

SPS QUARTERLY

Stamford Public Schools | Stamford, CT

Spring 2024

Welcome to the Spring 2024 SPS Quarterly, a publication created to keep our community-based organizations and partners, City Board members and staff, faith-based organizations, business leaders and the community at large informed about what's happening in Stamford Public Schools.

Dr. Tamu Lucero
Superintendent
Stamford Public Schools



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2024-25 Operating Budget

On Thursday, May 2, the Stamford Board of Representatives voted to approve the FY25 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$330,737,756, a 5.48 percent increase over FY24. This is the culmination of a process that began in January when the Superintendent's proposed operating budget was presented to the BOE. We truly appreciate the thought and care that the Boards of Education, Finance, and Representatives took when considering the District's financial needs. The final approved budget will enable us to continue providing the quality programs and services that our students need to achieve their academic potential, and will preserve most

most positions that had been funded via the expiring COVID-era Federal Relief Grants. Thank you to everyone in the community who voiced their support for the budget.

Graduation and Moving Up Ceremonies

It is hard to believe, but graduation and moving up celebrations are just a few short weeks away!! Please mark your calendars and be sure to check individual school websites for start times and rain contingencies.

Monday, June 10

Davenport
KT Murphy
Newfield
Rogers
Roxbury
Springdale
Toquam

Tuesday, June 11

Hart Magnet
Northeast
Stark
Stillmeadow
Strawberry Hill
Westover

Friday, June 14

Cloonan
Dolan
Turn of River
Scofield
Rippowam

High School Graduation Ceremonies:

Friday, June 14

Stamford High: 2 pm
Westhill: 2 pm
AITE: 3 pm



May is Mental Health Month

Throughout the month of May, SPS is highlighting resources available to help children and teens build resilience, self-care strategies, and stress-management skills. Dr. Michael Fernandes and several principals recently provided the BOE with an update on the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) System, a social emotional skills (SEL) assessment provided to districts at no cost by the State of CT.

DESSA is used to inform intervention planning and SEL instruction, and our schools use a variety of other evidence-based programs - including Responsive Classroom, Open Circle, and RULER - to help students develop critical social-emotional skills. Making SEL a part of each school's culture is part of District-wide efforts to support student mental health.



Summer School Information

We're gearing up to offer the SPS Summer School Program, a by invitation program, which features academic support programs for students in 1-3 and credit recovery for students in grades 9-12. Additional summer programs include the New Arrivals program for English learners (grades 1-3 and 9-12) and the Extended School Year (ESY) program for qualifying special education students in PreK-12.

Please see our website for complete details about Summer School, including dates, times, and locations.



2024-25 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is in full swing. Stamford children who turn five years old on or before September 1, 2024 are eligible to begin kindergarten in August. Anyone with a kindergarten-eligible child should register as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for more information or email ofce@stamfordct.gov with questions.

Stamford Public Schools is hosting in-person registration events for families that need assistance completing the registration process. Assistance is available in Spanish and English.

Saturday, July 13: Ferguson Library, Harry Bennett Branch (10 am to 2 pm)

Saturday, August 10: Government Center (10 am to 2 pm)



Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights becomes Law on July 1

The Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights goes into effect on July 1, 2024. SPS supports the State's efforts to ensure all families can access information about their child's education in their dominant language. Currently, SPS supports the ten most common languages spoken in student homes (listed in order of website usage): English, Spanish, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Polish, Chinese, Bengali, Hindi, and Arabic. SPS offers numerous programs and services support students and families in their native languages, including:

- District website, school websites, and PowerSchool Parent Portal content accessible in 10 world languages.
- REMIND app for 2-way school/family communication in user's preferred language.
- Phone-based language translation services for conferences and other parent meetings.
- SPS teachers receive at least 20 hours of EL training.

- Bi-lingual Family and Community Engagement Liaisons in each school.
- Live interpretation in Spanish for District-sponsored community meetings and all regular monthly BOE meetings.
- Superintendent's Weekly Message produced in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole.
- SPS Quarterly produced in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Ukrainian.
- Café con la Super, a monthly, in-person meeting for native Spanish speakers.

District Calendars for 2024-25 and 2025-26

The BOE was recently informed that keeping schools open on Columbus Day and Veterans Day will not be cost neutral as originally anticipated. Therefore, the BOE amended the District calendars for 2024-25 and 2025-26 so schools will be closed on Columbus Day and Veterans Day. The approved calendars are available to view and download on the [SPS website](#).



School Physicals Required for K, 7th and 10th Grades

All students entering Kindergarten, 7th, and 10th grades are required by law to provide the school nurse with proof of a recent physical exam by the first day of school. Families are encouraged to to schedule their child's physical exam with their physician or a school based health center as soon as possible. Here is a link to the form. The link to register for the School Based Health Centers can be found [here](#).

We're Hiring

Stamford Public Schools is actively recruiting for the 2024-25 school year. Now is the time to apply if you'd like to join our team of passionate and dedicated educators. Full-time positions are available in middle and high school core subjects (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) as well as Special Education, Multilingual Education, Elementary Education and more.

Looking for schedule flexibility? Become a substitute teacher. As a substitute, you can set your own schedule and work as many or as few days as you want. Click [here](#) for more information or to apply.

Celebrating our Staff!

SPS Congratulates 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year and Spotlight Winners

Please join me in congratulating Stillmeadow kindergarten teacher Carolyn Tschinkel who was named the 2024-25 SPS Teacher of the Year! Ms. Tschinkel joins Danielle Marenholz (WHS), Kenneth Martin (WHS) and Timothy Martin (WHS) as part of the 2024-25 Teacher of the Year cohort. Another 26 educators from 13 schools are being recognized through the Spotlight on Teaching Program. Click [here](#) to see the full list of honorees.



2024-2025 Paraeducator of the Year

This is the first time in many years that SPS is celebrating our paraeducators with this special award, and we are thrilled to celebrate Maritza Nunez, Stark Elementary School as the 2024-2025 Paraeducator of the Year! Maritza is recognized alongside 1st Place Runner Up - Lauren Hunt, Turn of River Middle School and 2nd Place Runner Up - Joan Scalise, Davenport Ridge Elementary School.

SPEF Educator Award

Congratulations to Hart Third Grade Teacher Patrice Moore who was named the Stamford Public Education Foundation's (SPEF) 2024 Educator of the Year during the organizations' annual Excellence in Education Awards. Patrice was selected from among 22 SPS educators nominated by each school's Parent-Teacher Organization.



On behalf of everyone at Stamford Public Schools, thank you to SPEF and the parent leaders at our schools for recognizing and celebrating our talented and dedicated educators.



Thanks for reading. For more information about Stamford Public Schools and up-to-date information on events and activities, visit our [website](#).