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

SPS is a learning organization that continuously improves its effective, innovative and transformational teaching and learning. Our vision is to challenge, inspire and prepare all students to be productive contributing members of society.
Looking back at the 2021-2022 school year, it is exciting to recognize some of the innovative changes that were a direct result of the unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic. Many of our teachers have shifted their approach to instruction to maximize the opportunities presented by 1:1 technology and project-based learning. In response to parent feedback regarding communications, our communities have adopted the Remind App, and we have redesigned our website district-wide. In anticipation of the unforeseen and lasting influences that are being experienced by our children, we are shifting resources and allocating new ones to areas like personalized learning and mental health. While COVID-19 may have adjusted our focus and priorities, our district continued to move forward and accomplish so much.

Just look to page 7 to see the inspiring accomplishments of our students and staff. These are but a snapshot of a much longer list of successes. The strength of our district comes from our community. Our foundation is in our amazing staff who work with our students every day and keep our schools and offices open and running. Our families and community partners are the cement that binds us all together. In recent years, we have established a true partnership between our schools and our neighborhoods, with the collaborative spirit continuing to grow for the good of all. Just look to page 9 to see a real-time example. I am thrilled to share the details of our latest initiative “Career Pathways”. A true game changer in the education experience, the benefits and opportunities only made possible because of our partnerships with local businesses.

On page 16 you will find an overview of the proposed 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan. Throughout the Spring of 2022, thousands of feedback points were collected during numerous engagement events, including public input sessions, staff meetings, and conversations with community partners. The result will be the development of a more robust strategic plan for 2022-2027 that not only builds on past successes and the innovations of recent years but will reinvigorate stakeholders and inspire us to be a model for others.

We are all partners in the education process. I don’t often find myself quoting Aristotle’s Metaphysics, but it is true that “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts”. As we return to school for another school year, take the time to notice the extra effort that so many of our staff members offer on a daily basis. Thank you to so many of our community members for sharing their time and talents with our school community. I am grateful for all of you and inspired by all that we can do for our students when we come together as a community.
Introducing Career Connected Learning

Challenging, inspiring and preparing the workforce of the future

SPS is innovating to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the foundation needed to achieve long-term career goals. Career Connected Learning helps students adapt classroom learning to the real world and develop the knowledge, skills, and mindset to thrive in work, career and community.

In recent years, SPS has expanded its focus on Career Connected Learning, offering both inter-district and intra-district programs like Westhill’s Academy of Finance and the Information System’s focused Early College Studies at Stamford High. Starting in Fall 2022, SPS will be offering 12 Career Pathways across its three high schools. Each Pathway includes resources similar to:

• Sequential HS courses
• Recommended clubs and organizations
• Hands-on elective courses

and after-school experiences

• Opportunities to engage with business and industry partners
• Workforce Certifications
• Shadow days, mentoring and internship opportunities
• Future career guidance

“Our goal is to help SPS students graduate from high school with a purpose, with a toolbox of knowledge and experiences and a clearer idea of how a post-secondary education or on-the-job training will help them achieve their long-term career goals.” Dr. Claudia Berlage, SPS Assistant Principal responsible for Career Pathways.

Preparing our students to succeed in a rapidly transforming economy means building a system that offers multiple pathways to bright futures.
Career Pathways reimagines the education experience, offering students the opportunity to investigate multiple pathways and potential careers that align with their skills and passions. Students have the opportunity to simultaneously investigate an interest in carpentry, while taking an Advanced Placement course in World History. Through expanded opportunities and partnerships with local employers, SPS students will be learning and working side-by-side with industry leaders and innovators. Career Pathway courses are offered at all three district high schools. In addition, SPS Middle Schools continue to expand focus and offer more opportunities for enrichment and awareness of careers in emerging professions like information systems, digital design and interactive communications. Career Pathways empowers every student to be career and life ready.

CHALLENGE
Every student should have a unique dream for the future

INSPIRE
Encourage the dream by exposing students to a broad range of jobs and career options

PREPARE
Teach the skills and knowledge needed to achieve the dream
Stamford Public Schools is partnering with FinTron, a Stamford-based Fintech company, to pilot their Financial Literacy EdTech software in the Cooperative Work Education program and in Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship courses. Students from all three high schools will have the opportunity to work through interactive industry-based content modules and then apply their learning through a real-time simulated stock trading program. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to access career readiness modules and activities and apply their learning during a shadow day at FinTron Headquarters in Stamford. The engagement will conclude with a FinTron-run Stock Market challenge.

**PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE PUSHING BOUNDARIES…**

In partnership with the North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund, SPS now offers students the opportunity to earn credentials equating to the first year of a four-year carpenter apprenticeship, while still in high school. This will amount to a participant earning an advancement up to a second-year Apprentice, as specified in the Articulation Agreement, and command a wage of $19.56/hour and fringe benefits valued at $14.60/hour for a total compensation rate of $34.16 an hour*. (*Next Adjustment anticipated for May 1, 2022)

**AVAILABLE PATHWAYS**

Stamford Public Schools is engaged with the State of Connecticut and the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T) in a three-year cohort to develop and implement a Pathway System over the course of several years. A Pathway System is the coordinated interaction of key components – career development, pathway programs, dynamic teaching and learning, employer and community engagement, and cross-sector partnerships designed to develop a high level of career and life readiness among youths and in schools, colleges, workforce programs and across the broader community, resulting in enhanced workforce competitiveness and community prosperity.
Recognition

Staff and students have been recognized across the state and country for their efforts of community, academics and research.

► AITE science teacher, Danielle Weber, was named Project Lead The Way (PLTW) National Teacher of the Year for the Biomedical Program.

► United Way of Western Connecticut has announced that Breana Chery and Dante Ayers, both students at AITE, were the recipients of the Roberta K. Eichler Heart of Gold Scholarship for 2022.

► Hart Magnet’s Ms. Wendy Tang was recognized by the Connecticut Teacher Residency Program as a Mentor Spotlight Recipient.

► Rebecca Wilson, SPS Coordinator for College & Career Readiness, was selected as the 2022 Administrator of the Year by the Connecticut School Counselor Association (CSCA).

► Mr. Robert Fox of Northeast Elementary school was Project Green Schools 2022 Green Difference Award winner for STEM and the Future of Sustainability.

► Alyssa Bogdanowicz, Strawberry Hill’s IEP Compliance Team Leader, was selected as a participant in the 2022-2023 Connecticut Aspiring Leadership Academy for Special Education.

► Julia A. Starks’ fourth grade classes led by Mr. Specht and Mrs. Calorossi finished first and second in the State of Connecticut for questions answered correctly in the Sumdog USA National Winter Math Contest! They placed 32nd and 33rd for the United States.

► Stamford High School’s student publication, The Round Table (shsroundtable.com), was recognized with a prestigious Crown Award at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s 98th annual Scholastic Convention.

► SHS seniors, Claire Cody and Selma Fuseni won first place nationally in the “best interview” category by the National Federation of Press Women for their reporting for Stamford High’s The Round Table.

► Westhill yearbook students - with guidance and support from Ms. Tobin - produced a yearbook that was recognized as one of five “most outstanding high school yearbooks” in the country by the American Scholastic Press Association.

► The Stamford High Strawberry Hill Players received 10 Halo Awards nominations! For 19 years, Seven Angels Theatre has been supporting and rewarding over 80 Connecticut High School Theaters with the HALO Awards.

► WHS FBLA students Eden Cheung, Camila Cordon, Maya Snead, William Snead, and Michele Pannone participated in the Intuit Social Intervention challenge, finishing first in the region and third in the Nationals.

► Arnav Grover, a Junior at AITE, has won first-place in the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) World Series of Innovation, Saint-Gobain Sustainable Cities Challenge. The World Series of Innovation is an annual innovation challenge series focused on advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

► The SIFMA Foundation, sponsor of The Stock Market Game, announced that Roy Cruz of Westhill High School placed first in the Connecticut High School Division.

► SHS English Teacher Mr. Jon Ringel was named 2022 SPS Teacher of the Year.
Good citizenship

SPS communities encourage students to lead an active lifestyle and model good citizenship.

► APPLES PreSchool received renewal of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation. The APPLES School Readiness Classroom received an exemplary score from the National Association of the Young Child!

► Strawberry Hill School was named an Official CT Green Leaf Certified School. The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program is a collaboration with CT Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEEA) and EdAdvance and is supported by the CT Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health, and Construction Services, as well as many environmental and educational organizations to promote green and healthy schools for all.

► Stillmeadow Elementary School collaborated with the Mark Twain IB School from Bucharest, Romania to teach students from both schools about being global citizens. During Stillmeadow’s 2022 Multicultural Week, partners visited from Romania and met our teachers and students, learning about our diverse perspectives and opportunities for a global collaboration.

► The New England League of Middle Schools named Scofield Magnet Middle School as a Spotlight School. One of only 12 in Connecticut, Scofield was commended as a leader in promoting middle level best practices by providing collaborative learning experiences that support students’ academic, social, and emotional growth and success.

► Stamford High celebrated the completion of the newly renovated courtyard with the unveiling of a Pollinator Mural Project. Sponsored by SHS FOSH, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development-Office of the Arts, the Rotary Club of Stamford, Donors Choose, and Rocky’s Ace Hardware, the pollinator mural project was directed by Module Downer and Kim Wheeler of the SHS Visual Art Department and International Baccalaureate Program. Designed by student Zachary Trudeau and reimagined by muralist Suzanne Bellehumeur of Mural Interiors, the pollinator-themed mural is designed to educate and inspire everyone to be better gatekeepers of our environment.
Throughout the month of October students across the district showed their productive habits of mind, body and heart by wearing pink and raising funds and awareness for breast cancer and in support of the Stamford Hospital’s Paint the Town Pink campaign.

SPS Anchor students and staff celebrated Earth day by planting a tree and flowers. The active learning experience was a great way to bring classroom learning and community service together for the benefit of all!

Stillmeadow Elementary School challenged each other to illustrate productive habits of body and heart while raising thousands of dollars for the Kids Heart Challenge!

Davenport Ridge Elementary community collected hundreds of coats for community partner Backyard Humanitarians.

The Roxbury Elementary School community held food drives in partnership with local non-profit Filling in the Blanks.

Scofield student government collected over 1,500 cans of soup and/or canned goods for the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County during the annual “SOUPerbowl” drive.

The first annual SHS UKnighted Nation Thanksgiving Food Drive filled 100 bags of food, including 140 grocery store gift cards and 100 loaves of pumpkin bread donated by the group Kids Helping Kids.

AITE students from the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club mentored students in grades 1-4 at the Stamford Boys and Girls Club.

The SHS/WHS Boys Hockey Team handed out 150 Teddy Bears to Stamford children at the Boys and Girls Club.

Schools across the district showed their school spirit in support of Ukraine. Roxbury hosted a “Change for Ukraine” fundraiser, Stark’s ART Team invited all classroom teachers and students to join in a “United With Ukraine” campaign to display art proudly and WHS Multicultural Student Union and Interact Club organized an assembly featuring guest speakers, live-spoken word poetry, and a representative from the Ukrainian-American Association.
Student Demographics

Enrollment - 16,709 students

**2022 BY THE NUMBERS**

**Student Demographics**

| Enrollment - 16,709 students |

**85.4%**

GRADUATION RATE
(2021 - Most recent data available)

**54.39%**

Free / Reduced Lunch

**1%**

Suspension / Expulsion Rate
(state average is 1.4%)

**15.62%**

Students Identified with Disabilities (Special Education)*

**19.2%**

Percentage of Students Chronically Absent
(state average is 19%)**

**13.62%**

English Language Learners

**70**

Languages spoken in student homes

*Students with disabilities are students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in the district where they are enrolled. ** Compared to a typical school year prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPS, like districts across the nation, experienced a rise in chronic absenteeism. | (Source: PDS Jun-2022 Collection)

**TOP 10**

Most Common Languages spoken by students at the Stamford Public Schools:

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian-Creole
- Bengali
- Polish
- Ukrainian
- Russian
- Portuguese
- Hindi

**School Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Magnet Schools</th>
<th>International Baccalaureate Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source for data on page: Connecticut State Department of Education)
Student Achievement

Stamford Public Schools, like urban districts across the country, experienced many teaching and learning challenges during the pandemic. Standardized testing resumed in the 2021-2022 school year and SPS saw a decrease in achievement scores compared to our pre-pandemic scores of 2018-2019. As recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education, we will use the 2021-2022 scores as a new baseline, analyze the data at the district, school and classroom level and implement tactics to achieve goals set for the 2022-2023 school year.

- Average SAT score for top 10% - 1380 (top 94th percentile nationally)
- 102 students earned a Seal of Biliteracy (15 languages including Albanian, Arabic, Creole, French, Georgian, Italian, Marathi, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Tagalog and Ukrainian)
- 1,555 AP exams taken (66% scoring at a three or better)
- According to the CT Report Card, Stamford’s College and Career Readiness Course Taking rate was 86.7% in 2020-21.

Staff Demographics

1,557 certified FTE (teachers and student support staff)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Central Office</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrators, Coordinators and Directors</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Nurses</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education - Teachers</td>
<td>1,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education - Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education - Teachers and Instructors</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education - Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10:1 Student to Staff Ratio

51.3% of staff hold a Master’s Degree or Higher

95.6% of staff also call Stamford HOME

Stamford Public Schools Hired

198 SEA New Hires for 2021-2022

- 20% of SEA new hires are Stamford graduates themselves
- 15.2% reported being bilingual in at least one other language. Languages include:
  - Albanian
  - Bengali
  - Creole
  - French
  - Hindi
  - Hungarian
  - Italian
  - Mandarin
  - Portuguese
  - Russian
  - Sign Language
  - Spanish
  - Tamil
  - Tagalog
  - Ukrainian
Food Service

707,324
Breakfasts

1,621,386
Lunches

Meals provided to students to address needs five days per week for all students 18 and under.

Transportation

14,000
Students Eligible for Bus Service
(an 8% increase since 2020)

During the 2021-2022 school year, our routes were impacted by the nationwide driver shortage. Routes were combined to compensate, but on-time rates remained above 85%.
Facilities
(Source: Stamford Asset Management Group)

22 School and Program Sites

3M+ Sq. Ft of building space

300+ Acres of Property

$6M in operating budget for operations and maintenance.

$5.5M in capital.

Strawberry Hill School’s C. J. Starr Barn and Carriage House is a historic estate outbuilding renovated in 2021. It is a large, one and a half story, wood frame structure with elegant Italianate scrolled woodwork on the exterior that was restored. The barn was built c. 1860 by C. J. Starr as part of a larger country estate, of which this is the only surviving building. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS #79002623). The space will serve as a multiple purpose space for the Strawberry Hill school community.
# Financials

## $344,139,069 Total 2021-22 Operating & Grant Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Stamford- Operating Budget</td>
<td>$293,586,146</td>
<td>85.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>$25,961,119</td>
<td>7.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>$24,158,019</td>
<td>7.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private and Other Grants and Income</td>
<td>$433,785</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating &amp; Grant Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$344,139,069</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Breakdown of Operating & Grant Budget

- **Supplies, Materials & Heating Fuels**: $6,595,575
- **Equipment**: $1,092,685
- **Dues & Fees**: $191,209
- **Salaries/Wages**: $206,702,176
- **Building, Upkeep and Repair**: $8,030,331
- **Educational, Rehabilitative, & Legal Services**: $15,938,309
- **Transportation, Out of District Tuition & Other Services**: $50,165,315
- **Employee Benefits**: $53,423,469

### Per Pupil Expenditure

- **Stamford Public Schools**: $20,597 (Source: Fairfield County NCEP 2020-21)
- **Fairfield County**: $21,000
- **$19,641** average Per Pupil Expenditure at Stamford Public Schools

(Additional images showing children learning and engaging in activities.)
Our Graduates have Bright Futures!

SPS GRADUATES OUTPACE THE CT STATE AVERAGE BY 8% IN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING TWO OR MORE COLLEGES AND CAREER READINESS COURSES BEFORE GRADUATION.
A preview of the
Stamford Public Schools
2022-2027 Strategic Plan

Throughout the Spring of 2022, SPS conducted community conversations, open discussions and surveys to gather feedback from staff, students and community members. The resulting framework will guide our district for the next five years.

Priorities identified and/or reaffirmed by the community include:

- Prioritize Academic Achievement and Improve the Educational Model for All Students, including Struggling and High Achievers
- Increase and Improve Communications
- Strengthen the Culture of Inclusion
- Enhance Community Engagement and Collaboration
- Maintain Fiscally Responsible Budgeting
- Expand Equity of Access for all Students
- Gather Community Input on a Regular Basis
- Improve and Ensure School Safety
- Implement a Long-term Master Facilities Plan
- Implement National and International Best Practices in Education and Encourage Innovation in Everything We Do