



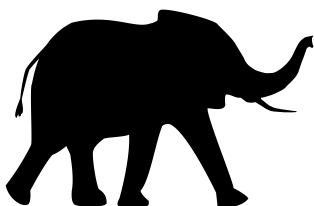
2024-25



FORWARD IN EXCELLENCE REPORT



Somers Central School District
Comprehensive Report



SOMERS
Central School District
Forward in Excellence

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
250 ROUTE 202, SOMERS, NEW YORK 10589

WWW.SOMERSSCHOOLS.ORG

MISSION

Somers Central School District will ignite a passion in each student by engaging all learners at a personal level to ensure success in a global society.



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ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

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Global Citizenship

Fiscal Stewardship

Family and Community Engagement

A Message to Our Community

Welcome to the Somers Central School District.

As a community, and a family, we strive to ignite a passion for discovery and exploration and to foster a lifelong love of learning in all students.

We are deeply committed to ensuring that all children feel that they are valued members of our school community. In Somers, we educate the whole child by equipping each student with 21st century knowledge and skills, emphasizing social, emotional, and physical wellness, and modeling a spirit of global citizenship.

By partnering with the Somers community, we aim to build consensus and to move Forward in Excellence in our schools in a way that enjoys enthusiastic support from parents and other stakeholders.

None of this would be possible without the endless devotion of our teachers, parents, students, staff, and community members. Each plays a vital role in helping to prepare our children for success in a global society. I thank you all.

You can read more about the results of the process in the following pages.

In partnership,
Harry

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Harry LeFevre



2024-25

About the Report

The annual Somers Central School District Forward in Excellence Report is a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments related to the mission of the Somers Central School District. The district uses the Elements of Excellence, clearly defined below, as the framework to guide decision-making to ensure the development of the Whole Child.

At different times during the year, the data and information about an individual Element will be presented to the community at Board of Education meetings.

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Professional Learning Communities

SCSD will cultivate a community of professional learners focused on advancing student success.

Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness

SCSD will advance social, emotional, and physical wellness in all learners to successfully navigate current and future experiences.

21st Century Knowledge & Skills

SCSD will ensure the intellectual growth and development of critical skills so that all learners can thrive in an ever-changing world.

Global Citizenship

SCSD will nurture a sense of responsibility, belonging, and acceptance in all students and foster a respectful understanding of broader perspectives.

Fiscal Stewardship

SCSD is committed to responsible financial planning and allocation of resources to ensure a safe learning environment where all students achieve excellence.

Family and Community Engagement

SCSD will strengthen and nurture connections across the Somers community through engagement, constructive partnerships, and the inclusion of all voices.



FORWARD IN EXCELLENCE

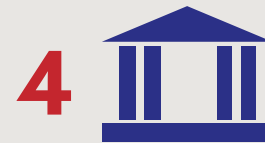
About Somers CSD

Somers is a suburban community located in Westchester County about 45 miles north of New York City. It is home to some of the finest schools in New York State. Our two campuses are the hub of activity in the town of Somers and foster collaboration between the school district and the community.

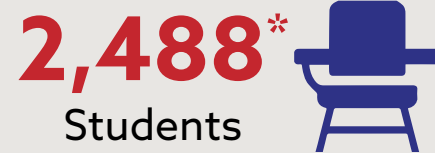
Our district is committed to the development of the whole child, encompassing three fundamental areas:

- 21st Century Knowledge & Skills
- Social, Emotional, & Physical Wellness
- Global Citizenship

The programs and teaching methods are designed to meet the needs of each individual learner, focusing on the knowledge and skills necessary to solve problems, think critically and creatively, and work collaboratively and cooperatively with others.



Schools



Students



275 Teachers

184

(Full time)

69

(Part time)

Support Staff

18 Administrators

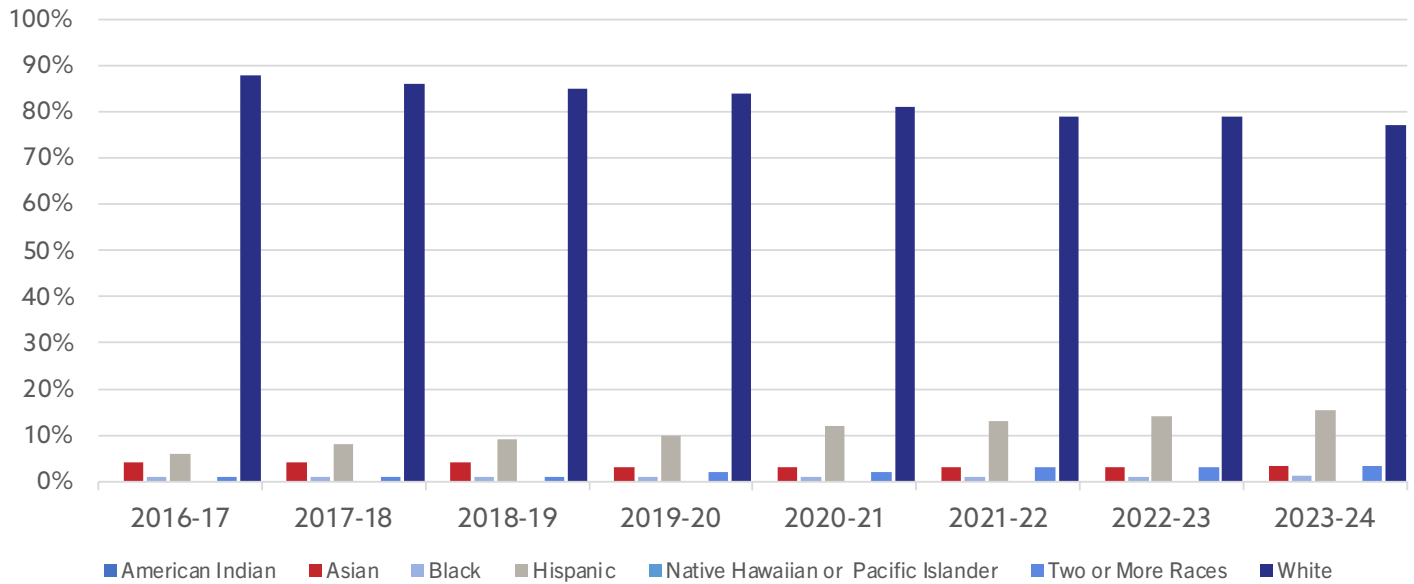
*Excludes out of district enrollment

**Employee data for 2024-25 school year

SCSD Demographics

Somers Central School District is an increasingly diverse district. In the year 2023-2024, at least seven languages were spoken in district homes.

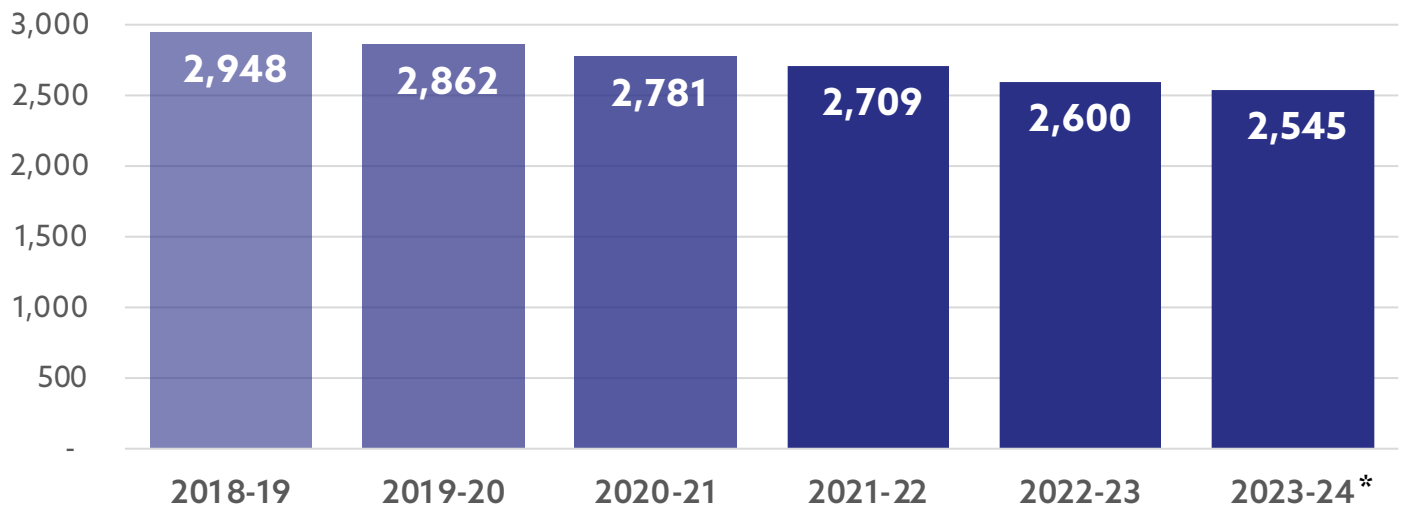
In the last 12 years, the number of students in the district identifying as non-white increased from 8% to 21%. By 2030, that number is projected to increase to 25%.



Building Enrollment

The number of students enrolled in Somers public schools has been decreasing since 2012, due to declining birth rates. At the elementary and middle schools, enrollment has reached the lowest projected level of 175-200 students per grade, where it is expected to remain. As those smaller classes progress through the high school, total enrollment at the high school will level out at approximately 800 students. As enrollment decreases, SCSD is reducing staffing through attrition.

Total Enrollment Over a 6-Year Period



Information based on latest data available from the New York Basic Education Data System
 * This number is approximate, final number will be reported in October 2024.

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Professional Learning Communities

SCSD will cultivate a community of professional learners focused on advancing student success.



SCSD strategically engages adult learners in being active contributors to a professional learning community (PLC) by continuously engaging the following questions:

“What do we want our students to know, be able to do, and understand?”

“How do we know what our students know, are able to do, and can understand?”

“What do we do when students don’t know, aren’t able to do, or can’t understand?”

“What do we do when they already know, are able to do, and understand?”



Stakeholder Engagement

The Learning Office provides professional learning for faculty and staff, including teaching assistants and aides, clerical workers, monitors, bus drivers, and food service workers. We also ensure that families, community members, and students are engaged in learning throughout the year.



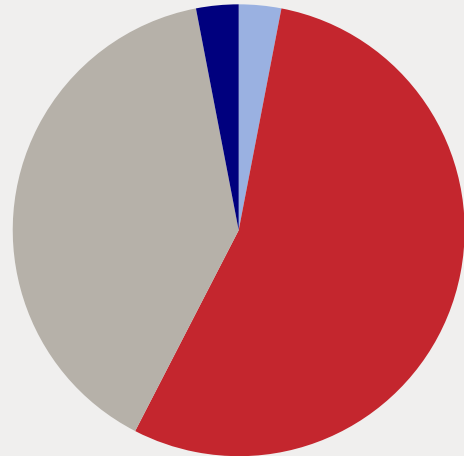
When, What, and How We Learn

FOCUS AREAS



All faculty and staff participated in professional learning during the 2023-24 school year. Opportunities included professional learning days, faculty meetings, teacher-facilitated workshops, and conferences.

Faculty & Staff



■ 0-9 Years ■ 10-19 Years ■ 20-29 Years ■ 30+ Years

Average Years of Experience per Teachers

98%
in 2024

Teacher Retention Rate

97% of Teachers have a Masters Degree

23 Average In-House Professional Learning Hours per Teacher for 2023-24





What Drives Our Professional Learning

The Learning Office works closely with faculty and staff to design the district's professional learning experiences. Our professional learning priorities:

Increase teacher voice, choice and agency through:

- Surveys - Professional Learning Interest Survey and Professional Learning Reflection Tool
- Focus Groups - Building-based with faculty and staff
- Teacher-designed and facilitated learning opportunities
- Student Learning Data - formal and informal
- Student Focus Groups

Provide learning opportunities that are:

- Aligned to New York State curriculum standards
- Aligned to SCSD mission, vision, collective commitments
- Aligned to expressed need
- Focused on increasing student engagement
- Supportive of SMART goals
- Easily applied





Targeted Professional Learning



Objectives

In addition to the ongoing professional learning that is available to all faculty and staff, we also provide targeted learning opportunities to effectively support student growth.



Participation

Teachers, teaching aides, teaching assistants, and administrators come from across the district to work together to learn about specific topics related to curriculum, standards, technology, assessments, and other areas.



Examples

- International Baccalaureate and Middle Years Programme workshops
- Best practices in literacy instruction and assessment K-8
- K-12 MTSS Alignment
- In-service courses (evidenced-based grading, executive functioning, technology integration)



Summer Work

While students are on summer break, our teachers invest time in professional learning to improve their educational practices and materials.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Every year before the start of school, leaders from kindergarten through high school gather to ensure K-12 alignment in professional learning and goals.



Objectives

1. Familiarize ourselves with the SCSD Success Plan
2. Engage in learning on our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) structures and how these structures support Whole Child instructional planning and equity for our learners
3. Reflect on our roles in supporting Tier 1 instruction and learning for students
4. Consider how MTSS influences the school experience for all



Participation

Administrators and teacher leaders including: grade-level leaders, curriculum area leaders, team leaders, and teachers on special assignment.



Summit Feedback

One participant shared: *“Collaboration is essential for the effective implementation of MTSS. Teachers, leaders, and support staff should be unified on their vision and understanding of MTSS for students. Personally, I can contribute to the collective effort by creating a culture of community for all students, using research based best practices for Tier 1 instruction, collecting and maintaining data and using that data to collaborate with colleagues on next steps.”*

SUMMER CURRICULUM WORK



Objectives

Teams and individuals work on adapting, creating, or aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to appropriately reflect student experiences in the classroom.



Participation

- 53 proposals approved, representing all four schools.
- 1,425 hours of work completed.
- Work conducted across all subject and support areas.



Examples

New course material development, literacy curriculum development, world language expansion to Primrose, differentiated instruction and small group planning, MYP, embedded honors, special education, Tusker101, school counseling, evidence-based grading, computer science and digital fluency, executive functioning, and arts.

TUSKER U: FACULTY FOCUS

Professional learning sessions created and facilitated by faculty and staff for their colleagues that are aligned with the SCSD mission, visions, and collective commitments.



Objectives

1. Practical, responsive to expressed needs, and focused on increasing student engagement
 2. Provides time and structure for faculty and staff to learn from and with each other
 3. Encourages interdisciplinary and cross-grade and/or building level collaboration
-



Participation

- 73 teacher and teaching assistant participants
 - 7 sessions offered
 - All grade levels represented
-

TUSKER U: FAMILY FOCUS



Objective

To be responsive and proactive in engaging families and community members in learning that is related to a variety of student experiences.



Participation

All SCSD stakeholders: families, guardians, community members.



Examples

- English as a New Language Night
 - Annual Wellness Summit (2023 topic: Executive Functioning)
-



TUSKER U: STUDENT FOCUS



Objectives

To engage students in summer learning activities that maintain the home-school connection and provide meaningful opportunities for developmentally appropriate learning and collaboration with teachers.



Participation

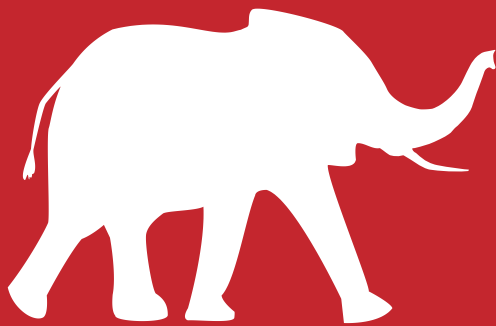
- 20 class sections offered
- 107 registered students



Feedback

- “We learned to cooperate with each other.” - SCSD student*
- “We are so happy that he was open to trying these sessions with you and give you so much credit for him wanting to come back and do more.” - SCSD parent*
- “My daughter is really enjoying the classes - she loves attending them.” - SCSD parent*





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