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Stamford Public Schools (SPS) values open and frequent communication with and among staff, families and members of the community. In an effort to ensure that we reach the right audiences with the most relevant messages, SPS uses a variety of communication tools. Please review the following to identify the methods most important to you and to ensure you are receiving them.



What mode of communication?	What kind of information?	How do I ensure I receive it?
<b>Broadcast Message Phone Call</b> 	The district uses phone calls during school day or early mornings for emergency or urgent issues, such as a school closure or delay. The district or your student's school may send phone calls in the early evening for general information, absence notifications, lunch account balances or other reminders. (Elementary families may get absence notifications during the school day, to ensure a family knows when a young child is not in school.)	Make sure your contact information is accurate in our Student Information System by accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal and updating your information as necessary or by contacting your student's school to update.
<b>Broadcast Message Email</b> 	The district and/or your student's school sends email messages to families for urgent issues, such as a school closure or delays, as well as for general news, information or reminders.	Make sure your contact information is accurate in our Student Information System by accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal and updating your information as necessary, or by contacting your student's school to update.
<b>Website Urgent Alert</b> 	The district uses the Urgent Alert feature of the website to announce school closures, early releases or delayed openings due to inclement weather or other emergencies. The alert shows the information in red across the district homepage as well as on each of the school's website homepages. An email is pushed out to alert a subscriber to the posting. Schools may use this feature for emergencies pertaining to their building only. The notice will only be displayed on that schools homepage.	Subscribe to Urgent Alerts on the district's homepage. Visit the district homepage if you anticipate an emergency – be sure to refresh your web browser so you are not looking at a cached version.
<b>Website News and District Alerts</b> 	The district and schools use the News and Announcements feature of the district and/or school websites to share news, messages from administrators, reminders and other announcements. As long as the webmaster posts to e-subscribers, an email is pushed out to alert a subscriber to the posting.	Subscribe to News and Announcements for the district as well as for your student's school by using the link on the district's homepage.
<b>Remind</b> 	School Administrators and teachers use the Remind app to send SMS (text) messages to families regarding school or classroom-specific information. Families can receive and respond to Remind notifications in their language of choice.	Teachers and School Administrators will receive access automatically. Parents will be automatically enrolled in the program, but will have the ability to opt out of Remind communications if they choose to.
<b>Google Classroom</b>  Google Classroom	Teachers utilize Google Classroom to post assignments, reminders, schedules directly for student access. Google Classroom also contains a message board feature which teachers can use to communicate with their class.	Students will automatically receive access to a google account and to google classroom.
<b>PowerSchool Parent Portal</b> 	Parents can access student's grades, report cards, schedules, bus information, and forms that require signing. Parents should set up a PowerSchool Parent Portal account for their family where they can access information on any of their students and utilize it to update contact information.	Parents should contact their student's school for assistance in setting up/accessing the portal. Parents can also create an account by using the following link: <a href="https://sis.stamfordpublicschools.org/public/home.html">https://sis.stamfordpublicschools.org/public/home.html</a>

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<p><b>Superintendent's Weekly Message</b></p> 	<p>Each week the Superintendent sends a message to staff and families that summarizes important or upcoming information. The district pushes the message out through the broadcast e-mail system (English and Spanish) and posts as a news item on the district website. (English, Spanish and Haitian Creole)</p>	<p>Parents with up-to-date email addresses in PowerSchool will receive the messages directly. Parents who are also subscribed to news on the district website will receive an email with a link. Parents can go directly to the district website to read the message each week.</p>
<p><b>Social Media</b></p> 	<p>The district uses the Stamford Public School Facebook page and @spssuper twitter account to reinforce messages and post photos of events.</p>	<p>Like Stamford Public Schools facebook page and follow @spssuper on Twitter.</p>
<p><b>Parent Pop-Up Webinars</b></p> 	<p>The district schedules webinars on relevant or emerging topics as needed, in order to provide families with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of an issue and to ask questions. Pop-Ups are available in English and Spanish and are posted online for later viewing.</p>	<p>Subscribe to district news and announcements to know when Pop-Up Webinars are scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Flyers (powered by PeachJar)</b></p> 	<p>Community organizations who are not-for-profit, 501C3-designated organizations can submit electronic flyers sharing information about their services or upcoming events. Typically, the district reviews/approves these flyers on Fridays. Peachjar pushes out a link. Schools and PTO organizations can also submit electronic flyers for distribution to families.</p>	<p>Families, for whom we have email addresses, will receive an email with a link to community flyers on a weekly basis. Families may receive links to school flyers more often. Families can access all flyers at any time from the link on the front page of their school's website.</p>
<p><b>School Communications/ Newsletter</b></p> 	<p>School leaders send regular communications to their families. The method used varies by school. All schools are encouraged to use the News subscriber feature of their website in addition to any other method they utilize.</p>	<p>Parents should make sure the PowerSchool Parent Portal has their more up-to-date information.</p>
<p><b>Printed Materials</b></p> 	<p>The district and individual schools are striving to reduce our environmental footprint by limiting the printed materials we distribute.</p>	<p>If a family does not have access to a computer or device for accessing materials, they should request printed copies from their school.</p>
<p><b>Shout Outs</b></p> 	<p>Weekly message highlighting positive accomplishments of staff and students submitted by the individual schools.</p>	<p>Subscribe to district news and announcements to receive email with link. Visit district website to see post.</p>
<p><b>News Media (3rd party)</b></p> 	<p>News stories in print, online or broadcast media are not official communications from the district. While these outlets may cover positive stories about our district, they may also be incomplete or inaccurate. Always check with the district or your student's school for the most up-to-date and accurate information.</p>	<p>Parents should not rely on 3rd party communication for facts about the district or a specific school.</p>
<p><b>First View</b></p> 	<p>Launching in November 2021, First View is an application/tool that allows parents to quickly access the location of their student's bus and estimated time of arrival to the bus stop. It is accessible on a mobile app or on a desktop computer.</p>	<p>More information will be shared as details are finalized.</p>