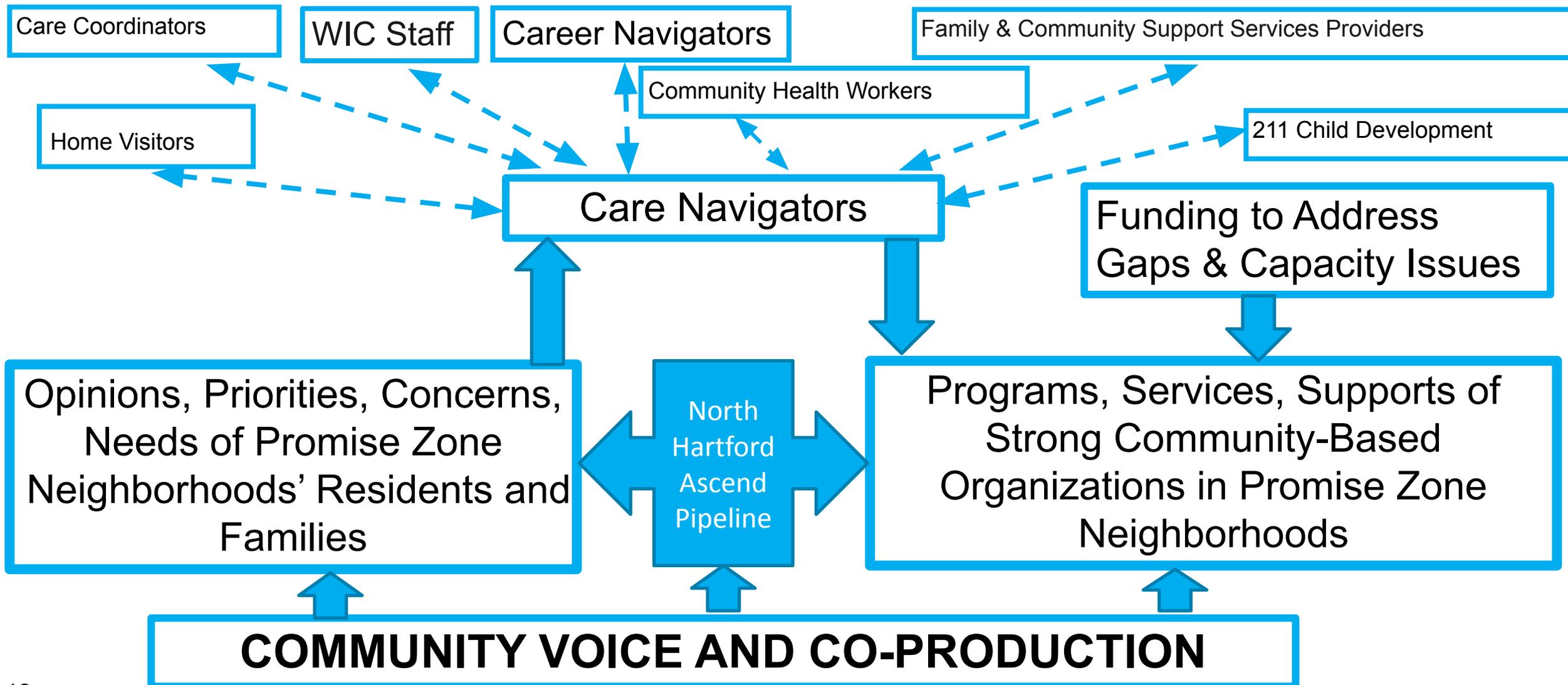
# Current State



# Ideal State-Ascend System Building



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# U.S. DOE Promise Neighborhood Program Results

Students. . . .

Enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.

Are proficient in Math and English Language Arts.

Successfully transition from middle to high school.

Graduate from high school.

Obtain post-secondary degrees, certifications, or credentials.

Are supported by families and communities in their learning.

Are healthy.

Feel safe at school and in the community.

Live in stable communities.

Have access to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools.

# Resource & Data Review

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# Q&A: August Meeting

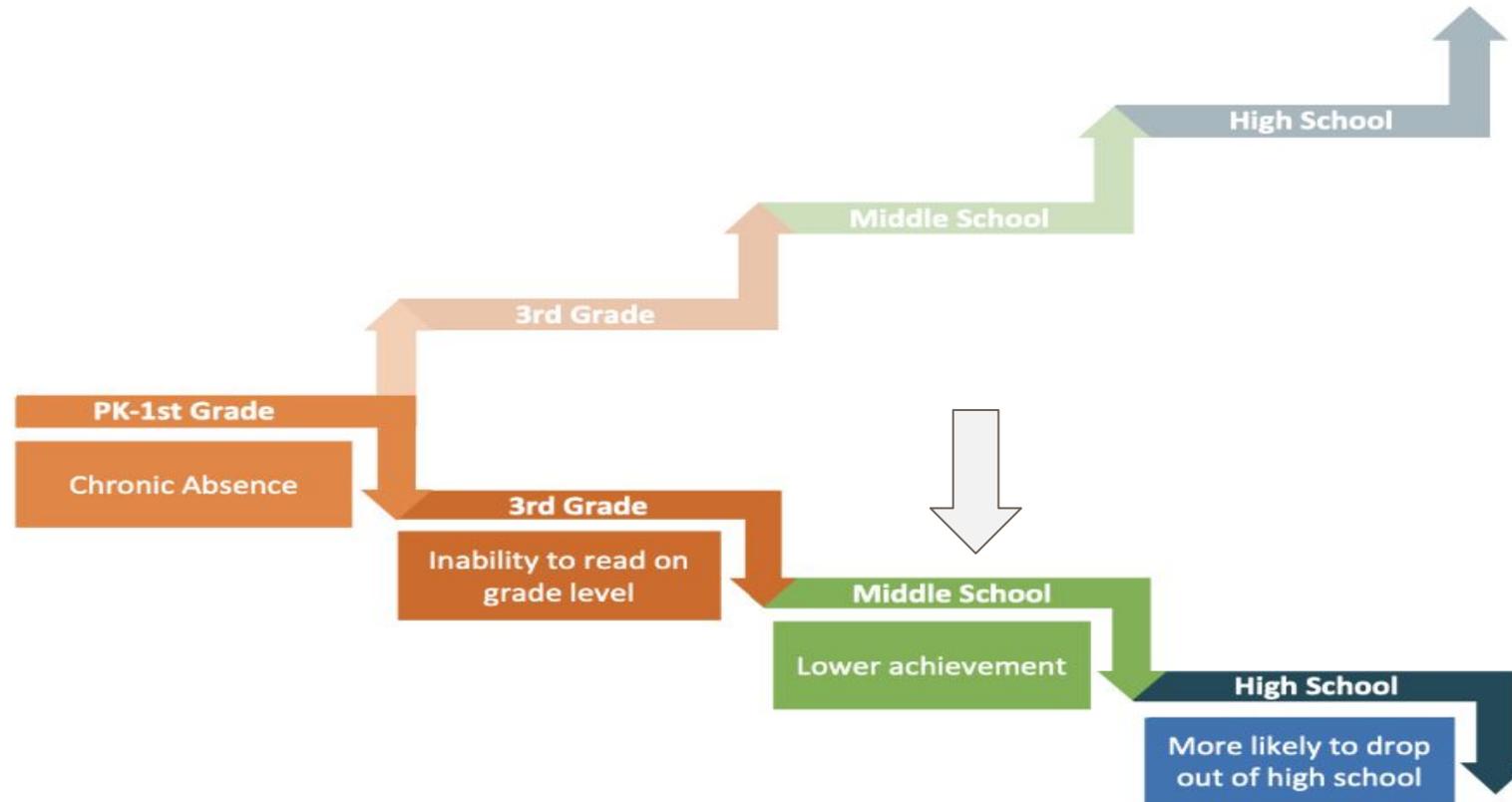
- Q: Where can families get uniforms for their students if they cannot afford them?
  - A: Contact your child's school: Family & Community Service Support Provider (FCSSP), the Welcome Center (860-695-8400), or by written request to the Principal
- Q: Do excused absences still count against a student's overall attendance?
  - A: Excused absences do not count "against" students – only unexcused absences count towards truancy
  - A: Chronic absenteeism, which is a measure of exposure to learning and school-based supports, counts *all absences*, whether excused or not, because any absence results in a missed opportunity to learn and receive support
    - Used for monitoring and implementation of tiered support, not "held against" students

# Q&A: August Meeting

- Q: How are schools bringing along students and families who started HS during covid and did not get adequate orientation?
  - A:Families can contact their school's FCSSP or the Welcome Center (860-695-8400)
- Q: Are there alternative learning programs available for students who are chronically absent?
  - A: Yes, there are alternative paths to credit attainment, including HOPE academies and Our Piece of the Pie
- Q: Is chronic absenteeism now chronic and intractable?
  - A: While a critical and “stubborn” challenge, chronic absenteeism rates declined substantially in 2022-23, demonstrating that solutions are attainable.
- Q: Is there data to categorize if students with special needs are more or less chronically absent?
  - A: Yes, and we will present some data on this in a few minutes!

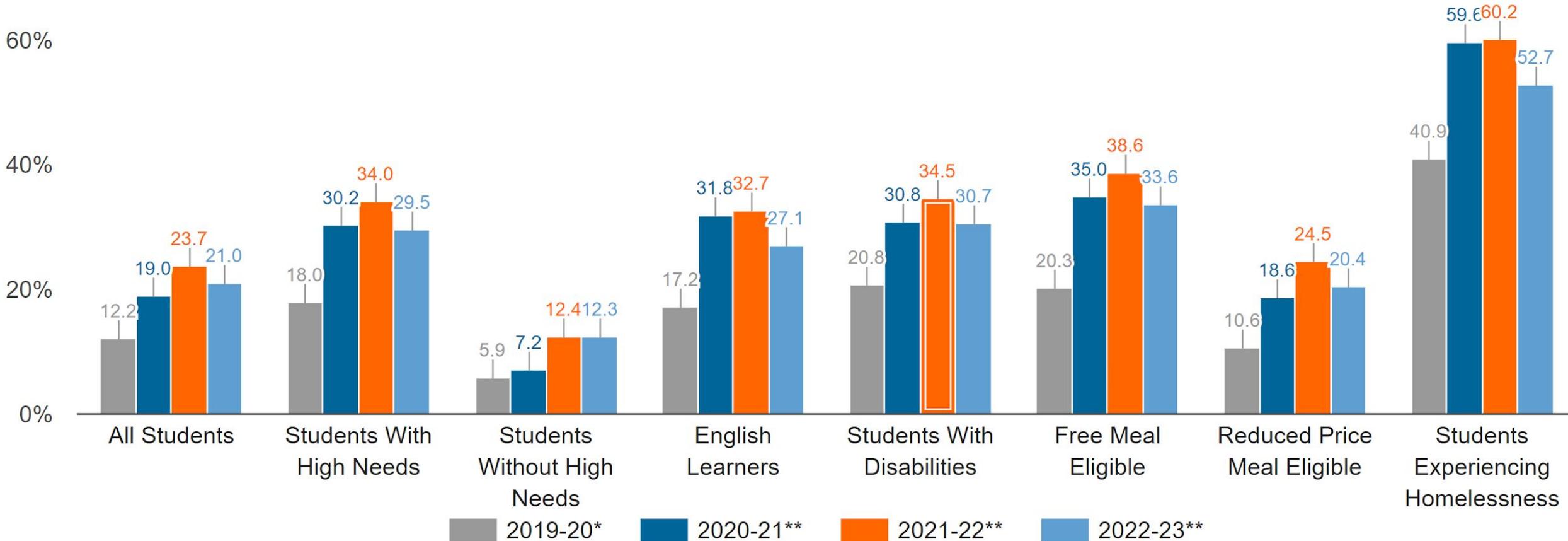


# Impact of Chronic Absence





# State Chronic Absence Trends



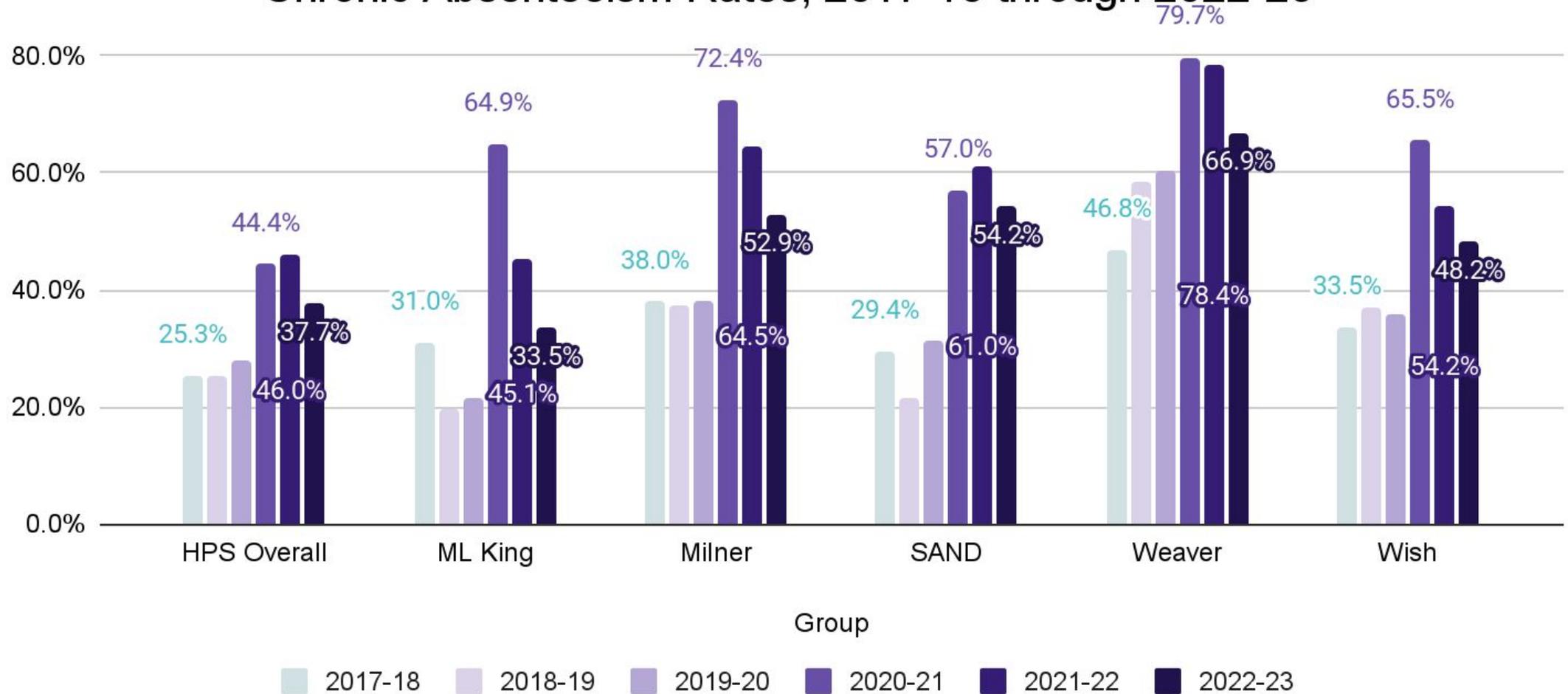
\*Calculations are based only on in-person school days until mid-March 2020. \*\*Calculations include both in-person and remote days.

Source: CT EdSight, Monthly Attendance Reports, [Supporting Student Participation \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/edsight)



# Chronic Absenteeism Trends: Promise Neighborhood Schools

## Chronic Absenteeism Rates, 2017-18 through 2022-23

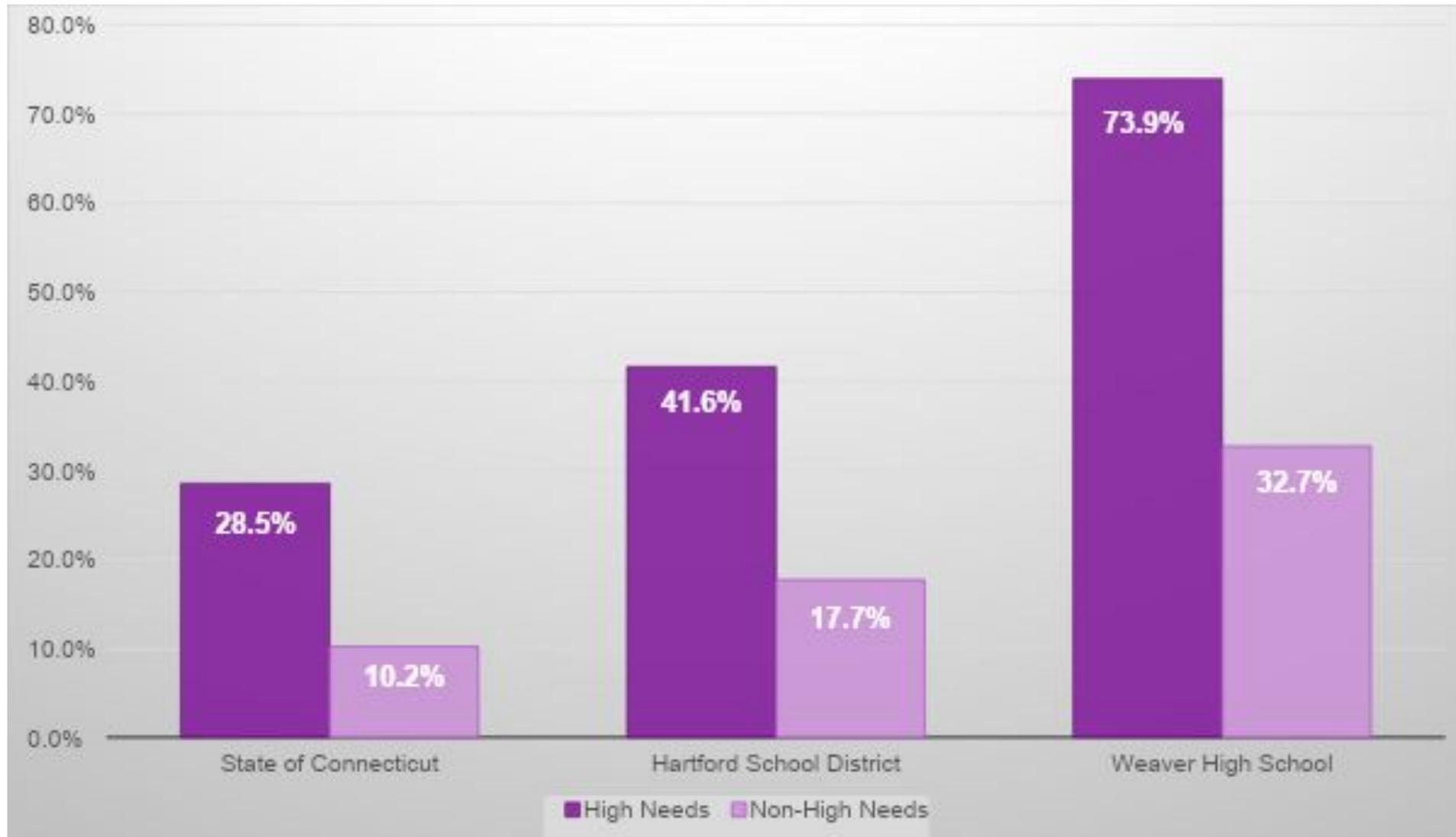


# Key Takeaways

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1. Chronic absenteeism rates across CT doubled during the Pandemic
2. Chronic absenteeism improved in 2022-23
  - Statewide: 18,442 fewer students were chronically absent (-3.7 points)
  - HPS District: 1,251 fewer students were chronically absent (-7.1 points)
  - Promise Neighborhood: 166 fewer students were chronically absent (-7.8 points)
  - MLK made the most improvement (27.7% decline in CA rate)!
3. Chronic Absenteeism rates are related to % of students with “high needs” (English Learners, Free/Reduced Lunch, Disability)

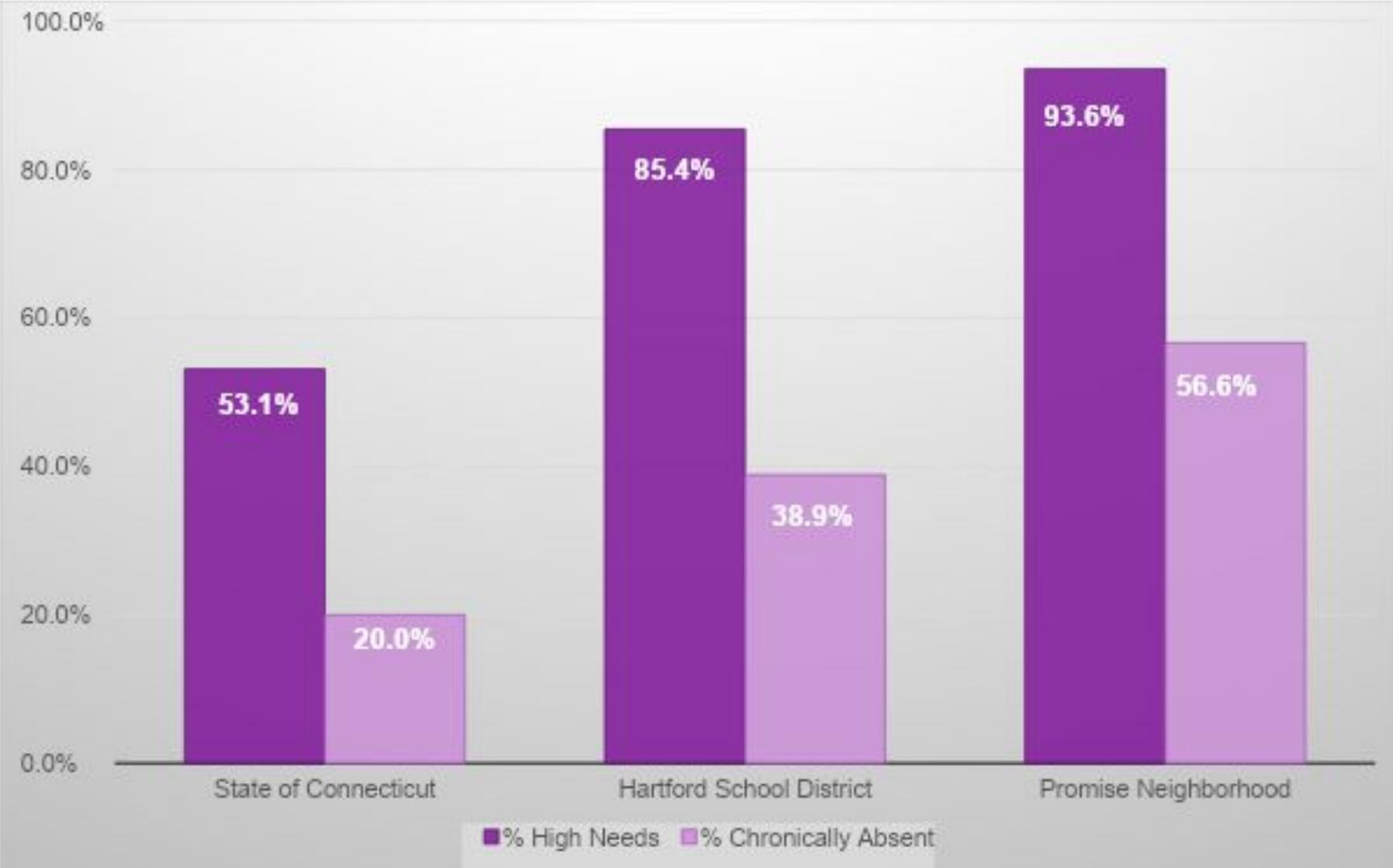
# Chronic Absenteeism by Student Needs (2022-23)



# Percent High Needs and Chronically Absent (2022-23)



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Questions about data on chronic absenteeism?

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# Ascend Program

The Village for Families and Children, Inc.

2023

Village Ascend Team

Norma Pizarro- Team Leader

Thais Ortolaza- Community Family & Services Manager



# Ascend Goal

- The North Hartford Ascend Pipeline is a cradle-to-career effort to ensure children living in the North Hartford Promise Zone – which includes the Clay Arsenal, Northeast, and Upper Albany neighborhoods – have the supports they need to reach their optimal potential.



Where real change happens



# Ascend Family Navigators

- Are embedded in the community to serve North Hartford families from prenatal to career pipeline to ensure overall student academic success and school attendance
- Engage, outreach, and recruit families
- Screen, refer and connect families to services within their neighborhoods

Where real change happens

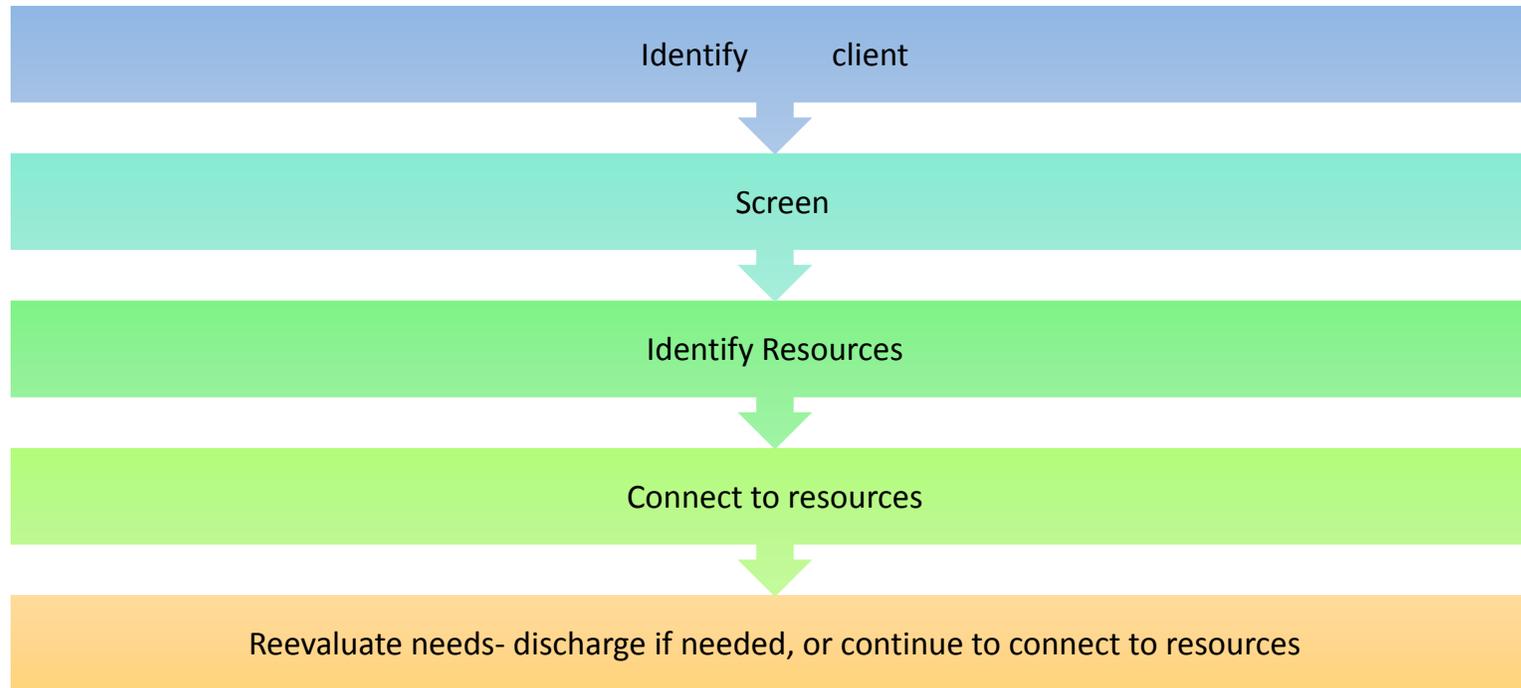


# Ascend connects families to...

- Basic Needs
- Physical and mental health Services
- Financial Empowerment Services
- Early Childhood Programs
- Other services to remove barriers

Where real change happens





Where real change happens



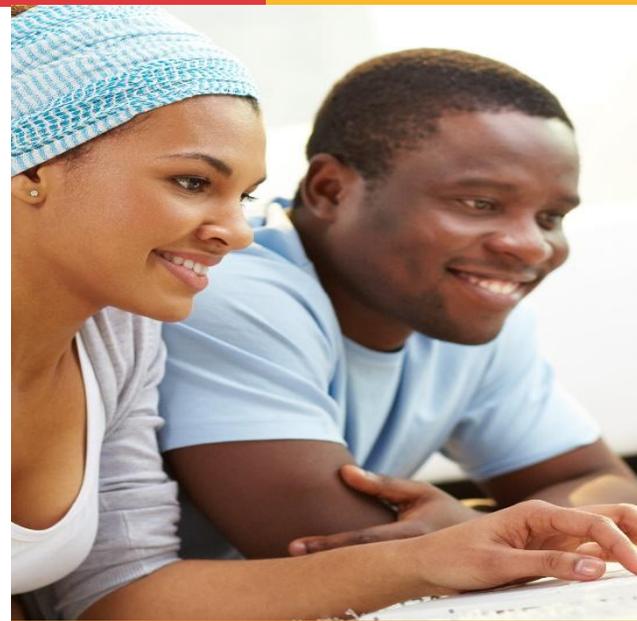
# Referrals

How can you refer families?

- Email [ascend@thevillage.org](mailto:ascend@thevillage.org)
  - Add the parent's or guardian's name, phone number, and needs in the body of the email.

Interested in other Village programs?

- Visit the Village Website at [www.thevillage.org](http://www.thevillage.org) or dial 860.236.4511



Where real change happens



# Questions?

Where real change happens



# Discussion Questions

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- Did The Village provide a clear overview of The Village Ascend Navigators?
- Do you know how to access Family Navigation services? What would be helpful to you in accessing services?
- What would you like to know that wasn't shared today?

# Thank You!

- **Upcoming meeting: Wednesday, October 18th at 6pm**
- Are you interested in facilitating or taking notes during future Community Conversation breakout groups? Contact Ally McGinty at [amcginty@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:amcginty@unitedwayinc.org) to sign up for the Facilitating and Note-taking Workshop.
- An incentive is available to Hartford community members participating in this meeting. The link is posted in the chat and will be sent out via email. Contact Ally McGinty at [amcginty@unitedwayinc.org](mailto:amcginty@unitedwayinc.org) with any questions.
- Please take the Post Meeting Survey to share your thoughts and feedback. The link is posted in the chat and will be sent out via email.
- Any feedback and or questions, contact [nhap@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:nhap@connecticutchildrens.org)

# Program Name

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## People served & Outcomes

- *How many people does the program serve overall and in the Promise Zone neighborhoods (if data is available)*
- *What have past recipients experienced*
- *Eligibility*

# Program Name

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## How to get connected

- *If more info is available, add websites, QR codes, etc to this slide*
- *What to expect after initial encounter*
- *How to reach program*

# Employment Opportunities

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Program Coordinator, North Hartford Ascend Pipeline

<https://recruiting.adp.com/srccar/public/RTI.home?d=External&c=1122041#/>

Career Navigator Systems Coordinator, Capital Workforce Partners

<https://capital-workforce-partners-cwp.careerplug.com/jobs/2038810/apps/new>

