



District Reference Groups (DRGs) Formerly Educational Reference Groups (ERGs)

June 2006

Since 1996, the Connecticut State Department of Education has divided school districts into nine groups called Educational Reference Groups.ⁱ These nine groups are determined according to socio-economic status and other factors. The nine groups, labeled A through I, were recently reclassified District Reference Groups (DRGs) using updated data but the *same formula*.ⁱⁱ

Seven data indicators are used to classify similar districts into a DRG: three indicators of socioeconomic status (median family income¹, parental education¹ and parental occupation¹), three indicators of need (percentage of children living in families with a single parent¹, the percentage of public school children eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals² and percentage of children whose families speak a language other than English at home²) and enrollment (the number of students attending schools in that district²).ⁱⁱⁱ

The most affluent and low-need districts, as measured by these indicators, are grouped in DRG A while the poorest and highest need districts – including Connecticut’s five biggest cities – are grouped in DRG I. Following this new re-classification, many of the 169 school districts are in the DRG that corresponds to their former ERG classification (where DRGs A, B, C through I correspond respectively to ERGs A, B, C through I). Twenty-seven districts were reclassified into less affluent, higher need DRGs than their former ERGs, and 23 were reclassified into more affluent, lower need DRGs than their former ERGs.^{iv}

The composition of some reference groups changed little as a result of this new classification. DRG I comprises the seven districts that made up ERG I and includes no districts previously classified in other ERGs. Seventeen of the nineteen districts formerly in ERG B are now classified in DRG B. Nine of the twelve districts previously classified in ERG A are now classified in DRG A.

The composition of groups F and G changed most dramatically after the June 2006 re-classification. Only three districts that had been classified in ERG G remain in DRG G and only five former ERG F districts remain in DRG F. The table above indicates the number of districts in each (former) ERG, in each DRG and the number re-classified into the same reference group it was in before. The table on the reverse of this fact sheet indicates each district’s previous and new classification.

Reference Group	# of Districts in former ERG	# of Districts in current DRG	# of Districts in common
A	12	9	9
B	19	21	17
C	38	30	26
D	21	24	16
E	25	34	22
F	16	17	5
G	15	15	3
H	13	9	9
I	7	7	7

ⁱ Since the late 1970s, the Department has used Census and other data to classify districts, first in six groups and later seven.

ⁱⁱ Educational Reference Groups were designated using 1990 Census data while the new District Reference Groups were determined using 2000 Census data as well as updated enrollment data and a new indicator of poverty.

ⁱⁱⁱ The socioeconomic status and need data describe the resident population of the school district, which may not be the same population the district serves.

^{iv} It is important to note that districts are categorized relative to other districts using a statistical model, not according to absolute measures of socioeconomic status, need or enrollment, and that changes in DRG designation may reflect this relative status rather than a change in the data indicators.

1. Based on National Center for Educational Statistics census data from 2000 Census. 2. Based on Public School Information System.

ERG and DRG Comparison

Town	ERG	DRG	Change
Andover	C	C	-
Ansonia	H	H	-
Ashford	E	E	-
Avon	A	B	▼
Barkhamsted	C	C	-
Beacon Falls	Regional #16		
Berlin	D	D	-
Bethany	C	C	-
Bethel	B	D	▼
Bethlehem	Regional #14		
Bloomfield	F	G	▼
Bolton	C	C	-
Bozrah	C	E	▼
Branford	D	D	-
Bridgeport	I	I	-
Bridgewater	Regional #12		
Bristol	H	G	▲
Brookfield	B	B	-
Brooklyn	E	E	-
Burlington	Regional #10		
Canaan	E	E	-
Canterbury	E	F	▼
Canton	C	C	-
Chaplin	G	E	▲
Cheshire	B	B	-
Chester	E	E	-
Clinton	D	D	-
Colchester	D	D	-
Colebrook	E	E	-
Columbia	D	C	▲
Cornwall	C	C	-
Coventry	E	E	-
Cromwell	E	D	▲
Danbury	H	H	-
Darien	A	A	-
Deep River	C	E	▼
Derby	H	H	-
Durham	Regional #13		
East Granby	C	D	▼
East Haddam	E	E	-
East Hampton	D	D	-
East Hartford	H	H	-
East Haven	G	G	-
East Lyme	D	D	-
East Windsor	G	F	▲
Eastford	E	E	-
Easton	A	A	-
Ellington	C	C	-
Enfield	F	F	-
Essex	C	C	-
Fairfield	B	B	-
Farmington	B	B	-
Franklin	E	E	-
Glastonbury	B	B	-
Goshen	Regional #6		
Granby	B	B	-
Greenwich	B	B	-
Griswold	G	F	▲
Groton	F	G	▼
Guilford	B	B	-
Haddam	Regional #17		
Hamden	D	G	▼
Hampton	E	E	-

Town	ERG	DRG	Change
Hartford	I	I	-
Hartland	E	E	-
Harwinton	Regional #10		
Hebron	C	C	-
Kent	E	E	-
Killingly	H	G	▲
Killingworth	Regional #17		
Lebanon	E	E	-
Ledyard	C	D	▼
Lisbon	E	E	-
Litchfield	C	E	▼
Lyme	Regional #18		
Madison	B	B	-
Manchester	F	G	▼
Mansfield	C	C	-
Marlborough	B	C	▼
Meriden	H	H	-
Middlebury	Regional #15		
Middlefield	Regional #13		
Middletown	H	G	▲
Milford	F	D	▲
Monroe	B	B	-
Montville	F	F	-
Morris	Regional #6		
Naugatuck	F	G	▼
New Britain	I	I	-
New Canaan	A	A	-
New Fairfield	B	B	-
New Hartford	C	C	-
New Haven	I	I	-
New London	I	I	-
New Milford	D	D	-
Newington	D	D	-
Newtown	B	B	-
Norfolk	E	E	-
North Branford	D	E	▼
North Canaan	G	F	-
North Haven	D	D	-
North Stonington	E	E	-
Norwalk	H	H	-
Norwich	H	H	-
Old Lyme	Regional #18		
Old Saybrook	D	D	-
Orange	B	B	-
Oxford	C	C	-
Plainfield	G	G	-
Plainville	G	F	▲
Plymouth	G	F	▲
Pomfret	C	C	-
Portland	E	E	-
Preston	C	E	▼
Prospect	Regional #16		
Putnam	H	G	▲
Redding	A	A	-
Ridgefield	A	A	-
Rocky Hill	D	D	-
Roxbury	Regional #12		
Salem	C	C	-
Salisbury	C	E	▼
Scotland	E	E	-
Seymour	F	F	-
Sharon	E	E	-
Shelton	D	D	-

Town	ERG	DRG	Change
Sherman	C	C	-
Simsbury	A	B	▼
Somers	C	C	-
South Windsor	B	B	-
Southbury	Regional #15		
Southington	D	D	-
Sprague	G	F	▲
Stafford	G	F	▲
Stamford	H	H	-
Sterling	G	F	▲
Stonington	F	D	▲
Stratford	F	G	▼
Suffield	C	C	-
Thomaston	G	E	▲
Thompson	G	F	▲
Tolland	D	C	▲
Torrington	F	G	▼
Trumbull	B	B	-
Union	E	E	-
Vernon	F	G	▼
Voluntown	G	F	▲
Wallingford	F	D	▲
Warren	Regional #6		
Washington	Regional #12		
Waterbury	I	I	-
Waterford	F	D	▲
Watertown	D	D	-
West Hartford	B	B	-
West Haven	H	H	-
Westbrook	C	E	▼
Weston	A	A	-
Westport	A	A	-
Wethersfield	D	D	-
Willington	C	E	▼
Wilton	A	A	-
Winchester	G	G	-
Windham	I	I	-
Windsor	D	D	-
Windsor Locks	F	F	-
Wolcott	F	F	-
Woodbridge	A	B	▼
Woodbury	Regional #14		
Woodstock	C	E	▼

Regional District	ERG	DRG	Change
1	E	E	-
4	C	C	-
5	B	B	-
6	C	E	▼
7	C	C	-
8	C	C	-
9	A	A	-
10	C	C	-
11	E	F	▼
12	D	C	▲
13	C	C	-
14	C	C	-
15	C	B	▲
16	E	E	-
17	C	C	-
18	C	C	-
19	C	C	-

- ▲ Changed to More Affluent/Lower Need Reference Group
- ▼ Changed to Less Affluent/Higher Need Reference Group
- No Change

Note: Some towns that belong to regional districts are also assigned a reference group (e.g. Canaan, which is in regional district 1).