



CHRONIC ABSENCE IN HAVERHILL SCHOOLS

TOM GRANNEMANN, BENCHMARKHAVERHILLSCHOOLS.COM

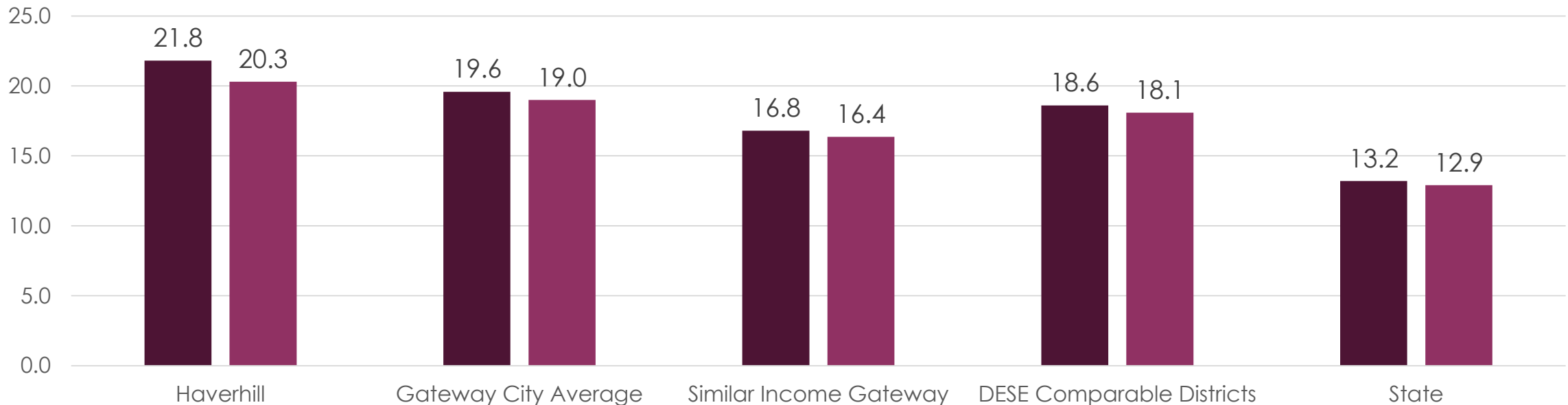


INTRODUCTION

- Chronic absences present a major barrier to learning for individuals and for classes.
- Haverhill, including the HPS administration has focused on this issue with its Attendance matters “School Every Day” campaign) launched in 2018 and family engagement efforts.
- Community groups, such as the Haverhill Education Coalition and Haverhill Promise have drawn attention to better attendance as a goal for Haverhill schools to facilitate learning and specifically reading to grade level by third grade.
- While it may be too soon to see the full effects of such evolving efforts, DESE on September 12, 2019 posts data on attendance for the 2018-19 school year. This presentation focuses on that data, by comparing attendance figures for 2018-19 with those of the previous school year.

HAVERHILL CHRONIC ABSENCES DROPPED TOWARD BENCHMARKS IN 2018-19

Percent with Chronic Absence (10% or more) 2017-18 and 2018-19



Source: DESE (Haverhill 2017-18 adjusted to include Silver Hill)

■ 2017-18 ■ 2018-19

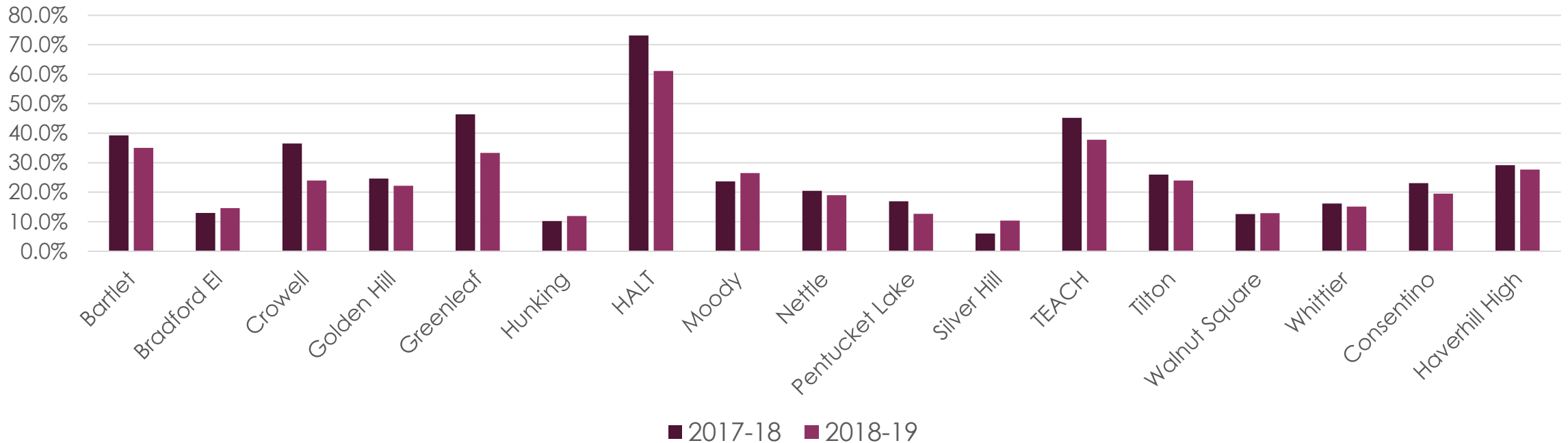
HAVERHILL ATTENDANCE MEASURES, 2017-18 & 2018-19

	Attendance Rate	Average # of Absences	Absent 10 or more days	Chronically Absent (10% or more)	Unexcused > 9 days
2017-18*	92.1	11.6	43.0	21.8	35.9
2018-19	93.3	11.5	41.7	20.3	35.8
Change	1.2	-0.1	-1.3	-1.5	-0.1

* Note: In this table all DESE HPS attendance measures for 2017-18 have been adjusted to include Sliver Hill so that the same schools are included in each period.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM DROPPED IN 12 OF 17 HAVERHILL SCHOOLS IN 2018-19

Chronic Absence, 2017-18 and 2018-19, by School



Source: DESE School and District Profiles 2019

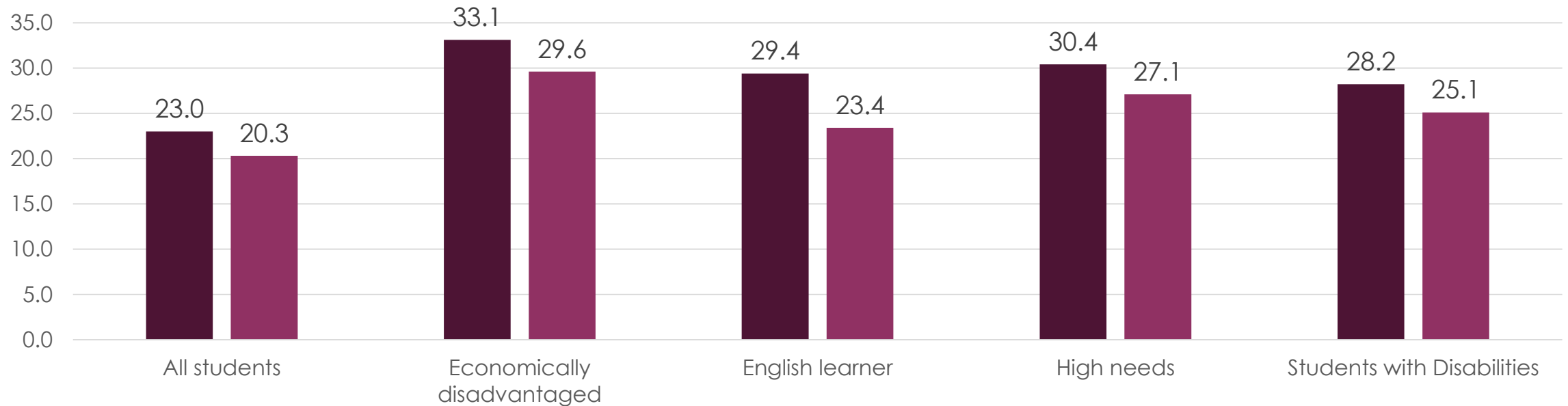
COMPUTED FROM DESE DATA FOR BENCHMARKHAVERHILLSCHOOLS.COM, SEPTEMBER 2019

NOTES ON SOURCES OF CHANGE

- **Including Silver Hill accounts for part, but only part, of the reported change.** Part of the HPS district change in chronic absence measures comes from the fact that Silver Hill with lower reported absences was included with HPS for 2018-19 but was in a separate district not included with HPS in DESE's 2017-18 figures. The figures reported in slide 2 comparing HPS with benchmarks (but not other slides) has been adjusted to include Silver Hill in the 2017-18 figures. Even after adjusting for Silver Hill, Haverhill ranks 6th among 26 Gateway Cities in reduced chronic absences for 2017-18 to 2018-19 school year.
- The schools contributing the most to the HPS district reductions in chronic absences were Consentino Middle school, Haverhill High, and Pentucket Lake; these were larger schools with reductions in chronic absences. Hunking and Silver Hill showed increased chronic absences offsetting some of the gains in other schools.
- Some of the smaller schools starting with the highest chronic absence rates (HALT, TEACH Greenleaf, Crowell) showed the greatest improvements.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM DROPPED FOR ALL TYPES OF STUDENTS

Haverhill Percent Chronically Absent (10% or more) 2017-18 & 2018-19

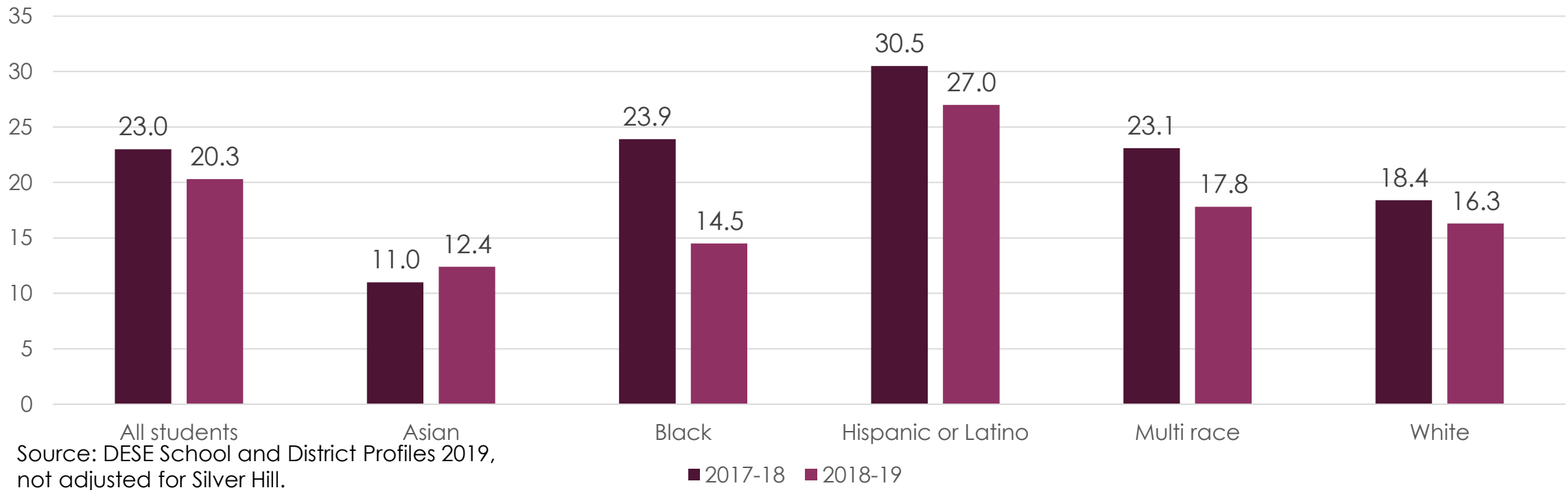


Source: DESE School and District Profiles 2019, not adjusted for Silver Hill.

■ 2017-18 ■ 2018-19

CHRONIC ABSENCE DROPPED FOR NEARLY EVERY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP

Haverhill Percent Chronically Absent, 2017-18 & 2018-19



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Chronic absenteeism, as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), dropped in Haverhill Public Schools in the 2018-19 school year.
- While Haverhill's chronic absentee rate was higher than benchmarks in 2017-18, the reduction in 2018-19 brought Haverhill closer to chronic absentee rates in comparable cities, (Gateway cities, similar income Gateway cities, and cities designated by DESE as similar in size and student characteristics).
- This drop was widespread across most schools, nearly all racial and ethnic groups, and for all major types of students as classified by DESE.
- The drop was greatest in groups and schools starting with higher absentee rates in 2017-18 and for students identified as black or multi racial.