



**Eddie A. Perez**  
**Mayor**

**SETTING HIGHER READING GOALS**  
**MAYOR, SUPERINTENDENT, PRINCIPALS ENCOURAGE READING ON**  
**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**

**---NEWS RELEASE---**

(September 8, 2009)--- In honor of International Literacy Day--- a day set aside by the United Nations to promote reading worldwide--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez says that the City of Hartford also has reason to celebrate because Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) results are up two years in a row.

Mayor Perez, who also serves as a member of the Board of Education, says that the improvement in reading scores in particular demonstrate that reform and choice are working.

“We must continue our efforts to close the Achievement Gap and make our kids more competitive for colleges and jobs. Reading is crucial to the equation for success. By parents, educators, and students having input and setting more challenging academic goals and standards, we can continue this positive momentum,” says the Mayor.

Dr. Steven Adamowski, Superintendent for Hartford Public Schools, points out and applauds the significant progress made by Dwight Elementary School. Overall test scores were up 10.7%.

“Dwight is the first non-magnet school to demonstrate such a dramatic jump. This is especially important at the third grade level. Research has proven that if youngsters at this age are reading at grade level, they stand a 95 percent chance of graduating high school and going on to college. Higher education is our ultimate goal for our students,” adds Dr. Adamowski.

Stacey McCann, the Principal at Dwight Elementary is very proud of her students’ achievements and is inspiring her youngsters to set even higher reading goals.

“It takes a village to raise a child and through Dwight’s collective professional learning community, we made literacy our primary focus,” said Principal McCann.

On January 1, 2003, the U.N. General Assembly proclaimed the start of United Nations Literacy Decade. Educators and families around the globe are urged to read to children and promote the positive global effects of literacy.