



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.



2024-25 FAMILY GUIDE

Stamford Public Schools

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5th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901

203.977.4105

www.stamfordpublicschools.org



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

Vision: Stamford Public Schools will be a learning organization that continuously improves its effective, innovative, and transformational teaching and learning. We will challenge, inspire, and prepare all students to be productive contributing members of society.

This guide was developed to provide parents with information about Stamford Public Schools and select Stamford Board of Education (BOE) policies and regulations. This guide is not intended to be all inclusive, nor does it contain all policies, regulations, rules, and directives of the BOE, Stamford Public Schools, or the individual schools. BOE Policies and Regulations are available to view in their entirety on the Stamford Public Schools [website](#); links to each policy are provided in Appendix D.

Students and families are expected to know and follow all relevant policies, regulations, and protocols of the BOE, Stamford Public Schools, and the individual schools. Violations of policies, regulations, and protocols will be investigated, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, up to and including suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement.

All BOE, SPS, and school policies comply with federal, state, and local laws. Please contact your school principal or the District's Chief Compliance Officer for further information.

For the purposes of this guide, "parent" means parents, guardians, or those otherwise responsible for the education of a child enrolled in Stamford Public Schools.

Information in this guide is current as of August 18, 2024.

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Stamford Board of Education

<https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/board-of-education>

Jackie Heftman, President

Michael Hyman, Vice President

Andy George, Secretary

Antonia Better-Wirz, Asst. Secretary

Joshua Esses

Rebecca Hamman, EdD

Gabriela Koc

Michael Larobina

Versha Munshi-South

Mayor Caroline Simmons

Jennifer Gonzalez, Board Secretary: JGonzalez@stamfordct.gov or JGonzalez@stamfordps.org

To email all Board of Education members: BOEElected@StamfordCT.gov

Stamford Public Schools

<https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/>

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Dr. Lori Rhodes, Associate Superintendent, High Schools

Matthew Laskowski, Interim Associate Superintendent, Middle Schools

Angela Asaro, Associate Superintendent, Elementary Schools

Dr. Michael Fernandes, Chief Staff & Family Resource Officer

Ryan Fealey, Chief Financial Officer

Christopher Soules, Chief Compliance Officer

Cindy Grafstein, Joint City of Stamford / BOE Facilities Officer

Stay Informed

Parents should know how to access information about their child’s education and stay up to date on what is happening in their child’s school and the District. The District and individual schools make information available via their websites, the REMIND app, email, and social media. A reasonable effort is made to duplicate essential information across multiple channels.

PowerSchool Parent Portal



The PowerSchool Parent Portal is where you can view your child’s grades, bus information, class schedules, absences, and report cards. The Parent Portal is also where you can access important forms.

Accessing PowerSchool

Parents of enrolled students have access to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you do not know how to access PowerSchool, contact your school’s [Family & Community Engagement Facilitator](#).

PowerSchool App

The PowerSchool Mobile App for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) provides access to the Power School Parent Portal from your smart phone. Parents can receive real-time push notifications with updates about grades, scores, attendance, assignments, and more.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS login interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo. Below the header, the page title is "Student and Parent Sign In". There is a "Select Language" dropdown menu set to "English". Below that are input fields for "Username" and "Password". A link for "Forgot Username or Password?" is located below the password field. A "Sign In" button is positioned to the right of the password field. Below the login form, a message reads: "Welcome to the PowerSchool Portal of STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS". It provides instructions for accessing credentials and contacting a parent facilitator, with a link to a "List of Parent Facilitators" and a link to a "Parent Portal Mobile App Tutorial".

The screenshot displays the PowerSchool Parent Portal interface for a user named Cody N. Anderson. The page title is "Grade History: Anderson, Cody N". The user's name "Cody Brody Jeremy Jacob" is visible in the top navigation bar. The page shows a table of grade history for the 14-15 school year, specifically for the course AGHS1. The table is organized by quarter (Q1, Q2, S1) and lists the following data:

Q1					
Course	Grade	%	Cit	Hrs	
Biology	A	100	H	0.0	
English Survey	A-	92	H	0.0	
Home Ec	A	96	H	0.0	
Individual Sports	A-	90	H	0.0	
Music	A-	93	H	0.0	
Phys Ed 9	A-	93	H	0.0	
U.S. History	A-	94	H	0.0	
Q2					
Course	Grade	%	Cit	Hrs	
Biology	A-	92	H	0.0	
English Survey	A	97	H	0.0	
Home Ec	A-	95	H	0.0	
Individual Sports	B+	88	H	0.0	
Music	A	97	H	0.0	
Phys Ed 9	A	97	H	0.0	
U.S. History	A	100	H	0.0	
S1					
Course	Grade	%	Cit	Hrs	
Biology	A	97	H	1.0	
English Survey	A-	94	H	0.5	

School Messenger



Stamford Public Schools uses School Messenger to communicate essential information to parents.

Information is sent to the email addresses and phone numbers in PowerSchool.

Parents can choose to receive notices in a language other than English.

Make sure your contact information is up to date in PowerSchool and add broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com to your safe senders list!

From: Stamford Public Schools
<broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:02 PM

To: You

Subject: All Schools Closed Tomorrow

Due to the winter storm forecast for our region, all Stamford Public Schools will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, February 13.

Stamford Public Schools District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Stamford Public Schools District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our School Messenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

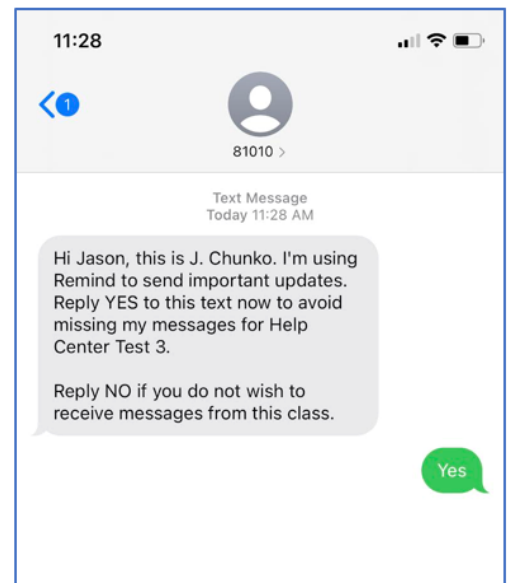
School Messenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

Remind



Principals and teachers use Remind for two-way communication with parents. Remind delivers messages via text, email, and the web. Remind is linked to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. It is easier to set up Remind if your information is up to date in PowerSchool.

If your child's teachers use Remind, you will receive an invitation to join their classrooms at the beginning of the school year.



District News & Alerts

Anyone can [subscribe](#) to District News & Alerts to receive important information including the Superintendent's Weekly Message and Board of Education Meeting Notices.

District Urgent Alerts are sent automatically to the parent contact information in PowerSchool.

Social Media

Follow Stamford Public Schools on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



District News & Alerts

- ✓ District Urgent Alerts
- ✓ District News & Announcements
- ✓ Superintendent's Weekly
- ✓ BOE Announcements
- ✓ BOE Meeting Agendas
- ✓ BOE Meeting Minutes
- ✓ SPS Quarterly Newsletter

Websites

The District and individual school websites that are managed by SPS staff. Bookmark <https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/> and check back often for the latest information.

Every school website can be accessed from the District Homepage.

The screenshot shows the Stamford Public Schools website homepage. At the top left is the logo for Stamford Public Schools with the tagline "EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT." Below the logo is a large banner featuring a collage of diverse people and text about cultural diversity. The main navigation menu on the right lists categories: Pre-K (APPLES Pre-k Program), Elementary Schools (listing 15 schools), Middle Schools (listing 5 schools), High Schools (listing 2 schools), and Programs (listing 4 programs). At the bottom, there is a secondary navigation menu with icons for District Calendar, Teaching and Learning, Transportation, Bell Schedule, Food Service, School Registration, Technology Hub, and Flyers by PeachJar.

Stamford Public Schools Directory

Academy of Information Technology & Engineering
411 High Ridge Road, 06905
203-977-4336

Adult and Continuing Education
175 Atlantic Street, 06901
203-977-4209

APPLES Early Childhood Center
381 High Ridge Road, 06905
203-977-5094

Cloonan Middle School
11 West North Street, 06902
203-977-4544

Davenport Ridge Elementary School
1300 Newfield Avenue, 06905
203-977-4291

Dolan Middle School
51 Toms Road, 06906
203-977-4441

Hart Magnet Elementary School
203-977-5082
61 Adams Avenue, 06902

Julia A. Stark Elementary School
203-977-4583
398 Glenbrook Road, 06906

K.T. Murphy Elementary School
203-977-4516
19 Horton Street, 06902

Newfield Elementary School
345 Pepper Ridge Road, 06905
203-977-4282

Northeast Elementary School
82 Scofieldtown Road, 06903
203-977-4469

Rippowam Middle School
381 High Ridge Road, 06905
203-977-5255

Rogers International School (K-8)
202 Blachley Road, 06902
203-977-4560

Roxbury Elementary School
751 Westhill Road, 06902
203-977-4287

Scofield Magnet Middle School
641 Scofieldtown Road, 06903
203-977-2750

Springdale Elementary School
1127 Hope Street, 06907
203-977-4575

Stamford High School
55 Strawberry Hill Avenue, 06902
203-977-4223

SPS Anchor
229 North Street, 06901
203-977-6156

Stillmeadow Elementary School
800 Stillwater Road, 06902
203-977-4507

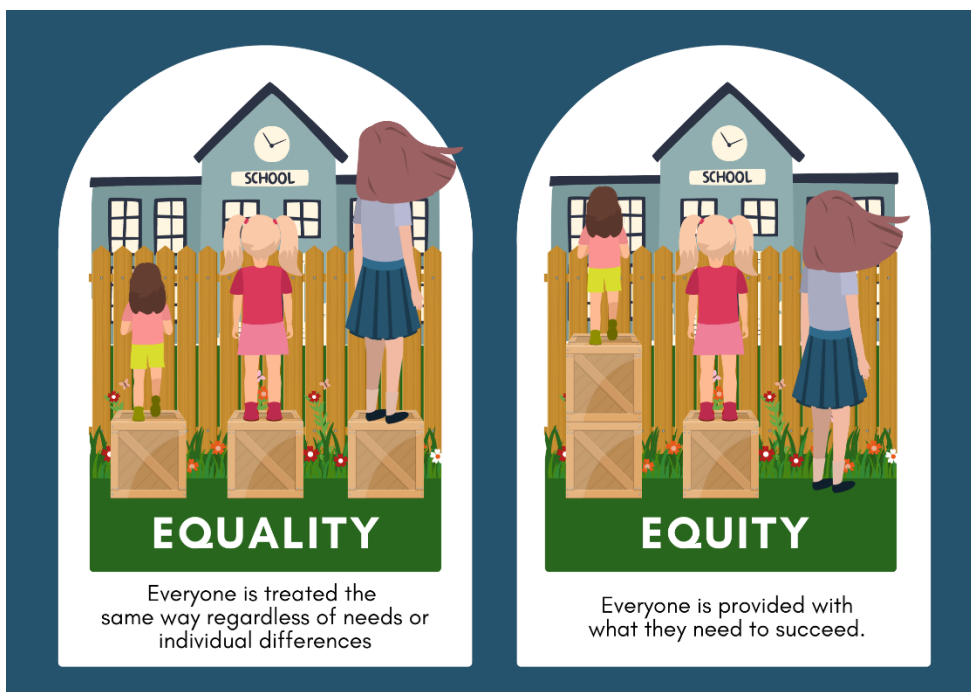
Strawberry Hill School (K-8)
200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, 06902
203-977-6600

Toquam Magnet Elementary School
123 Ridgewood Avenue, 06907
203-977-4556

Turn of River Middle School
117 Vine Road, 06905
203-977-4284

Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Road, 06902
203-977-4477

Westover Magnet School (K-6)
412 Stillwater Avenue, 06902
203-977-4572



Bell Times

Elementary & K-8 Schools	Regular Schedule	Delayed Opening	Early Release
Davenport Ridge	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Hart Magnet	8:55 AM to 3:25 PM	10:55 AM	1:15 PM
Julia A. Stark	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
K. T. Murphy	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Newfield	8:10 AM to 2:40 PM	10:10 AM	12:30 PM
Strawberry Hill	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Northeast	8:10 AM to 2:40 PM	10:10 AM	12:30 PM
Rogers International	8:55 AM to 3:25 PM	10:55 AM	1:15 PM
Roxbury	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Springdale	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Stillmeadow	8:10 AM to 2:40 PM	10:10 AM	12:30 PM
Toquam Magnet	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Westover Magnet	9 AM to 3:30 PM	11 AM	1:20 PM
Middle Schools	Regular Schedule	Delayed Opening	Early Release
Cloonan	7:25 AM to 2:05 PM	9:25 AM	11:45 AM
Dolan	8 AM to 2:40 PM	10 AM	12:20 PM
Rippowam	7:25 AM to 2:05 PM	9:25 AM	11:45 AM
Scofield Magnet	8 AM to 2:40 PM	10 AM	12:20 PM
Turn of River	8 AM to 2:40 PM	10 AM	12:20 PM
SPS Anchor	9 AM to 4:00 PM	11 AM	12:20 PM
High Schools	Regular Schedule	Delayed Opening	Early Release
AITE	7:25 AM to 2:05 PM	9:25 AM	11:45 AM
Stamford High	7:25 AM to 2:05 PM	9:25 AM	11:45 AM
Westhill High	7:25 AM to 2:05 PM	9:25 AM	11:45 AM
SPS Anchor	8 AM to 2:10 PM	10:00 AM	11:45 AM
APPLES PreK	Regular Schedule	Delayed Opening	Early Release
General Education Program	7:30 AM to 4:30 PM	9:30 AM	2:30 PM
School Readiness Program	8 AM to 2:00 PM	10 AM	10:30 AM
Special Education Students	8 AM to 1:00 PM	10 AM	10:30 AM

Annual Notices

Certain state and federal notifications must be made available to families annually. These notifications are outlined in Appendix C. BOE policies may be reviewed in full online. For a hard copy of any policy, please speak with your principal.

Assignment to Schools

Students are assigned to schools based on their home address. To look up school assignments by address, click [here](#).

Below are the feeder patterns for all attendance zone schools.

- Students attending Rogers, Scofield, and Strawberry Hill are assigned to the attendance zone high school associated with their home address.
- * Students attending Westover through the magnet lottery are assigned to the attendance zone high school associated with their home address. Students for whom Westover is their attendance zone school are assigned to Westhill High School.
- Students attending Hart or Toquam through the magnet lottery are assigned to the attendance zone middle school associated with their home address. Students attending Hart as their attendance zone elementary school will be assigned to Rippowam for middle school. Students attending Toquam as their attendance zone elementary school will be assigned to Rippowam or Dolan for middle school based on their home address.



**WESTHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

Westover*
Magnet
K-6 (2024)
K-7 (2025)
K-8 (2026)

Turn of River
Middle School
Grades 6-8

Cloonan
Middle School
Grades 6-8

KT Murphy
Elementary
Grades K-5

Roxbury
Elementary
Grades K-5

Northeast
Elementary
Grades K-5

Stillmeadow
Elementary
Grades K-5

Rippowam
Middle School
Grades 6-8

Dolan
Middle School
Grades 6-8

Davenport
Elementary
Grades K-5

Stark
Elementary
Grades K-5

Newfield
Elementary
Grades K-5

Springdale
Elementary
Grades K-5

Toquam^
Elementary
Grades K-5

Toquam^
Elementary
Grades K-5

Hart^
Elementary
Grades K-5

Assessments

Assessments are necessary to check student progress and identify which skills require further instruction or intervention. Stamford Public Schools administers various assessments to understand the academic progress of students both individually and as a class, grade, school, and district.

State-Mandated Assessments

State-mandated assessments are administered to all students across the state during a designated period. Stamford administers the following state-mandated assessments:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC): Spring semester, Grades 3-8
- SAT: Spring semester, Grade 11
- PSAT: Fall semester, Grades 10-11
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Spring semester, Grades 5, 8, 11
- LAS Links (for students in English Learner Programs): January-March Grades K-12

Benchmark Assessments

Benchmark assessments measure student progress on certain learning goals over time. Teachers and administrators use these assessments to understand each student's knowledge against grade level standards, provide a baseline for progress monitoring, identify skills that need review/intervention, and differentiate instruction.

SPS administers the following benchmark assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of each year:

- DIBELS (K-3 Literacy)
- iReady (4-8 Literacy & 1-8 Math)

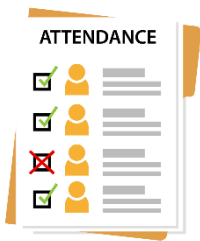
Summative Assessments



Many middle school and high school courses include summative assessments that evaluate how much a student has learned throughout a semester or school year. Summative assessments will vary by course and instructor. In some courses, summative assessments will be a traditional midterm exam or final exam, while in other courses students' mastery of the material will be assessed via reports or projects.

Stamford Public Schools ended the traditional midterms and finals “weeks” during which high school students only reported to school for exams, as this practice resulted in 10 days of lost instructional time. Students now complete summative assessments during the instructional day as part of their regular class time.

Attendance & Absences



The Board of Education emphasizes the importance of regular class attendance for students. Regular attendance ensures that students stay engaged with classroom instruction; helps students establish routines that foster discipline and time management skills; and facilitates strong relationships with teachers and peers.

Connecticut state law requires parents to ensure their children, ages 5 through 18, attend school regularly during the school year.

Excused Absences

A student's absence from school shall be considered excused if written documentation as outlined below is sent to school within ten (10) school days of the student's return:

Excused Absences		
Absences	Acceptable Reasons (for absence to be excused)	Required documentation (within 10 days of return to school)
1 through 9	Any reason approved by the parent	Parent note
10 or more	Student illness	Parent note AND a physician's note
	Student's observance of a religious holiday	Parent note
	Death in the family or other emergency beyond the family's control	Parent note
	Mandated court appearances	Parent note + court documentation
	Lack of transportation normally provided by a District other than the one the student attends	None needed
	Extraordinary educational opportunities	Opportunities must meet certain criteria and be pre-approved by District administrators

Unexcused Absences

A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless:

- The absence meets the definition of an excused absence and meets the documentation requirements outlined above; or
- The absence meets the definition of a disciplinary absence, which is the result of school or District disciplinary action and is excluded from the State Board of Education approved definitions.

If a student does not report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and school personnel were not notified of the absence, parents will receive a message to the phone numbers listed in PowerSchool.

Parent Responsibilities

- Make sure your child attends school regularly (mandated by CT state law)
- Establish morning and evening routines so your child is prepared for school each day
- Report absences to your child’s school as soon as possible
- Provide necessary documentation for excused absences

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more school days in an academic year. In Connecticut, students who miss 18 or more days of school – which is just 2 days a month – are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism negatively affects academic growth.

Behavior, Adults

The BOE is committed to ensuring a safe and harassment-free environment for students and staff.

The BOE expects adults on school grounds and those attending school-sponsored events to treat one another with respect and civility. Volatile, hostile, or aggressive actions and words will not be tolerated, and those engaging in such activities may face legal penalties.

The following are prohibited on school grounds and at school-sponsored events on or off premises:

- Injuring, threatening, harassing, or intimidating behavior
- Cursing or using obscenities
- Disrupting or threatening to disrupt school or office operations
- Damaging or threatening to damage another’s property
- Damaging or defacing school property
- Violating federal, state, or local laws and ordinances
- Using tobacco products, including vaping
- Consuming, having, distributing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Possessing dangerous instruments or weapons
- Impeding, delaying, or otherwise interfering with activities occurring on school property
- Operating a motor vehicle recklessly on school grounds
- Violating any other BOE policy or regulation or directives from SPS staff

Behavior & Discipline, Students

School is a community with rules and regulations. The BOE expects students to obey all rules and regulations set forth by the BOE, SPS, or the individual schools. Parents and students should review [BOE Policy 5131 & 5131R](#) in its entirety.

Expectations Regarding Student Behavior

Students are expected to:

- Respect the authority of school staff to enforce policies, rules and regulations
- Behave in a manner that does not disrupt or interfere with the rights of other students and staff
- Follow the standards of conduct and rules and regulations governing discipline
- Attend school and assigned classes daily on time and for each full term

Parents are expected to:

- Accept and respect that there are standards of behavior for students and non-students
- Review student conduct policies and rules with their children
- Cooperate with school officials in addressing student misbehavior
- Seek out or accept referrals to community agencies to help address student misbehavior

Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited and may be grounds for suspension, expulsion, or referral to law enforcement. This list is not all inclusive.

- Threatening, harassing or intimidating any member of the school community
- Using physical force which is not necessary for self-defense
- Theft of personal or school property
- Willfully causing, or trying to cause, damage to school property
- Possession, use, transmission or being under the influence of alcohol, any illegal drug, or any prescription drug for which the possessor, user or transmitter does not have a legal prescription.
- Possession or transmission of any weapon, including firearms, martial arts weapons, knives, box cutters, chemical sprays, etc.
- Using or copying another's academic work
- Possessing, smoking or consuming tobacco products or vaping on school grounds
- Open defiance of, or verbal abuse toward, any staff member with authority over the student
- Bullying or cyberbullying, including conduct off school grounds if such bullying:
 - Creates a hostile environment for, or infringes on the rights of the victim, at school
 - Disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of the school
- Any violation of Board policies prohibiting sexual, racial and other unlawful harassment
- Making false threats of violence against the school community
- Unauthorized use of any school computers, networks, or other technology
- Creating, using, accessing, uploading, downloading, having, transmitting or distributing pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, harassing, threatening or illegal material
- Violating any BOE policy, rule, agreement, or directive dealing with student conduct

Discipline Policy

[BOE Policy 5131R](#) outlines the disciplinary actions students may face for misbehavior. School staff are expected to seek parental involvement and cooperation in dealing with student misbehavior. All disciplinary issues will be resolved with careful observance of all legal requirements including due process. Interpreters will be provided to any party who does not speak or understand English.

Disciplinary Measures

A variety of corrective and punitive measures may be used to address misbehavior.

Corrective measures:

- Counseling
- Conferences
- Behavior contract
- Daily conduct reports to parents
- Adjustment of school program (alternate classes, alternate school, etc.)
- Support services (home visits, peer groups)
- Referral to Planning and Placement Team (PPT)
- Referral to Juvenile Review Board (JRB)

Punitive Measures

- Denial of privileges
- Denial of school-provided transportation (maximum 10 days per state law)
- Removal from classroom for one day
- In-school suspension (maximum of 5 days per in-school suspension)
- Suspension from school (maximum of 10 days per suspension)
- Expulsion (exclusion from school for 11+ days)
- Referral to law enforcement
- Restitution
- Lowering of grades for academic misbehavior (cheating, plagiarism, etc.)

Board of Education

The Stamford Board of Education is the representative of the state and the officially authorized body of the City of Stamford in all matters relating to the governance of Stamford Public Schools. The BOE acts as a legislative and appraisal body; executive functions related to the management of Stamford Public Schools are delegated to the Superintendent of Schools and their staff.

Meetings

The BOE meets regularly throughout the year. All regular, special, and committee meetings are open to the public and streamed live. Members of the public may address the BOE during the monthly regular meeting of the BOE. Information about BOE meetings, including agenda and instructions for signing up to speak, can be found [here](#).

Bus Transportation



Stamford Public Schools runs more than 600 bus routes daily to transport approximately 12,000 K-12 students to/from 22 school buildings.

Bus routes are created annually based on projected enrollment and the home addresses parents provided to Stamford Public Schools. Bus routes, bus numbers, bus stop locations, and pickup/drop-off times are subject to change from year to year

During the first few weeks of school, routes will be adjusted based on ridership and traffic conditions. Bus stops that go unused for two weeks at the beginning of the school year will be eliminated from the route but can be reinstated upon request.

There is a nationwide bus driver shortage, which means your assigned bus route may not have the same driver every day. Every effort is made to ensure consistency in bus drivers, but that cannot be guaranteed.

Eligibility

Bus transportation is provided to in-district students who meet the following criteria:

- **Elementary Students (all schools):** Must live 1 mile or more from their school.
- **Middle School Students (Cloonan, Dolan, Rippowam, Rogers, Strawberry Hill, and Turn of River):** Must live more than 1.5 miles from their school.
- **High School Students (AITE and Stamford High):** Must live more than 2 miles from their school.
- **Scofield Middle School and Westhill High School Students:** Transportation is provided with no distance restrictions.
- **K-12 Students with Identified Special Needs:** Must require specialized transportation as part of their educational plan.

Parental Supervision

Parents/guardians are expected to supervise their children at the bus stop each morning until they board the school bus. Similarly, parents are expected to supervise their children when they exit the school bus at the end of the day. The school district's responsibility ends when the student disembarks the bus at their regular bus stop at the end of the school day.

Bus Conduct

Time spent on a school bus is considered an extension of the school day, and all policies and regulations for student behavior apply when on a school bus. Misbehavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who cannot behave on the school bus will be subject to discipline, including denial of transportation services. Misbehavior on a bus that creates a safety hazard may be referred to law enforcement.

Students are expected to do the following while riding the school bus:

- Remain seated all times unless the bus has reached your stop, and you are getting off
- Always listen to and follow the bus driver's instructions
- Keep their voices low, especially during difficult driving conditions (heavy rain, sleet, snow, etc.)
- Use respectful language; profanity and other offensive language is subject to discipline

Where to Find Your Child’s Bus Assignment

Bus assignments for the 2024-25 school year will be available in [PowerSchool](#) by August 22.

Bus routes with bus stops and approximate pickup times will be posted on [the website](#) by August 26.

How to Track Your Child’s Bus

The SPS bus transportation vendor, First Student, offers a mobile app that provides real-time information and updates about your child’s bus. Please note that tracking may be unavailable or unreliable at the beginning of the school year or at other times when routes are being adjusted. You will be notified via the app when this occurs.



Scan the QR code to download the FirstView App.

Learn more: [Stamford Public Schools Transportation Page](#).

Decline Bus Service

If your child qualifies for bus transportation but does NOT take the bus, you may opt-out of bus service by completing the Bus Transportation Opt-Out Form in [PowerSchool](#). This helps First Student improve on-time performance. Should your child’s transportation situation change, you may contact your school principal to reinstate your child’s bus rider status.

Calendar



The BOE creates an annual District calendar that meets the state mandate for 180 days of instruction and takes into consideration continuity of instruction, contractual requirements, religious observances, and family and staff needs.

The 2024-25 calendar can be downloaded [here](#) and is in Appendix A.

Last Day of School

The last day of school noted on the 2024-25 calendar (June 13) is tentative and subject to change pending closures for inclement weather or other emergencies that may occur during the school year. The official last day of school will be announced in late March or early April 2025.

High School Graduation Dates

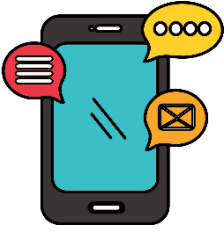
The dates and times for graduation ceremonies at AITE, Stamford High School, SPS Anchor, and Westhill High School will be announced in late March or early April 2025. Exact dates will be communicated to families in the Superintendent’s Weekly Newsletter and by school principals.

Graduation dates and times are scheduled in consultation with the school principals, the City of Stamford, and the Stamford Police Department.

Moving Up Ceremony Dates

The dates and times for elementary and middle school moving up ceremonies will be announced in late March or early April 2025 and communicated to families in the Superintendent’s Weekly Newsletter and by school principals.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices



The BOE adopted a comprehensive policy in August 2022 that clearly outlines when cell phones and other personal electronic devices may be used by students in elementary, middle, and high schools.

At all levels, **cell phones are to be silenced and stored during class time** unless otherwise instructed by a teacher or administrator or if a student is allowed to use their device as part of their IEP.

Definition of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices include two-way wireless communication devices, tablets, smart watches, cell phones, e-readers, headphones, handheld video game devices, etc.

Use and Timing

- Devices are allowed on school grounds and at school-sponsored events per BOE policy.
- Devices must be silenced and stored out of view except as follows:
 - **Elementary School Students:** Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited except as directed by the principal or another administrator. If your child brings a cell phone, smart watch, or other electronic device to school, it must be silenced and stored in their backpack for the entire school day. Parents who need to reach their child during the school day should call the main office.
 - **Middle School Students:** Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited except as directed by the principal or another administrator. If your child brings a cell phone, smart watch, or other electronic device to school, it must be silenced and stored in their backpack for the entire school day. Parents who need to reach their child during the school day should call the main office.
 - **High School Students:** High school students may use their devices before the first bell, at lunch, at dismissal, any time they are not in class (unless otherwise directed by their administrator or classroom teacher) and as allowed by the school principal.
- Audio and/or video recording devices may be authorized for student use during a class and only in support of a student’s specific education needs (IEP/504).

Prohibited Uses

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited:

- In locker rooms and restrooms
- Anywhere a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy
- To send harassing, threatening, or intimidating messages or images
- To bully another person
- To invade a person’s privacy
- To take pictures of someone without consent
- To make video or audio recordings of anyone while on school property, school busses, or at school-sponsored events, without principal’s permission
- To cheat or otherwise violate academic integrity
- In violation of copyright laws



Responsibility/Liability

Students who choose to bring a device to school are personally responsible for that device. Neither SPS nor the BOE assumes any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to a personal device, or for the unauthorized use of any such device.

Closings and Delays

The BOE authorizes the Superintendent to decide school closings and delays in case of hazardous weather or other emergencies. Decisions about school closures, early dismissals, and delays due to inclement weather are made in consultation with local meteorologists, the City of Stamford Operations and Public Safety Departments, representatives of First Student, and surrounding school Districts.

Every effort is made to announce closings/delays by 5:15 am and early dismissals by 9 am.

Notification

Families will be notified of closings, delays, or early dismissals via automated phone calls and emails to primary contacts in [PowerSchool](#). To ensure receipt of these messages, parents should make sure all contact information is up to date.

Closings, delays, and early dismissals will also be shared with local media and posted on the District and individual school websites.

After School Activities

- You will be informed if school-sponsored after school activities are also canceled.
- If your child goes to an after-school program or activity run by a community partner, please check with that organization directly for the status of their program.

Community Partners

Stamford Public Schools has close partnerships with many community organizations that provide services and support to Stamford's students and families. Learn more on our [website](#).

Complaints, Questions, & Concerns

SPS strives to create a welcoming and positive school climate for all students, staff, and families. However, we understand that there will be times when you have questions, complaints, or concerns. Parents should direct questions, complaints or concerns to the most immediate level at which the matter can be resolved. Per BOE policy, complaints or concerns directed to the BOE will be referred to the proper SPS personnel.

#1 Teacher

#2 Principal

#3 Associate
Superintendent

#4 Superintendent

Process for Complaints, Questions, & Concerns

1. Questions or concerns about instruction, differentiation, classroom behavior, and interpersonal conflicts between classmates should be addressed first with the classroom teacher or specialist.
2. Unresolved classroom-related issues and building-level questions about policies and procedures should be addressed to the Assistant Principal or Principal.
3. Unresolved classroom or building level issues should be referred to the Associate Superintendent.
4. Issues that are still unresolved after escalation to the Associate Superintendent may be referred to the Superintendent of Schools

Conferences, Parent-Teacher

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Report Card Conferences) are an opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher(s) to discuss their academic progress. Parents are expected to make a reasonable effort to take part in conferences. Conferences can be scheduled in person or virtually. Instructions for scheduling a conference will be provided by the school principal or your child's teacher(s).

Learn more [here](#).

Curriculum



The BOE is committed to ensuring that all SPS students have access to a rigorous academic curriculum and high-quality instruction. In 2021-22, SPS initiated an audit of all K-12 curriculum, the first such audit in more than 15 years.

As a result of the audit, SPS is undertaking a 3-year project to bring PreK-12 curriculum in all subject areas to Gold Star Standard. More than 65% of the PreK-12 core curriculum to be used during the 2024-25 school year will be Gold Star Standard.

Curriculum Portal

The SPS curriculum portal provides information about the topics and themes that will be explored in each content area across at every grade level. The portal presents information for [PreK-5](#) and [Grades 6-12](#).

Common Core State Standards

The [Common Core State Standards](#) (CCSS) are a set of academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy that are grounded in evidence and designed to ensure that all students have the academic knowledge and skills they need in these core subjects to succeed after high school.

Connecticut Core Standards

The Connecticut Core Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, provide teachers, students, and families with clear expectations of what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level. The standards focus on English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects in Grades 6-12. School Districts develop local curricula based on these college and career standards.

Dress Code

The BOE encourages students to dress in a manner that reflects pride in and respect for themselves, their school, and their community. To promote a positive, safe and non-disruptive learning environment, proper attire should be worn.

The following should not be worn during the academic school day:

- Attire/accessories that portray disruptive, obscene writing or pictures, drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages
- Attire that reveals the abdomen, chest, breasts, upper thigh or undergarments, including see-through clothing.
- Attire/accessories that, in the opinion of the principal, are inappropriate
- Head coverings of any kind except those worn for religious reasons
- Footwear that damages floors or is a safety hazard
- Sunglasses (unless medically needed)
- Oversized metal belt buckles
- Attire/accessories with spikes or studs

Building principals will review dress code expectations with students and families.

Early Dismissal of Individual Students

We understand that students will sometimes have to leave school before the end of the regular school day.

Early Dismissal by the School

If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed from school early due to illness, the school nurse will notify parents using the contact information in PowerSchool. If the parent is unreachable, school personnel will call the emergency contact.

If a school-based after school program is cancelled, parents will be notified as soon as reasonably possible so they can make alternate arrangements for after school.

Early Dismissal by Parents

Removing students from school is disruptive to the educational process and should be avoided if possible.

Parents should make every reasonable effort to:

- Schedule non-emergency medical/dental appointments after school or when school is not in session
- Notify the school office and the affected teacher(s) in advance when students are leaving early.

If you must pick up your child early, please do so at least 20 minutes before dismissal.

Guns / Firearms

All members of our school community deserve to feel safe, welcomed, and included. Connecticut has some of the strictest gun laws in the United States, and understanding and abiding by those laws is crucial to keeping our school community safe from violence.

Connecticut state law:

- Prohibits firearms on school property
- Requires gun owners to store firearms in a locked box or other container in a secure location
- Holds gun owners criminally liable if their unsecured firearm is used to injure or kill someone
- Holds gun owners criminally liable and liable for civil damages if someone under 18 years old obtains their firearm and uses it to injure or kill someone
- Penalizes parents who do not keep firearms out of a minor's possession

Toy or Replica Firearms

Students are prohibited from bringing toy firearms, replica firearms, or any object that could be mistaken for a firearm to school. Bringing these items to school will result in disciplinary action.

Health & Wellness

The City of Stamford Department of Health and Human Services employs school nurses, maintains student health records, and ensures compliance with state and local laws.

Health Assessments and Immunizations

Connecticut State law requires all students to meet certain health requirements for school attendance.

- New students: Families of students enrolling in SPS for the first time must provide a completed [State of CT Health Assessment & Immunization Record](#) showing proof of a recent physical examination completed by a licensed medical professional and up-to-date immunizations.
- Current students: Families of currently enrolled students are required to provide an updated [State of CT Health Assessment & Immunization Record](#) showing proof of a recent physical examination completed by a licensed medical professional prior to entering 7th grade and 10th grade.

Failure to provide this documentation will result in your child being denied entry to school.

Health Screenings

The Connecticut State Department of Education requires hearing and vision screenings of students in grades K, 1, 3, 4, and 5 and scoliosis screenings for females in grades 5 and 7 and males in grades 8 or 9.

Parents may request an exemption from these screenings for religious reasons by making a written request for such an exemption. Students who were screened by their primary care provider and/or are receiving specialist care may be excused from the school screening if they provide documentation from the medical provider.

The school nurse will send home notice of these screenings in advance.

Health Care Providers

If your child does not have a healthcare provider they see regularly, click [here](#) for a list of local providers that offer physicals and immunizations.

The City of Stamford’s health clinic at 137 Henry Street offers physicals and immunizations for children up to 18 years old on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Appointment required: call 203-977-5385 to schedule.

School Based Health Centers

Family Centers School Based Health Centers (SBHC) are free-standing, federally qualified medical centers.

SBHCs are open to all students where a clinic is located, regardless of income or health care coverage. The SBHC medical team helps with basic sick visits, physicals, immunizations, and more. Services are coordinated with the school nurse.



Services are free, but parents must complete the [Stamford School Based Health Centers Permission Form](#).

Family Centers School Based Health Centers	Medical	Mental Health	Dental
Cloonan Middle School	YES	YES	NO
Dolan Middle School (also serves Toquam)	YES	YES	NO
Rippowam Middle School (also serves AITE)	YES	YES	NO
Stamford High School	YES	YES	NO
Stillmeadow Elementary School	NO	YES	NO
Turn of River Middle School	NO	YES	NO
Westhill High School	YES	YES	YES

Holidays

Stamford Public Schools is a diverse community in which students, staff and families observe many different religious and cultural holidays. Federal holidays and major religious and cultural holidays are noted on the [2024--25 District Calendar](#).

Holiday Celebrations

The BOE encourages holiday programs and activities that are as secular as possible, while still appreciating art, music and literature that have contributed to American culture. The BOE also approves of appropriate recognition of religious, civic, and cultural holidays and events that have significance for students outside of school.

Assignments & Assessments on Religious Holidays

No assignments shall be due, or assessments given, on the day immediately following major religious holidays that are also school holidays. When such a major holiday falls on a weekend no assignments shall be due, or assessments given, on the day immediately following that weekend.

Students observing religious holidays that are not official school holidays should be afforded the same flexibility regarding homework and assessments. Parents or students should inform the teacher(s) in advance of an upcoming religious observance.

Homework

The Stamford BOE believes that teachers and families must work together to motivate and support all students to develop responsibility and study habits that will enable them to become life-long learners.

Homework is intended to:

- Reinforce classroom instruction
- Help students develop specific skills through practice
- Prepare for future lessons
- Foster the habits of consistent independent study and time management
- Provide an opportunity for students to learn outside the classroom.

Homework assignments should be modified based on students' individual needs (i.e., IEP, 504 Plans, other interventions, and extenuating circumstances) and should never be used punitively.

Feedback for homework should be formative in nature, given in a prompt fashion, and count for no more than 10% of the student's grade.

Instruction

Instruction is provided to students by state-certified teachers. Principals are to ensure that the teachers in their school are delivering high quality instruction to students. Questions about classroom instruction should be directed to your child's teacher, the assistant principal, or the principal.

Differentiation

Differentiated instruction is a well-established and research-based practice in which teachers tailor instruction to meet the individual learning needs of their students. Although all students in a class are working toward the same learning objective, with differentiation, how students achieve that objective will differ based on academic readiness and learning style.

SPS teachers are expected to differentiate instruction, as needed, to meet student needs. The District provides regular professional development and peer coaching to support differentiation. New curriculum in all content areas and across all grade levels includes differentiation strategies to support teachers and students.

Parents should speak with their child's teacher or the building principal to learn how differentiated instruction is being used to support their child.

Magnet Schools

The magnet school program was created by the Stamford Board of Education to help manage enrollment and balance all schools to the District's +/- 10 percent integration standard while offering educational choice through theme-based instruction.

All magnet schools follow the Connecticut State Standards and are implementing the new K-12 curriculum that is being developed and implemented as part of the District's three-year master curriculum plan.

Students are admitted to magnet schools via a controlled lottery.

2025-26 Magnet School Lottery Application Important Dates

Stamford Public Schools has changed the magnet school lottery dates for the 2025-26 school year as follows:

- Applications Available: Monday, September 16, 2024
- Applications Due: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 4 pm
- Lottery Drawing: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
- Acceptances Due: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Meals

Stamford Public Schools provides breakfast and lunch to students during the school year. Meals are planned, prepared, and served by the SPS food service vendor, [Chartwells](#).

Menus for each school are available to view via [nutrislice](#), which also is available as a mobile app.

Free Meals for All Students

SPS is participating in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for the 2024-25 school year, which means all students may receive school breakfast and lunch for free. The CEP is part of the federally funded National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

Household Income Survey

Household income applications are not required to receive free meals for the 2024-25 school year, but completing the [2024-25 Household Income Survey Form](#) may help families qualify college application and standardized test fee waivers, reduced fees for camps and after-school programs, and more. Completing the form will also help Stamford Public Schools gather socio-economic information that can help the District qualify for certain governmental and private grants.

Food Allergies and Meal Modifications

Chartwells follows a comprehensive food allergy and medical conditions protocol. Parents should complete the [Chartwells Meal Modification Form](#) and send the completed form—along with the required documentation from a licensed medical provider—to Chartwells as outlined on the form. This form must be completed annually.

Meeting Requests

There may be times when parents want to meet with teachers, specialists, or administrators outside of regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences. Please email the teacher, specialist or principal to request a meeting, or call the main office to make your request to a member of the office support staff.

As a courtesy to school employees, please refrain from arriving at school unannounced to meet with staff.

Movies & Videos

To maximize teaching and learning time and to prioritize active instruction, the use of full-length videos or video clips is prohibited during instructional time unless such videos or video clips support instruction in alignment with approved curricula. The use of video content for recreation or entertainment is prohibited during instructional time. Please see BOE Policy 6177 for more information.

Multilingual Learners / English Learners

U.S. federal and Connecticut state law mandate bilingual education for English learners. Bilingual education is defined as instruction in both English and the student's native language with a continuously increasing use of English and the goal of reaching English proficiency.

Stamford Public Schools identifies students as Multilingual (English) Learners using a standardized, statewide process. When students are identified as Multilingual Learners, their families are offered several options for school-based multilingual learner programs to develop their English language acquisition.

Learn more [here](#).

Parents Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

The Connecticut State Board of Education has created a comprehensive [Parents Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#) ("Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights") to ensure that the rights of these parents and students are protected when they get bilingual education as mandated by Connecticut state law.

The Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights is included in Appendix B.

Office of Family & Community Engagement

The Office of Family and Community Engagement (OFCE) works closely with the individual schools, SPS community partners, and external agencies to ensure families have access to school and community resources that will help their children thrive in Stamford Public Schools.

OFCE coordinates informational meetings and events for families, including Café con la Super, the monthly meeting for Spanish-speaking parents, and Kindergarten registration events.



Family & Community Engagement Liaisons

Family and Community Engagement Liaisons, also known as Parent Facilitators, foster effective family, community, and school partnerships that support student achievement and school improvement. Each school has a Parent Facilitator on staff who reports to the school principal and the OFCE. Most Parent Facilitators are multilingual, providing extra support to parents whose primary language is not English.

Click [here](#) for a directory of the Parent Facilitators by school.

Welcome Center – Opening This Fall!

The SPS Welcome Center will be a one-stop location for families to register their children for school, obtain valuable information on school and district resources, and seek student records and transportation information.

The OFCE staff will manage the new SPS Welcome Center. The Welcome Center will be housed at Cloonan Middle School and is expected to open by November 1.

Orientation

Stamford Public Schools hosts orientation for kindergarten students and their parents and for students entering Grade 6 (middle school) and Grade 9 (high school). Orientation for the 2024-25 school year is Tuesday, August 27. Bus transportation is provided, and parents of kindergarten students may ride the bus with their child. Orientation begins at each school's regular [start time](#). Detailed information about orientation is provided to families by school principals in mid- to late-August.

Out of Attendance Zone Placement

Out-of-Attendance Zone (OOAZ) placement refers to a child who is attending an attendance zone school other than the one in the attendance zone of their legal residence. (Students enrolled in magnet schools, specialized high school programs, special education programs, and multilingual learning programs are NOT considered OOAZ placements.) OOAZ placements are granted on a limited basis and must be renewed annually. **Parents must provide transportation for out of zone attendance placements.**

Moving Within Stamford to a New Attendance Zone

If a family moves within Stamford to the attendance zone for another school, special consideration for OOAZ placement may be given as follows:

- A student who moves out of their attendance zone with one year left in elementary (K-5), middle school (6-8 or K-8) or high school (9-12) may be granted permission to stay at their school for grades 5, 8, or 12.
- A student who moves within Stamford to another attendance zone between December 1 and the end of the school year may be allowed to stay in their school for the balance of that school year. The student must attend their new attendance zone school for the following year.

Parent Involvement

Per BOE Policy, each school is expected to provide opportunities for volunteering, parent education, home support, and participation in school decision-making. To facilitate involvement in their child's education, parents are encouraged to:

- Reinforce at home the skills and knowledge your child is learning in school
- Actively communicate with school staff about questions or concerns
- Become familiar with BOE policies and all District and school regulations, rules, and protocols
- Take advantage of opportunities to take part in school activities by attending orientations, open school nights, parent-teacher conferences, parent meetings, and events.

Parent Teacher Organizations

Every school has a Parent Teacher Organization that works with school staff to offer events and activities that support a positive school climate. Parents are automatically members of their school's PTO; there is no entry fee.



The [Parent Teacher Council of Stamford](#) (PT Council) is the umbrella organization for all school-based PTOs. PT Council provides workshops, leadership development, information and programs to promote parent-teacher partnerships.

Contact information for all school PTOs can be found on the PT Council [website](#).

Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Parents have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s), including whether the teacher is certified for the subject matter and grade taught and the teacher's undergraduate major and any graduate degrees or certifications. Parents may also request to know the professional qualifications of any paraprofessionals working with their child. Please speak to your school principal for more information.

Report Cards

Student report cards will be posted in the PowerSchool Parent Portal as follows:

Elementary Schools: December 6, March 17, and June 13

Middle and High Schools: November 15, February 6, April 11, and June 13

Registration

New students entering grades K-12 may register [online](#) or in person at the Stamford Government Center located at 888 Washington Boulevard. Students registering for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the year in which they are enrolling. For the 2025-26 school year, students will need to be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2025 (i.e., born on or before September 1, 2020).

Detailed registration information and requirements is available on the SPS website.

Safety & Security

The SPS Security Department handles emergency management and the effective implementation of District-wide safety and security policies, programs, directives, and training. The SPS Security Director collaborates closely with the Superintendent, the Stamford Police Department, the SPS Facilities Team, and the school principals to ensure the continued safety and security of Stamford Public Schools. Each school must have a safety and security plan for their campus. Schools are also required to conduct safety drills throughout the year.

School Resource Officers

School resource officers (SROs) are sworn police officers who have received added training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response strategies. SROs use community policing concepts (e.g., community liaison, mentor, role model, and law enforcement officer).

SROs are assigned to secondary schools and work closely with building principals and the SPS Security Department. SROs are employed and supervised by the Stamford Police Department.

School Security Staff

All elementary, middle and high schools have security staff who help create a safe and secure school environment for students, staff, and families. Security staff help with student management, arrival and dismissal, securing points of entry, and more. Security staff report to the building principals and SPS Security Department.

Emergency Protocols

School staff are trained to initiate a variety of emergency protocols to help keep students safe.

There are four emergency protocols:



Secure School

Precautionary Due to Outside Activity

Examples:

- Law enforcement activity nearby
- Report of dangerous wildlife in area
- Environmental hazard outside building

Classroom Instruction: Continues

Movement within School: Unrestricted

Administrator Action(s):

- Monitoring

Parent Notification: Email before dismissal



Shelter in Place

Emergency Response Requiring Clear Hallways

Examples:

- Medical emergency
- Police response to student altercation
- Hazardous weather such as tornado warning

Classroom Instruction: Continues

Movement within School: Restricted

Administrator Action(s):

- Active with emergency responders
- Notify district officials

Parent Notification: Email and Remind within 1 hour of “all clear”



Lockdown

Threat Inside Building

“Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”

Examples:

- Armed intruder
- Dangerous situation near school

Classroom Instruction: None

Movement within School: None

Administrator Action(s):

- Active with emergency responders
- Notify district officials

Parent Notification: Phone call, email, and Remind as soon as possible with updates as situation unfolds, including immediately after “all clear.”



Evacuation

Everyone Moved to Location Outside Building

Examples:

- Gas leak
- Fire

Classroom Instruction: None

Movement within School: Move to exits

Administrator Action(s):

- Active with emergency responders
- Notify district officials

Parent Notification: Phone call, email, and Remind as soon as possible with updates as situation unfolds, including instructions for reunification, if necessary.

Parent Guidelines for Emergency Protocols

Learning that your child’s school has initiated an emergency protocol is understandably upsetting. Please remain calm and wait for official information from your child’s school or the District. Do not speculate on social media, repeat unsubstantiated rumors, or rely on information from unofficial sources.

Every effort will be made to communicate with families quickly, but our priority is ensuring the safety and security of all students, staff, and visitors. School officials will communicate with parents/guardians as soon as practical, usually after the situation is under control.

Instruction is expected to continue during the Secure School and Shelter in Place protocols. Students who are in class should not be using their cell phones or other electronic devices to communicate during Secure School or a Shelter in Place. If children do communicate with you, keep in mind that they may not have a complete understanding of the situation or may share incomplete or inaccurate information based on their location.

Medical emergencies are the most common reason schools initiate the Shelter in Place protocol. If your child is experiencing a medical emergency, you will be notified at once with further information and instructions.

In the unlikely event of a lockdown or evacuation:

- Do NOT call your child’s cell phone. This could compromise their safety and that of their classmates.
- Do NOT go to your child’s school. This could interfere with the emergency response and potentially delay first responders reaching the school.

Smoking

Smoking, using tobacco products or e-cigarettes, or vaping is prohibited on school grounds or at any school-related activity, on or off school grounds.

Social Media Rules of Engagement

Stamford Public Schools and its individual schools and programs use social media to share information and engage with the community. To ensure respectful discourse that adheres to BOE Policy, we have established Social Media Rules of Engagement. Please keep in mind that comments may be viewed by many people in the community and are in the public domain. All comments should be respectful, factual and constructive.

The following are prohibited on all SPS social media channels:

- Profane, vulgar, or obscene language or materials (memes, graphics, etc.)
- Racist, sexist, or homophobic language or materials (memes, graphics, etc.)
- Abusive, threatening, harassing or bullying language or materials (memes, graphics, etc.)
- Personal attacks, insults, accusations or derogatory comments
- Comments that portray students, staff, or BOE members in a defamatory, abusive, or generally negative tone
- Promoting or disparaging a particular religion or creed
- Comments or posts that could reasonably be considered an invasion of privacy
- Posting comments or content that violate copyright and fair use laws
- Inciting violence
- Posting comments or content that violates any BOE Policy or regulation of school codes of conduct
- Political lobbying, campaigning, or promoting a political candidate or party
- Posting confidential and personally identifiable information about students, staff, or BOE members
- Sharing inaccurate, libelous, false or misleading information
- Violating the terms and conditions of the social media platform
- Promoting services or products or posting advertisements unrelated to school events or activities
- Mocking or making fun of another person's opinion

Stamford Public Schools reserves the right to delete or remove posts that violate these Rules of Engagement. Repeated violations may result in a user being banned from SPS and school social channels.

Users are encouraged to report any content that violates a social media platform's terms and conditions through the official process outlined by that platform.

Parents are encouraged to bring specific personal, student, and/or personnel questions, complaints, or concerns to their child's school instead of posting on social media.

Special Education & Student Support Services

Stamford Public Schools will provide a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) and necessary related services to children with an identified disability living within the district, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) and Connecticut General Statutes.

More information on the SPS Special Education Program, including program contacts at each school, is available [here](#).

Stamford Coalition of Parents Expecting Success

The Stamford Coalition of Parents Expecting Success (SCOPES) is a committee of the Parent Teacher Council of Stamford in partnership with Stamford Public Schools. SCOPES serves as a parent support network and community resource on special education issues. SCOPES will host regular meetings throughout the school year on special education topics.

Student Data

[BOE Policy 5115](#) outlines access to—and confidentiality of—student records and personal identifiable information (PII)

Directory Information

Certain types of information are considered “directory information.” Directory information includes student data that would not reasonably be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed.

Data points that are considered directory information include:

- Name
- Photographs (with signed media release)
- Grade level
- Participation in school activities or athletics
- Weight and height (if member of a school athletic team)
- Date of graduation
- Degrees and awards received

Student Photos, Videos, and Work Product

Parents must complete the 2024-25 Media Consent Form in PowerSchool. This form tells us whether you grant permission for your child’s photos, videos or work product (artwork, performances, etc.) to possibly be used for purposes including, but not limited to, print or digital materials created by Stamford Public Schools or its community partners, posting on websites or social media platforms, or inclusion in news stories by local, regional, or national media.

Substitute Teachers

When a teacher is absent, every effort is made to staff the classroom with a substitute teacher who can follow the lesson plan in the full-time teacher's absence. In cases when a substitute is unavailable, other school staff will provide coverage.

If your child's regular teacher is expected to be out for 2 or more weeks (10 or more days), the principal will inform affected families and share plans for class coverage. Due to privacy protections, principals will not share the reason for a teacher's extended absence.

Visiting School

Each of our schools encourages visits from parents and family members. Family engagement in schools contributes to positive student outcomes, including improved student achievement, decreased disciplinary issues, improved parent-teacher and teacher-student relationships, and improved school climate.

To minimize disruptions to instruction and to ensure everyone's safety and security, visitors are expected to follow all applicable building security procedures, including, but not limited to

- Utilizing security buzzers for building access
- Reporting directly to the visitors' reception area (security desk or main office)
- Prominently displaying visitor's badge
- Keeping classroom disruptions to a minimum
- Staying in areas authorized for visitors
- Signing out at the visitors' reception area (security desk or main office) upon departure
- Following all instructions from school administrators or staff

The Principal or their designee has complete authority to exclude from the school premises anyone:

- Who they have reason to believe is disrupting educational programs
- Who is disturbing the teachers or students
- Who the Principal believes is on the premises for the purposes of committing an illegal act
- For any other reasonable and appropriate purpose within their sole discretion

Classroom Visits

Visits to classrooms during instructional time are allowed only with prior approval from the principal and teacher. Visitors should not interrupt a class or speak to the students or teacher unless invited to do so. Classroom visits will not be allowed if they interfere with instruction or disrupt the school environment.

Meetings about your child's academics or behavior should be scheduled in advance during non-instructional time.



EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Stamford Public Schools Calendar 2024-2025

Updated 05-30-2024

Note: Calendar is subject to change pending unforeseen circumstances.

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August (3 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September (20 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October (21 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug. 20-21: New teacher orientation
 Aug. 22: Convocation & school-based PD
 Aug. 23: Mandated Training / Classroom Prep
 Aug. 26: District PD
 Aug. 27: K, 6, 9 orientation & school-based PD
 Aug. 28: First Day of School students

Sept. 2: Labor Day, no school
 Sept. 17: Open School Night - Middle School
 Sept. 19: Open School Night - High School
 Sept. 25: Early release - school-based PD
 Sept. 26: Open School Night - Elementary School

Oct. 3-4: Rosh Hashanah, no school
 Oct. 12: Yom Kippur
 Oct. 14: Columbus Day, no school
 Oct. 30: Early release - school-based PD

November (16 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nov. 5: Election Day, no school students; PD
 Nov. 11: Veterans Day, no school
 Nov. 27: All Early Release
 Nov. 28-29: Thanksgiving recess, no school

December (15 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Dec. 11-13: All District - Early Release/Conferences
 Dec. 20: Early Release, All
 Dec. 23-24: Writer Release, no school
 Dec. 25: Christmas Day, no school
 Dec. 26-31: Winter Recess, no school

January (21 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jan. 1: New Year's Day, no school
 Jan. 20: MLK Day, no school
 Jan. 29: Early release - school-based PD

February (18 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Feb. 14: February break, no school
 Feb. 17: Presidents' Day, no school
 Feb. 26: Early release - school-based PD

March (20 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 19-21: All District - Early Release/Conferences
 March 26: Early release - school-based PD
 March 31: Eid al-Fitr, no school

April (17 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 14-17: Spring Recess, no school
 April 18: Good Friday, no school
 April 30: Early release - school-based PD

May (21 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 26: Memorial Day, no school

June (9 Days)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June 10-11: Tentative* early release, students
 June 12: Tentative* early release, last day all
 June 19: Juneteenth

Legend: No school students, staff
 First day/last day of school
 Open school night
 K, 6, 9 orientation
 Staff only
 Early release

*Any inclement weather days will be added to the end of the school year.
 This calendar has 181 student days and 186 staff days scheduled.

OTHER RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL HOLIDAYS

Oct. 31: Diwali
 Dec. 25-Jan. 2: Hanukkah
 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1: Kwanzaa
 Jan. 6: Three Kings Day
 Jan. 29: Lunar New Year
 Feb. 28: Ramadan begins
 March 5: Ash Wednesday
 Apr. 12-19: Passover

Apr. 20: Easter
 Apr. 20: Orthodox Easter
 June 7: Eid al-Adha
 July 4: Independence Day

Stamford Public Schools 2024-2025

1. Open School Nights

Tuesday, September 17	Middle schools
Thursday, September 19	High schools
Thursday, September 26	Elementary schools

2. Marking Period Progress Report and Parent Conference Information

Elementary Schools

Wednesday, November 27	End of 1 st marking period
Friday, December 6	1 st marking period final grades accessible in Parent Portal
Wednesday, December 11	Early Release (report card conferences)
Thursday, December 12	Early Release (report card conferences)
Friday, December 13	Early Release (report card conferences)
Monday, March 10	End of 2 nd marking period
Monday, March 17	2 nd marking period final grades accessible in Parent Portal
Wednesday, March 19	Early Release (report card conferences)
Thursday, March 20	Early Release (report card conferences)
Friday, March 21	Early Release (report card conferences)
Tuesday, June 10	Tentative early release for students*
Wednesday, June 11	Tentative early release for students*
Thursday, June 12	Tentative last day for students*(early release for students and staff)
Friday, June 13	3 rd marking period final grades accessible in Parent Portal

Middle & High Schools

Wednesday, October 2	1 st quarter progress report grades accessible in Parent Portal
Monday, November 4	End of 1 st quarter
Friday, November 15	1 st quarter final grades accessible in Parent Portal
Wednesday, December 11	Early Release (report card conferences)
Thursday, December 12	Early Release (report card conferences)
Friday, December 13	Early Release (report card conferences)
Tuesday, December 10	2 nd quarter progress report grades accessible in Parent Portal
Thursday, January 23	End of 2 nd quarter
Thursday, February 6	2 nd quarter final grades accessible in Parent Portal
Wednesday, February 26	3 rd quarter progress report grades accessible in Parent Portal
Wednesday, March 19	Early Release (report card conferences)
Thursday, March 20	Early Release (report card conferences)
Friday, March 21	Early Release (report card conferences)
Thursday, April 1	End of 3 rd quarter
Friday, April 11	3 rd quarter final grades accessible in Parent Portal
Friday, May 9	4 th quarter progress report grades accessible in Parent Portal
Tuesday, June 10	Tentative early release for students*
Wednesday, June 11	Tentative early release for students*
Thursday, June 12	Tentative last day for students*(early release for students and staff)
Friday, June 13	Final grades available in Parent Portal

****Note: Any inclement weather days will be added to the end of the school calendar.***



Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to [P.A.23-150 Section 17](#) the State Board of Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of students who are multilingual learners to guarantee that the rights of such parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the provision of bilingual education under chapter 164 of the general statutes, and the sharing of this bill of rights in the dominant language of the parents or guardians.

This means that, according to P.A.23-150 Section 17, the State Board of Education will create a clear list of rights for parents or guardians of students who are learning multiple languages. This list will make sure that the rights of these parents and students are kept safe and protected when they get bilingual education as described in Chapter 164 of the general laws. The list of rights will be given to parents or guardians in the language they understand the best.

For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall:

1. provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of the multilingual learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such parents and guardians, and
2. make such copies of the multilingual learner bill of rights available on the Internet web site of such board.

This means that starting on July 1, 2024, and in the years following, every local and regional board of education that offers bilingual education or English as a new language program must:

1. Give the parents and guardians of eligible students a copy of the multilingual learner bill of rights in the language they understand best.
2. Make this multilingual learner bill of rights available on the board's website.

These are the declarations of the English Learner/Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights

1. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to attend a public school in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the immigration status of such student's parent or guardian.

This means that an English learner or someone who speaks multiple languages has the right to go to a public school in the state, even if that student or their parents/guardians are immigrants.

2. The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner/multilingual learner student to enroll such student in a public school without being required to submit immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a Social Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship.

This means a parent or guardian of a student who is learning English or speaks multiple languages can sign up their child for a public school without having to provide any immigration documents like a Social Security number, visa papers, or proof of being a citizen.

3. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to have translation services provided (A) by an interpreter who is present in person or available by telephone or through an online technology platform, or (B) through an Internet web site or other electronic application approved by the State Board of Education, during critical interactions with teachers and administrators, including, but not limited to, parent teacher conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in which such student is attending, and at properly noticed regular or special meetings of the board of education or scheduled meetings with a member or members of the board of education responsible for educating such student, in accordance with section 18 of this act.

This means an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to get help with translation during important meetings involving students' education. This help can come from an interpreter in person, on the phone, or through a computer. It's for important talks with teachers and school leaders, like parent-teacher meetings or meetings with the school's administrators. This is according to a specific section of a law called section 18 of this act.

2 Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

4. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to participate in a program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board of education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified as dominant in a language, other than English, as such student, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f of the general statutes.

This means an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to join a bilingual education program if one is required at the school. This is based on the rules in section 10-17f of the general statutes.

5. The right of a parent or guardian of an English Learner/multilingual learner student to receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language program offered by the local or regional board of education.

This means a parent or guardian of a student who is learning English or speaks multiple languages has the right to get a written notice in both English and the language they are best at to tell them that their child can join a bilingual education or English as a new language program offered by the district.

6. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student and the parent or guardian of such student to receive a high-quality orientation session, in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian, from the local or regional board of education that provides information relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for English learner/multilingual learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a new language.

This means English learner students and their parents or guardians have the right to attend a helpful meeting in their best language. This meeting will be organized by the local school board and will give them information about state standards, tests, and what's expected in the school for students learning English or speaking multiple languages. They will also learn about the goals and rules for bilingual education and English as a new language programs before joining these programs.

7. The right of the parent or guardian of an English learner/multilingual learner student to receive information about the progress of such student's English language development and acquisition.

This means that a parent or guardian of a student who is learning English or speaks multiple languages has the right to get updates and information about how well their child is doing in improving their English language skills.

8. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student and the parent or guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such student's English language development and acquisition.

This means that students who are learning English or speak multiple languages and their parents or guardians have the right to meet with school staff about how well the student is learning English and improving their language skills.

9. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to be placed in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered by the local or regional board of education.

This means an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to join a bilingual education or English as a new language program if the local school board offers it.

10. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to have equal access to all grade-level school programming.

This means an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to get the same opportunities to take part in all school activities for their grade level.

11. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to have equal access to all core grade-level subject matter.

This means an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to learn all the important subjects at their grade level, just like other students.

12. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to receive annual language proficiency testing.

This means an English learner or someone who speaks multiple languages has the right to take a language test every year to see how well they are doing in their language skills.

3 **Parent Bill of Rights** for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

13. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to receive support services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school district provides to all students.

This means that an English learner/multilingual learner has the right to get extra help (through intervention) that matches the plan the school or school district uses to assist all students.

14. The right of an English learner/multilingual learner student to be continuously and annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as a new language while such student remains an eligible student, as defined in section 10-17e of the general statutes.

This means an English learner or someone who speaks multiple languages can stay in a bilingual education or English as a new language program every year as long as they are still eligible, as explained in section 10-17e of the general statutes.

15. The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner/multilingual learner student to contact the Department of Education with any questions or concerns regarding such student's right to receive multilingual learner services or accommodations available to such student or parent or guardian, including information regarding any recourse for failure of the board of education to provide or ensure such services or accommodations.

This means a parent or guardian of an English learner or a student who speaks multiple languages can reach out to the Department of Education if they have questions or concerns about their child's right to get services or help for language learning. This includes finding out what they can do if the school board doesn't provide the services or help they should.

Appendix C: Annual Notices

Notifications Addressed in Existing BOE Policies

Topic of Notification	Link to Policy
Parent involvement	1110.1
Distribution of Materials	1140R
Transportation Equipment – Contract Vehicles	3541.43 & 3541.43R
Child Abuse/Neglect	4113, 4113R
DCF Contact Information	4113, 4113R
Concussion and head injury awareness and prevention	4115.5, 4115.5R
Non-Discrimination & Affirmative Action	4118.11 / 4218.11
Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs	4118.234
Bullying Behavior in Schools	5005, 5005R
Homeless Students and Children in Foster Care	5007R
Title I School, Parent Engagement	5008, Parent-School Compact
Attendance and Excuses	5113, 5113R, 5113A-R, APPENDIX
FERPA	5115
Interdistrict Magnet Schools	5117.2
Reporting	5124
Smoke Free Environment	5130, 5130R
Rights and Responsibilities	5131
Student Behavior	5131, 5131R
Substance Abuse by a Minor	5131.6, 5131.6R
Acceptable Use of the Internet & Internet Safety Policy	5132R
Promotion and Retention	5135, 5135R
High School Graduation Requirements	5135.2, 5135.2R
School Wellness	5140
Communicable Diseases	5141.1
Health and Welfare	5141, 5141R
Administration of Medicines	5141.2, 5141.2R
Equal Access to Recruiters	5142
Physical Restraint / Seclusion / Exclusionary time out	5144.1
Title IX Policy	5145.44; 5145.44R; 4000.1; 4000.1R
Ceremonies and Observations	6115
Grading and Weighting of Grades	6146.3, 6146.3R
Homework	6154
Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention	6164.2; 6164.2R
Family Living, Sex Education, and Personal Safety	6172
Instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	6175

State of Connecticut Department of Children & Families (DCF) Careline: 1-800-842-2288

Additional Notifications

Topic of Notification	Link
Indoor Air Quality	Website
Green Cleaning	Website
Pest Management	Website
Asbestos Notification	Website
Military Recruiters	Website
ESSA: Title I School, Parent Engagement, Student Privacy; Surveys	Website
Non-Discrimination	Website
Notice of Rights and Remedies under CGS §10-4a and §10-4b.	Website
Media Release	Website
Notice of Non-Discrimination	Website
Remote Parent Teacher Conferences	Website
Students with Special Healthcare Needs (Food Service) 5141.25	Website
Meal Eligibility Notification	Website
SPS Lunch Charging Policy	Website
Modification of Meal Services for Students with Disabilities	Website
Notice of Availability of Alternative Education Programs	Website
Notice of Rights and Remedies under CT General Statutes §10-4a and §10-4b.	Website
Availability of Tech/VoAg	Website
Teacher & Para Qualifications	Website
COVID	Website
Safe School Climate	Website
Student Data Privacy Act	Website
Student Data Privacy Act: Notice of Security Breach	Website

District and School Coordinators

District	Contact
Title IX Age Discrimination Act	Christopher Soules Chief Compliance Office csoules@stamfordct.gov or csoules@stamfordps.org
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) COVID-19 Liaison Section 504	Dr. Michael Fernandes Chief Staff & Family Resource Officer mfernandes@stamfordct.gov or mfernandes@stamfordps.org
Safe School Climate	Juan Pazmino Coordinator, Office of Family & Community Engagement jpazmino@stamfordct.gov or jpazmino@stamfordps.org
School	Contact
Title IX	Building Principal
Safe School Climate Specialist	Building Principal

Appendix D: Board of Education Policy Index

Community

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[1110.1 - Parent Involvement & Appendix](#)
[1111.1 - School Directory](#)
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