

# NPS

NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

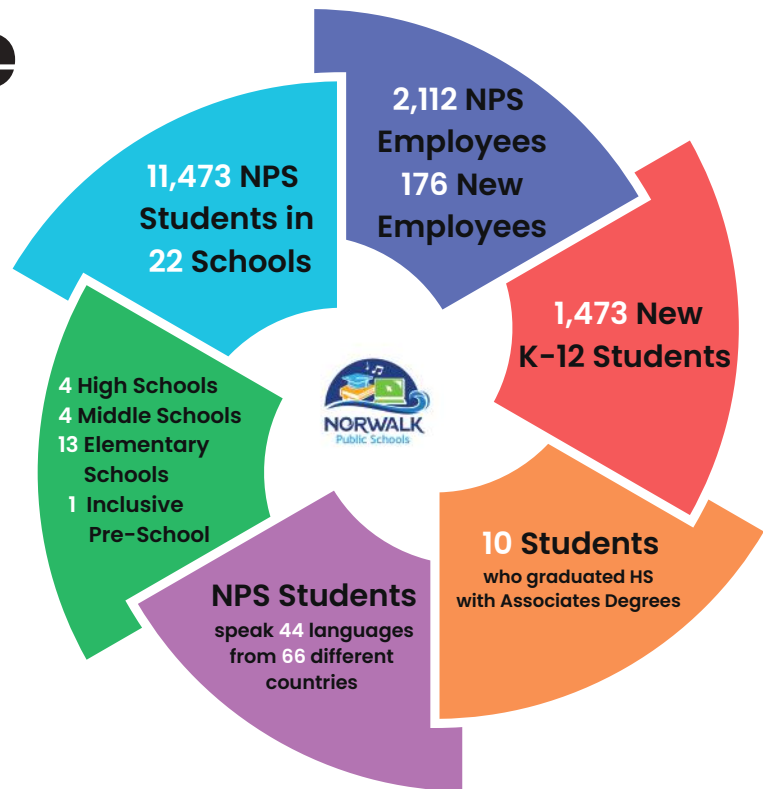
STATE  
OF THE  
SCHOOLS  
2024  
EDITION



# GAME CHANGERS



# At A Glance



## Highlights

### Award-Winning Arts

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation recognized Norwalk Public Schools as one of the Best Communities for Music Education for a fifth consecutive year. The Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) Award recognizes and celebrates school districts and schools for their support and commitment to music education and their efforts to ensure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

Young thespians from Brien McMahon High School and Norwalk High School won four awards at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Seven Angels Theatre Halo Awards for their fall plays and spring musical productions. The high school marching bands also were state champions at the 2023 New England State Championships.

### Academic Opportunities

Learning opportunities extended beyond the classroom for Norwalk Public Schools students during the 2023-24 school year. Over 800 eighth graders stepped aboard the Amistad Freedom Schooner, a 129-foot recreation of the historic Amistad ship, when it made port at Norwalk's Veterans Park. The New York Rangers also taught skating and hockey skills to students during trips to the SoNo Ice House.

Norwalk High School's Interdisciplinary Global Engagement Pathway was recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as a Program of Excellence, and Brien McMahon High School earned the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles (CSP).

### Athletic Accomplishments

The district's student-athletes from Brien McMahon High School and Norwalk High School excelled in individual competition at the state level including top three finishes in swimming, wrestling, and track and field events. The Center for Global Studies fencing program produced its first state champion and two of Brien McMahon's finest male athletes headed to U.S. military academies this fall.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A game changer produces a significant shift in how we do things or how we think about things. Game changers push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and believe in the power of possibility. They are relentless in their pursuit of excellence, and they remind us that meaningful change is within our reach.

In Norwalk Public Schools, game changers are everywhere. They advocate for their peers, pushing for positive change and inclusion. They are motivated by curiosity, constantly learning new things and expanding their knowledge. They are team players, united in their pursuit of excellence.

As I enter my fifth year as your Superintendent, I am filled with excitement and optimism. Our district is a place where potential is nurtured and every day brings new opportunities for learning and growth. Our educators are the driving force behind this, guiding our scholars with passion and dedication, ensuring they are prepared to thrive in our ever-evolving world.

This past year, we embarked on a journey to reinvigorate our strategic plan, incorporating the new Portrait of a Graduate initiative. This initiative reflects our commitment to equipping our students with the skills and mindset needed to succeed, not just in school, but in life. It's about thinking critically, communicating effectively and working well with others to become civically responsible, globally engaged citizens.

Our collective efforts are what make this possible. Together, we are creating an environment where every student has the opportunity to be a game changer. I am grateful for your unwavering support and look forward to another year of growth, learning, and success in our district.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Let's make this the best year yet!

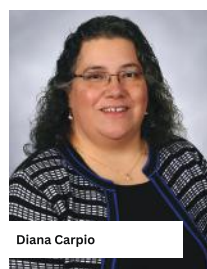


**Dr. Alexandra Estrella**

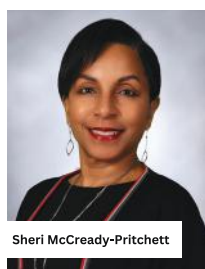
Superintendent  
Norwalk Public Schools

## 2024 Board of Education

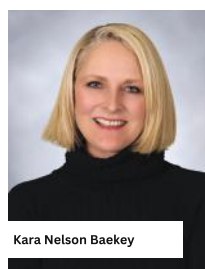
We are grateful to all our Board of Education members who volunteer their time and commitment as elected officials in service to our schools. To contact the Board of Education, email [board@norwalkps.org](mailto:board@norwalkps.org).



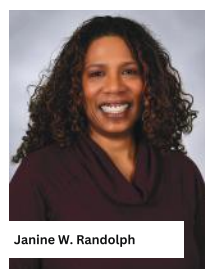
Diana Carpio



Sheri McCready-Pritchett



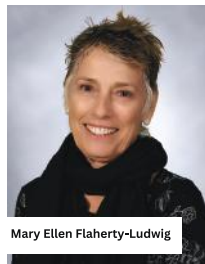
Kara Nelson Baekey



Janine W. Randolph



Colin Hosten



Mary Ellen Flaherty-Ludwig



Howard White



Ashley Gulyas



Jasmine Prezzie

**Norwalk  
Public  
Schools  
Board of  
Education**

# Game Changers

**Norwalk Public Schools strives to prepare students to graduate as civically responsible, globally engaged and positive contributors to an ever-changing and diverse world. However, some of our students are changing the game even before they receive their high school diplomas. We're proud to spotlight seven inspiring students who made a significant impact on their communities this past year.**



## **Reisli Maldonado Quintero**

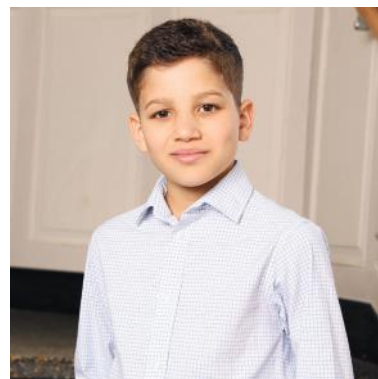
Silvermine Dual Language Magnet School

Reisli won first place in the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Being Bilingual Essay Competition at the Elementary School level. She received a prize package that included a trip to New Orleans in Spring 2024 to present her essay, "My Superpower," in both English and Spanish at the NABE Awards Luncheon. Bilingualism is her superpower!

## **Dorian Gonzalez**

Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy

Dorian and 13 of his classmates at Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy were selected as the CT State Winner for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition, a national competition designed to empower middle and high school students to leverage the power of STEM to create innovative solutions addressing critical issues in their local communities.



## **Jaylen Brown**

Norwalk High School

Despite standing at 5 foot 9, Jaylen's passion and commitment to the game of basketball stood above the rest. In his junior year at Norwalk High School, he dropped an impressive 54 points in a single game, and during his senior year, he averaged nearly 30 points per game. Off the court, Jaylen excelled academically, earning a spot on the honor roll as a senior and proving himself a dedicated scholar-athlete.



## Keira Cunniffe

Norwalk High School

Keira earned the Kevin M. Eidt Scholarship for being the most outstanding senior in the Norwalk High School Class of 2024. During her senior year, she maintained a 4.5 GPA while taking multiple advanced placement courses. She also played field hockey and lacrosse. Keira was an Irish Dancer with the Harney Pender Keady Academy of Irish Dance and a member of Helping Hands, NHS Bear Council, Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, and the Unified Sports Program.

## Shirley Lin

P-TECH Norwalk

Shirley earned the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence (a 4.0 GPA) from CT State Community College Norwalk while still attending P-TECH Norwalk. She was recognized by the college's CEO Cheryl C. De Vonish for her accomplishments at the CT State Norwalk commencement ceremony alongside 20 other P-TECH students who also earned their associate's degree from the community college in Spring 2024 before graduating high school.



## Roshni Yousuf

Brien McMahon High School

Roshni earned the first-ever Rising Star ImpACT award from the Norwalk Commission on the Status of Women as part of the City of Norwalk's Women's History Month celebration. A member of the Center for Youth Leadership, Roshni was nominated by Brien McMahon High School principal Barbara Wood for her advocacy to have free feminine products in restrooms and developing a school policy for gender non-conforming and transgender students.

## Lex Francois

Center for Global Studies

Lex won the gold medal in fencing at the Varsity Individual State Championship in March 2024. Competing against 35 high school fencers from 14 schools across Connecticut, Lex won his final bout in the Individual Men's Saber event 15-9. He was the first fencer from the Center for Global Studies to secure a gold medal at the varsity level.









# Portrait of a Graduate

**At the midpoint of the Future Ready for All: 2021-26 Strategic Plan, the district re-evaluated its strategic priorities to better align with the newly launched Portrait of a Graduate initiative. This initiative reflects our commitment to equipping our students with the skills and mindset they need to succeed, not just in school, but in life.**

Our world is rapidly changing. Many of our young students will be working in jobs that don't yet exist and solving problems that we can't even imagine. How can we prepare our students to be future ready?

## **That's where the Portrait of a Graduate comes in!**

The NPS Portrait of a Graduate represents our community's dream for our young people and the essential skills they need to thrive in the future. It's all about helping our students develop the skills they need to succeed in their own unique ways.

## **Portrait of a Graduate Competencies**

Our Portrait of a Graduate focuses on these five essential competencies:

- **Synergistic Collaborator:** Working well with others to reach a common goal.
- **Effective Communicator:** Expressing ideas clearly and actively listening.
- **Critical Thinker:** Analyzing and evaluating information to make good decisions.
- **Self-Directed Learner:** Taking charge of learning and being ready for new challenges.
- **Global Citizen:** Understanding and appreciating diverse perspectives and cultures.



## **Portrait of a Graduate Development**

The NPS Portrait of a Graduate was developed in collaboration with staff, students, Board of Education members, and the Norwalk community. Over 4,700 individuals contributed to shaping this vision!

We grounded the development of the Portrait of a Graduate in child development and durable skills research, while also drawing upon academic standards and social-emotional learning frameworks. Additionally, we sought insights from experts and other school districts across the nation with similar initiatives to learn from their experiences.

## **Portrait of a Graduate Launch**

This fall, we are thrilled to kick off the Portrait of a Graduate with an emphasis on the critical thinker competency. A critical thinker can make complex decisions by analyzing information and identifying connections between different ideas. Students will have more opportunities across subjects to develop this essential competency. Students will practice critical thinking by:

- **Logically Interpreting, analyzing and synthesizing information.**
- **Evaluating information for accuracy and relevance.**
- **Reflecting on their ideas and using evidence to support their conclusions.**

Critical thinking skills can be developed both inside and outside of the classroom. Families can encourage their children to be independent thinkers by asking open-ended questions; to be thoughtful in their decision making by considering different factors; and to revise and reflect on their decisions, letting their child know that it's okay to make mistakes and it's all part of the learning process.

## **Join Us on This Journey!**

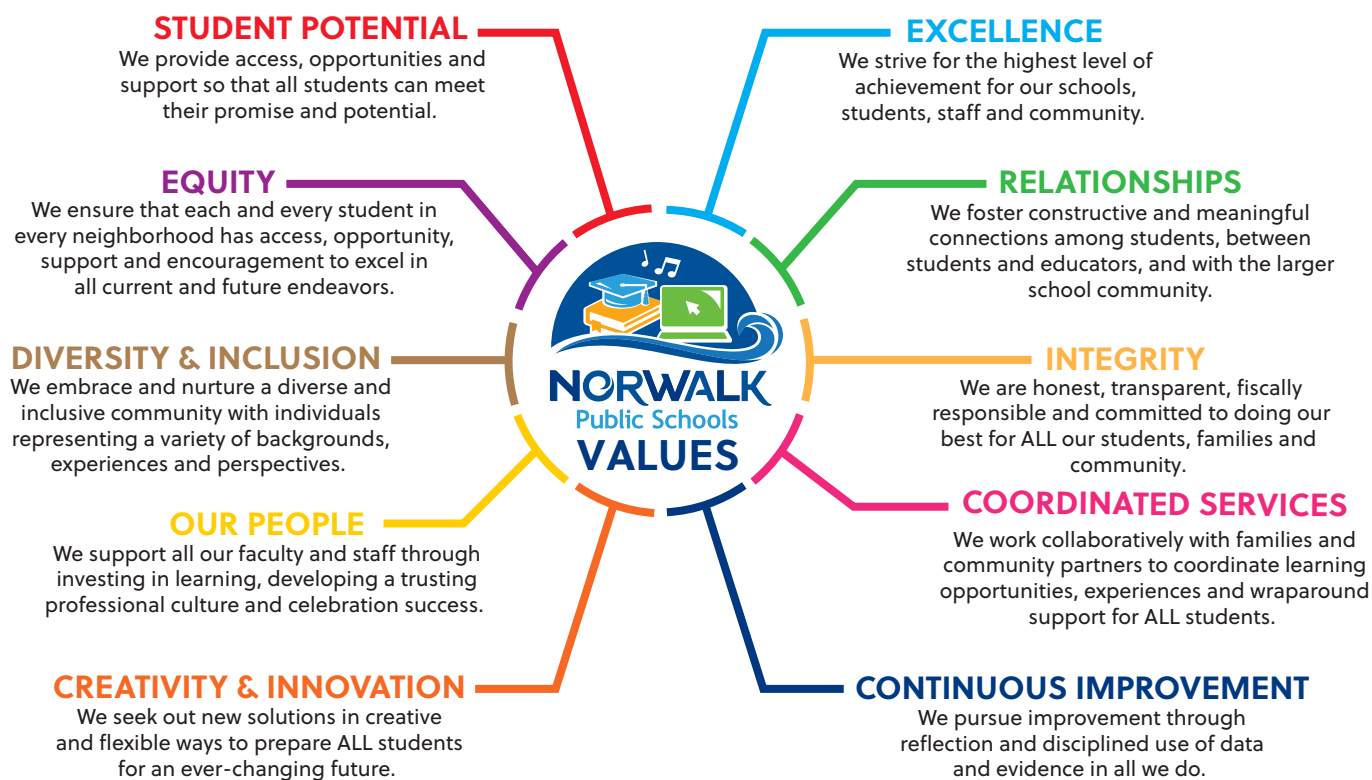
We are excited to embark on this journey with our students, educators, families, and community. By partnering together, we can support our students in developing the essential skills they need to become future ready.

To learn more about the Portrait of a Graduate and discover how you can support your child at home, visit [www.norwalkps.org](http://www.norwalkps.org) or scan the QR Code.



# The Framework

## FOCUSES ON 10 CORE VALUES



## Our Mission

Norwalk Public Schools provides an excellent and equitable education, so ALL students graduate future ready as civically responsible, globally engaged and positive contributors to an ever-changing and diverse world.

## Our Vision

Norwalk Public Schools is building a more equitable and just world where each and every Norwalk student is prepared for all aspects of life.



# Our Commitment

**OUR WORK IS GUIDED BY BY OUR STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES.**

**WE ARE STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SCHOLARS.**



## **5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

### **EXCELLENCE**

Achieve excellence in all aspects of our organization through effective systems, modern learning environments and continuous improvement processes.

### **ENGAGEMENT**

Ensure all children, families, team members and the community are informed, are involved and feel welcome in our schools.

### **FUTURE READINESS**

Prepare all students so they are ready for further education, career and workplace opportunities and globally engaged leadership.

### **EQUITY**

Ensure equitable opportunities, facilities, experiences and outcomes for all students.

### **HIGH - QUALITY INSTRUCTION & SUPPORT**

Foster relevant and intellectually stimulating learning with targeted supports that produce social, emotional and academic growth.

# 5 Strategic Priorities

## PRIORITY 1

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Future Readiness
- Education & Career Pathways

## FUTURE READINESS

Prepare all students so they are ready for further education, career and workplace opportunities, and globally engaged leadership.

### ACTIONS



#### Define Future Readiness.

Collaborate with students, employers and postsecondary education providers to understand the skills and competencies necessary for success after graduation, and to articulate pathways for successful educational and career outcomes.



#### Provide Aligned Advising.

Ensure students receive college and career advising, leading students to make informed academic and career decisions.



#### Strengthen Student Success Plans.

Strengthen individualized student success plans so they address every student's needs and interests, help students stay connected in school, and support students in achieving post secondary educational and career goals.



#### Ensure Access to Early Postsecondary Opportunities.

Build on Norwalk's leadership in career pathways to strengthen student awareness, access and employer involvement.

## PRIORITY 2

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intervention Supports
- Communication for Access and Opportunity
- Policy

## EQUITY

Ensure equitable opportunities, facilities, experiences and outcomes for ALL students.

### ACTIONS



#### Develop System of Student Supports.

Develop and continually refine a district-wide tiered system of support that includes defining academic and behavioral tiers available and processes for utilization.



#### Design and Implement Professional Learning.

Develop and implement a professional learning system focused on expanding cross-cultural competency to replace bias-based beliefs.



#### Improve Communication with Families.

Enhance communication systems by expanding virtual communication and the use of translation services, and by establishing a central source for information on enrollment in magnet, gifted, honors and AP courses, and the special education evaluation process.



#### Ensure Parent Participation in School Governance.

Improve the process of parent participation in school leadership opportunities and ensure parent participation is representative of racial/ethnic student enrollment.





### **Create and Expand Choice.**

Expand themes, pathways and programs to provide increased opportunities for students.



### **Define and Broaden Global Citizenship.**

Create learning experiences that foster the knowledge, skills and self-awareness necessary for students to assume globally engaged leadership during and beyond their school years.

## **THEORY OF ACTION**

If we clarify and focus on the skills and competencies most essential for success in college, career and globally engaged leadership, and if we can create the pathways and opportunities to grow those skills and competencies, then we can expand the number of students who graduate future ready.



**Develop an Equity Policy.** Develop an equity policy and statement that reflects a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.

## **THEORY OF ACTION**

If we identify and address the root causes of inequity and disproportionality, we can create a district where each and every child experiences success.

## PRIORITY 3

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Learning Environments Systems
- Performance Management

# EXCELLENCE

Achieve excellence in all aspects of our organization through effective systems, modern learning environments and continuous improvement processes.

### ACTIONS



#### **Modernize and Maintain Facilities.**

Enhance buildings and school facilities to create conditions conducive to instructional innovation and learning for all.



#### **Create Future Ready Tracking System.**

Build an early childhood-to-career data system that protects privacy, ensures transparency, and provides the information our educators, students and families need to keep our learners on track.



#### **Enhance and Align Organizational Systems.**

Develop and improve the effectiveness and alignment of district and school systems to improve services, communication and outcomes.



#### **Implement a School Improvement System.**

Implement a school improvement system based upon cycles of planning, measuring outcomes, analyzing results and adapting strategies.

## PRIORITY 4

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Communication
- Coordinated Services
- Community Partnership

# ENGAGEMENT

Ensure all children, families, team members and the community are informed, are involved and feel welcome in our schools.

### ACTIONS



#### **Enhance Communications.**

Ensure effective, consistent and culturally responsive communications with students, families and community stakeholders.



#### **Innovate and Refine Family Engagement.**

Develop creative, intensive and research-based ways of engaging families from all backgrounds.



#### **Launch Family Center.**

Engage families through their child's academic years with a central hub that provides access to information and district services, offers programs and activities to support families, and facilitates connections to community resources.



#### **Promote a Collaborative Workplace.**

Build a supportive professional culture and ensure that our systems both keep employees fully informed and provide opportunities for them to provide meaningful feedback.

## PRIORITY 5

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Curriculum
- Educator Growth

# HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION & SUPPORT

Foster relevant and intellectually stimulating learning with targeted supports that produce social, emotional and academic growth.

### ACTIONS



#### **Ensure Relevant Curricula for ALL Students.**

Audit and ensure a K-12 curricula consistent with the skills and competencies necessary for students to graduate future ready.



#### **Integrate Social and Emotional Learning.**

Embed the social and emotional skills and supports necessary for wellness and success in school, the workplace, relationships and citizenship.



#### **Develop System of Student Supports.**

Develop and continually refine a district-wide tiered system of support that ensures student academic growth and success for each and every Norwalk child.



#### **Strengthen Instruction .**

Enhance student engagement and deepen learning by strengthening Tier 1 instruction and customizing learning experiences according to interests and goals.





**Enhance Performance Management System.** Develop an employee evaluation system that supports personnel professional development through a process of effective feedback.



**Build a Research and Evaluation Department.** Develop the organizational capacity to link, analyze and report critical data on student plans, progress and supports across systems and through student transitions.

## THEORY OF ACTION

If we develop a continuous improvement process anchored in clear priorities, use of data, and improvement routines, we can create a professional culture of excellence and get better at getting better; and if we align the structure of the organization to our priorities while fostering strong systems and standard operating procedures, we can ensure alignment and coherence, and reduce variation across the district.



**Partner for a Stronger Tomorrow.** Work with philanthropic and community organizations to build a stronger school system and a better future for all students.



**Leverage Student Voice.** Enhance the learning experience by creating systems that ensure diverse and authentic perspectives from students across the district.

## THEORY OF ACTION

If we partner with students, families and the community and communicate effectively, we can create a district that is more welcoming, inclusive and effective.



**Enhance Instructional Assessment System.** Refine and broaden the assessment system to understand student learning and achievement, support school improvement cycles and produce timely information that can drive instruction.



**Invest in Educator Capacity.** Design a professional learning system that promotes educator collaboration and is focused on the competencies and perspectives most essential to ensuring all students graduate future ready.

## THEORY OF ACTION

If we create consistently effective teaching and learning with targeted interventions and support, we can support each and every child in developing the competencies, skills and dispositions necessary for further education, career opportunities and life.

# Grants

Norwalk Public Schools has an estimated \$37.5 million in ongoing grant funding for the 2024-25 school year. Grant funding represents 13% of the total financial resources to fund the operating budget.

Norwalk Public Schools and the City of Norwalk secured a \$15 million federal grant from the United States Department of Education for the district that will support and enhance the educational experiences at three of our schools (K-14) – Kendall College and Career Academy, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy and P-TECH Norwalk.

## \$21.5 Million in Air Conditioning Grants

In Spring 2024, the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services awarded \$21.5 million in grant funding to the City to improve the heating and cooling systems in six schools. This investment underscores a commitment by the State and the City to help maximize student success by fostering optimal and equitable learning environments. The total estimated cost of these projects is approximately \$36 million. A special capital appropriation of approximately \$14.4 million by the City will fully fund the project.





# Student Leadership Council

## FROM STUDENTS TO LEADERS

The Superintendent's Student Leadership Council gives an opportunity for students in grades 10, 11 and 12 to make their voice heard, connect with their peers and gain leadership skills.

Members of the Council make a difference by sharing ideas directly with the superintendent and her team to positively impact their school and Norwalk Public Schools by discussing academics, behavior and culture directly with her.

In their first meeting, members of the 2023-24 Superintendent's Student Leadership Council identified areas of concern in their schools that they wanted to address. They chose to focus on improving communications between students and their teachers, counselors and administrators.

To gather feedback and find solutions, the students created a survey and distributed it to their peers in all four NPS high schools. The council members then presented their findings at the Norwalk Board of Education business meeting in June 2024.



## Student-Based Health Center



Norwalk Public Schools partnered with the Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC) to open two new school-based health and wellness centers (SBHC) during the 2023-24 school year. One is serving students at Brien McMahon High School and the Center for Global Studies, and the other is located at Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy and Concord Magnet School. NCHC plans to open two more SBHCs in Kendall College and Career Academy and the NPS Family Center this coming year.

The district also partners with the Human Services Council which operates the Dr. Robert Appleby School Based Health Centers in five schools. Having these health centers in schools provides greater access to a wide variety of healthcare services for our students that may otherwise be unattainable.

## Twilight and Virtual Academy

Norwalk Public Schools' Future Ready Programs – Twilight Academy and Virtual Academy are initiatives designed to re-engage disengaged youth and provide necessary support for their academic success. These programs provide students with program choice to avail them with the opportunity to re-engage in the school environment.

Twilight Academy graduated 15 students in February 2024. Another 83 graduates received their high school diploma during Summer 2024 thanks to the Future Ready Programs as well as the Multilingual Learning (MLL) Accelerated Summer Program, and the Credit Recovery Program.



## School Construction



Norwalk Public Schools broke ground on two new school buildings this past year – Norwalk High School/P-TECH Norwalk and South Norwalk Elementary School. The Norwalk High School/P-TECH Norwalk construction will benefit from an unprecedented 80% reimbursement rate, and the South Norwalk school will be the first built under the new state reimbursement rate of 60% for all new school construction in the City of Norwalk, both rates secured in large part to the efforts of Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff of Connecticut.



The South Norwalk Elementary School will be the South Norwalk community's first neighborhood school in over 40 years and is projected to open in Fall 2025. The new Norwalk High School/P-TECH is projected to open in Fall 2027 with all site work completed by Fall 2028.

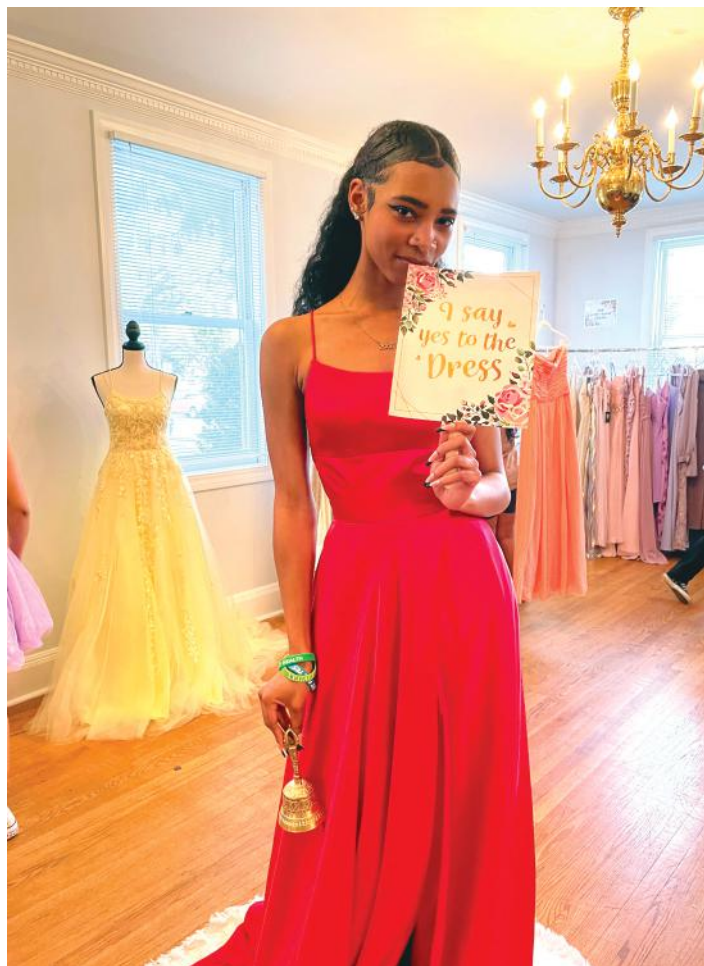
## Food Services

The Chartwells K-12 Dining Services team at Norwalk Public Schools was awarded top honors among Chartwells' more than 700 partner school districts across the country. The district's Food Services team earned the 2023 Chartwells National Account of the Year for their innovation in in-school dining, an unwavering commitment to food and nutrition education, operational excellence, and outstanding community partnership.

Norwalk Public Schools continues to offer free breakfast and lunch meals during the 2024-25 school year, maintaining the Community Eligibility Provision that allows the district to provide meals to all Norwalk children, ages 2 to 18. In partnership with Chartwells, the district served nearly 1.8 million meals in 2023-24.



## NPS Family Center



The NPS Family Center made dreams come true at its first Say Yes to a Prom Dress event, inviting seniors from all four high schools to pick out prom dresses, shoes and accessories to make this high school experience unforgettable. Over 100 students participated in the event and 79 received a voucher for a free ticket to the prom.

Throughout the year, the Family Center hosts educational workshops and family-fun events that engage our families and create a more inclusive community. Staffed by NPS employees, the Family Center provides access to a wide variety of services for all families. Open year-round, the Center is a warm, friendly and welcoming environment, providing easy access to register students, get information, voice concerns and resolve issues.

## Transportation

Many services that parents seek from the NPS Transportation Department are fully automated. A new bus tracking app – BusZone – was launched for the 2024-25 school year to track buses operated by Durham School Services. Parents can also locate student bus numbers, estimated pickup times and locations using WebQuery.

## Digital Learning



Norwalk Public Schools was accepted into the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, a national network of school districts that connects and supports the most forward-thinking leaders in education. The League is organized by Digital Promise, a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner by bridging solutions across research, practice, and technology. Joining the League will allow the district to connect with other leading school systems to advance innovation and excellence in education.

Norwalk Public Schools also expanded its participation in Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon's education initiative which addresses barriers to digital inclusion, to Roton Middle School and our four high schools. They joined Nathan Hale Middle School, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy, and West Rocks Middle School who were already participating in VILS.

In partnership with Digital Promise, the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program works side-by-side with schools and districts to provide free technology devices, access to the internet and innovative STEM learning programs, giving students in under-resourced schools the technology, education and opportunity they deserve. Being part of the program will keep students connected, helping to facilitate learning wherever it's taking place.



# Project SEARCH & Next Steps

Norwalk Public Schools proudly offers several opportunities for students ages 18-22 to successfully transition out of school and into the workforce.

Project SEARCH, an internationally recognized program, is a one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely in the workplace with a primary goal of securing competitive employment for individuals with disabilities. In partnership with Ability Beyond, we collaborate with Norwalk Hospital and CT State Community College Norwalk to place interns in three, 10-week internships to explore a variety of career paths. They work with a team including their families, a special education teacher, an employment specialist and the host site staff to create employment goals and provide support.

From the 2023-24 program year, 67% of participants are actively employed, one is pursuing a college degree, and three are actively working with agencies to obtain employment.

Norwalk Next Steps is our 18-22 community-based transition program that serves young adults with disabilities and focuses on independent living and vocational skills as well as functional academics. Students are immersed in the Norwalk community, developing meaningful partnerships related to working, volunteering, social/leisure and learning skills necessary for independence.

Next Steps currently partners with 19 community businesses where students can practice their vocational and independent living skills. The program also helps to run the Norwalk Toys for Tots organization with students assisting in the inventory process, organizing the donations and distributing the toys.

## Finance

	FY25 APPROVED GENERAL FUND	%
<b>Classroom &amp; School Services</b> Student Support, Educators, Instructional Support Staff, Busing, Counseling Services	\$ 199,989,815	85.7 %
<b>Business Services</b> Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal Services, Accounting, Payroll	\$ 12,601,459	5.4 %
<b>Operations</b> Maintaining safe functional environment for student learning	\$ 11,201,297	4.8 %
<b>Professional Development</b> Instructional Support, Curriculum Instruction, Equity and Bias Training	\$ 7,000,810	3.0 %
<b>General Administration</b> Administrative roles in central office and across the district	\$ 2,566,964	1.1 %
	\$ 233,360,344	100.0 %

# Opportunities and Options for Norwalk Students

## Norwalk Early Childhood Center

We offer a variety of preschool programs for 3 and 4 year olds including NECC which is an innovative Pre-K program for both typical and special needs children.

## International Baccalaureate Program, Middle Years

Roton Middle School and Nathan Hale Middle School are both candidates to offer the International Baccalaureate program for the middle years, grades 6-10. Students in the middle years program can feed into the IB Program at Brien McMahon High School.

## Expanding Dual-Language Programs

Brookside Elementary, Jefferson Marine Science Elementary, and West Rocks Middle School have added dual-language programs to their schools. Teachers plan and coordinate instructional programs in a teaching team environment where one teacher instructs in English and the other in Spanish.

## Brookside Montessori Primary Program

Based on self-directed activity, the Montessori style of education focuses on hands-on learning and collaborative play.

## Tracey Magnet School

The only school in the state to earn the title of National School of Character in 2024 by Character.org. Tracey students leave their "PRINT" on all that they achieve: Problem Solving, Respect, Integrity, Being Neighborly and Taking Responsibility.

## Concord Magnet School

This intra-district K-8 magnet program is based on the progressive Bank Street and H.O.T. (Higher Order Thinking) models. Students strive for academic excellence through hands-on, integrated units of study and arts infusion.

## Silvermine Dual Language Magnet School

In a full immersion dual language school, teachers plan and coordinate instructional programs in a team teaching environment at each grade level: one instructs in English, and the other in Spanish.

## Magnet Schools Assistance Program

The Magnet Schools Assistance Program is a five-year grant program from the US Department of Education that will support and enhance the educational experiences at Kendall College & Career Academy, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy and P-TECH Norwalk.

## Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy

This rigorous and integrated curriculum utilizes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) lessons and strategies to engage students.

## P-TECH Norwalk

Students can earn an Associate degree in software engineering, web development or mobile programming, at no cost, by taking courses at Norwalk Community College during high school. A partnership with IBM gives students access to mentorships, worksite visits, paid internships and potential permanent positions.

## Marine Science Academy at McMahon

Students learn to apply techniques and technology in this diverse field. Hands-on field experiences are available through local apprenticeships.

## Digital Media & Communications Academy at Norwalk High

Working with industry partners, DMCA provides a hands-on approach, enabling students to master industry-standard computer programs. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits through Quinnipiac University for specific courses.

## McMahon Healthcare Academy

Through Norwalk Community College and Norwalk Hospital, students earn certifications as emergency medical technicians, phlebotomy assistants and patient care technicians.

## International Baccalaureate Program & Diploma at McMahon

This comprehensive and rigorous two-year, pre-university course of study is highly regarded by colleges and universities. Those graduating with IB diplomas have a 22 percent higher college acceptance rate.

## Center for Global Studies

An inter-district magnet school located at BHMS, students study Chinese, Japanese and Middle Eastern languages and culture, with a focus on global mindedness. These students participate in two-week study tours to destinations across the globe.

## Wolfpit Intergrated Arts School

An arts-centered focus provides students with the opportunity to have an integrated arts education, while engaging in rigorous learning practices. This theme offers those students with an interest in visual and performing arts the skills they need to continue on the arts trajectory in middle school and beyond.

# NORWALK

## Public Schools

