

Magnet Schools in Stamford: Programs and Admissions Procedures

Stamford Public Schools

October 21, 2021
7:00p.m.



Stamford Public Schools Mission Statement

- The mission of the Stamford Public Schools is to provide an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body and heart in every student.



Mind

- Critical
- Self regulating
- Creative



Heart

- Emotional health
- Good character
- Positive decisions



Body

- Active lifestyle
- Healthy choices
- Self care



Magnet Schools in Stamford

- To manage enrollment and the district's integration standard through educational choice.
- Board of Education Policy 5117 and 5117.2



Instructional Programs in Stamford's Elementary Schools

- All instructional programs are guided by Connecticut standards.
- Expectations for student performance are standards based and instruction is geared to rigorously meeting these standards.
- Students are expected to perform at grade level or above in class work and assessments, and learn skills for college readiness.
- Class sizes range between 20 and 25, with most classes at 21.
- Teachers are highly qualified; 89% hold a Master's Degree or higher.
- Thematic approaches characterize the instructional program.

Magnet
Schools (5)



District
Schools (8)



Core Themes in Stamford's Magnet Elementary Schools

- **Hart**
 - Math, Science, Technology
- **Rogers**
 - International Baccalaureate, IB
- **Strawberry Hill, An Extension of Rogers**
 - International Baccalaureate, IB
- **Toquam**
 - Social Studies, Bank Street/core curriculum, AVID
- **Westover**
 - Mastery Learning, Arts and Problem Solving (M.A.P.S.), Yale RULER



How Does the SPS Lottery Work?

- Stamford does not have a “pure” lottery system.
- Stamford’s lottery is “controlled” to achieve the integration standard set forth by the Board of Education.
- Stamford’s “controlled” lottery uses the following order for student selection:
 - Students residing in attendance area of magnet school
 - Students with siblings in magnet school at the same time
 - Students residing in preference areas
 - All other students
- Two lists are generated from the lottery applications to achieve the purpose of the magnet schools – an educationally disadvantaged and an educationally non-disadvantaged list.



A Comparison of a “Pure” Lottery and a “Controlled” Lottery

Random Lottery Number	Student	Student Group	Adjusted Pure Lottery	Controlled Lottery
1	A	All other lottery students	1	5
2	B	Attendance Area	2	1
3	C	Sibling	3	2
4	D	Sibling	4	3
5	E	Preferred Area	5	4



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Admission Procedures for Kindergarten at Hart, Rogers, Strawberry Hill, Toquam, and Westover

Hart 5 Classes	Rogers 4 Classes	Strawberry Hill 5 Classes	Toquam 5 Classes	Westover 6 Classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings from Preference Area 1* • Students from Preference Area 1* • Siblings from Preference Area 2* • Students from Preference Area 2* • Other Siblings • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All siblings • Students from Preference Area 1* • Students from Preference Area 2* • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • All other students district-wide

*Streets included in Preference Areas 1 and 2 are posted on the Stamford Public Schools website.



Admission Procedures for Grades 1-5 at Hart, Rogers, Strawberry Hill, Toquam, and Westover

- Seats in grades 1-8 will be filled by June 2022, based on availability, as informed by plans of current students to return in 2022-23.



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How Do I Apply to a Magnet School?



Application Procedures for Magnet Schools

- Attend or view orientation meetings at each magnet school of interest to obtain more information. The orientation schedules and recorded sessions for all magnet schools are posted on the Stamford Public Schools website: www.stamfordpublicschools.org under Magnet Schools.
- Complete and submit an online application. You can apply to all elementary magnet schools on one application.
- Online applications for the elementary school magnets, and middle school at Strawberry Hill K-7 and Rogers K-8, are due Monday, November 15, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
- The lottery for the elementary magnets, and middle magnets at Strawberry Hill 6,7 and Rogers 6-8, will be drawn on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.



Questions & Answers

Q1: To how many elementary magnet schools may I apply?

A1: You may apply to all five elementary magnet schools.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Hart | Grades K-5 |
| 2. Rogers | Grades K-8 |
| 3. Strawberry Hill | Grades K-7 |
| 4. Toquam | Grades K-5 |
| 5. Westover | Grades K-5 |

Q2: How do I apply to magnet schools?

A2: You apply by attending or viewing orientation meeting(s) at the magnet schools website and by completing a common online magnet application form for these schools. You can apply to all elementary magnets on one application.

Scotfield Magnet Middle School has a separate application. Paper forms will be available.



Questions & Answers

Q3: What is the deadline for applications?

A3: For Elementary, Strawberry Hill K-7, and Rogers K-8 Magnet Schools: Online applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2021.

For Scofield: Online applications will be accepted until 4:00p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

For AITE: Online applications will be accepted until 4:00p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

When will the lottery be held?

Q4: For Elementary Magnet Schools: The lottery will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

A4: For Scofield: The lottery will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

For AITE: The lottery will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Do I have to be present at the lottery?

Q5: No. You do not have to be present. Your lottery number will not be affected if you do not attend the drawing.

A5:



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Questions & Answers

- When the elementary lottery is drawn on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 , emails will be sent to all families.
- The emails will let families know if their children are invited to a magnet school. If not invited, the emails will include waiting list numbers. Waiting list numbers will be updated as families decline a magnet school invitation.
- Families who accept an invitation to a magnet school will have until Tuesday, **January 18, 2022** to accept a magnet seat and register at the selected magnet school.
- **Families who do not accept and register by the deadline will lose the magnet seat.**
- To complete registration, families will be required to submit a birth certificate, two proofs of residency and health documents.



Questions & Answers

Q6: What if I am invited to a magnet school that is not my first choice?

A6: You have a choice.

- If you accept, your child's name will be taken off all other magnet school lists to which you applied.
- If you decline, your child's name will remain on all other magnet school lists to which you applied.

Q7: How can I stay informed?

A7: Magnet school information is posted regularly on the Stamford Public Schools website, www.stamfordpublicschools.org

You can email spslottery@stamfordct.gov or call 203-977-4198 with any questions.



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Submitting a Lottery Application

To learn more about the SPS Lottery process and to submit an application to the SPS Lottery:

1. Go to the Stamford Public School District's website at www.stamfordpublicschools.org
2. Select the Magnet School Information quick link button.



The screenshot shows the Stamford Public Schools website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the school district's logo and name, "Stamford Public Schools EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT". Below the navigation bar is a large banner with a photo of a young boy looking at a laptop. The banner text reads: "SCHOOL STARTS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020! STAMFORD RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT SCHOOL GROUNDS AND CAMPUSES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES." Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for Home, Information, Schools, District, Parents, Staff, and Community. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a "Choose Stamford Schools!" section with a "COVID-19 Reopening Information" button. Below this is a "Stamford Quick Links" section with a grid of buttons. A red arrow points to the "Magnet School Information" button in the grid. On the right, there is a "District News" section with several news items, including "Reminder: Stamford Public Schools Magnet School Lottery Applications Are Available: Deadline for Elementary Schools is Monday, November 16" and "SPS Shout Outs". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with copyright information and contact details.



Submitting a Lottery Application

3. Then select the Elementary School Lottery Application (English/Spanish).

Home ← ↻

Magnet Schools

Stamford Public Schools has a total of 13 elementary schools which includes one K-6 and one K-8 school, five of which are magnet programs. Stamford has five middle schools and three high schools. One middle and one high school are magnet schools. Stamford's magnet schools offer educational choices to parents through innovative programs of theme-based instruction. All other schools enroll students based on residence. Details about each school's programs are available on the individual school websites.

Scroll Down for Application Links

General Magnet Information

- Hart, Toquam, Westover, and Scofield Magnet Middle School are local magnet schools and enroll students from all parts of Stamford by a lottery process.
- Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE), Rogers International School and Strawberry Hill, an extension of Rogers International, are Interdistrict Magnet Schools and invite students from Stamford and the surrounding towns. Strawberry Hill opened in September 2016 and enrolled students in kindergarten and grade one, with one grade added each year thereafter. In 2022-2023, Strawberry Hill will include grades K-7. Rogers and Strawberry Hill have preferred areas for admission (see below).
 - Rogers International School Preferred Areas 1 and 2
 - Strawberry Hill Preferred Area 1

For a full description of the Stamford Public Schools Magnet Lottery School Application process please click the link on the left to read our SPS Board of Education Policy on Magnet Schools. **Lottery applications will be available beginning Wednesday, September 15, 2021. All orientation meetings will be held virtually.** All applications submitted by the published deadlines will be included in the lottery draw. This lottery does not operate on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Elementary, K-7, and K-8 Magnet Applications:

The lottery will remain open until 4:00p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2021

- Click the link below to apply to Hart, Toquam, Westover, Rogers International grades K-5, and/or Strawberry Hill grades K-5.
 - Elementary School Lottery Application
 - Solicitud de loteria de escuela primaria magnet
- Click the link below to apply for Rogers International grades 6-8 and/or Strawberry Hill grades 6-7.
 - Rogers (Grades 6-8 and/or Strawberry Hill (Grades 6-7) Middle School Application
 - Solicitud de loteria de la escuela Rogers Middle (6-8) / Strawberry Hill (Grades 6-7)

District Map & School List

- Rogers International School Preferred Areas 1 and 2
- SPS Board of Education Policy on Magnet Schools
- School Look-Up
- Strawberry Hill Preferred Area 1

Contact Info

Hours of Operation:
8:00a.m.-4:00p.m. by appointment only due to COVID-19 restrictions or you can email us anytime at spslottery@stamfordct.gov

Phone:
(203) 977-4198 Carol Zezima
(203) 977-5440 Elaine Zehren

Address:
Office of School Development/Family and Community Engagement
888 Washington Blvd.
Government Center - 5th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901
United States
See map: [Google Maps](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How do students apply to the magnet schools?

What is the timeline for applications?

What is the difference between magnet and districted schools?

How can I learn more about the magnet schools?

What are the next steps?

[View all](#)

Quick Links

- Hart Magnet School
- Toquam Magnet School



Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in the Stamford Public Schools and our Magnet Schools.

spslottery@stamfordct.gov

203-977-4198

Please submit applications by the
November 15th deadline at:

www.stamfordpublicschools.org

