



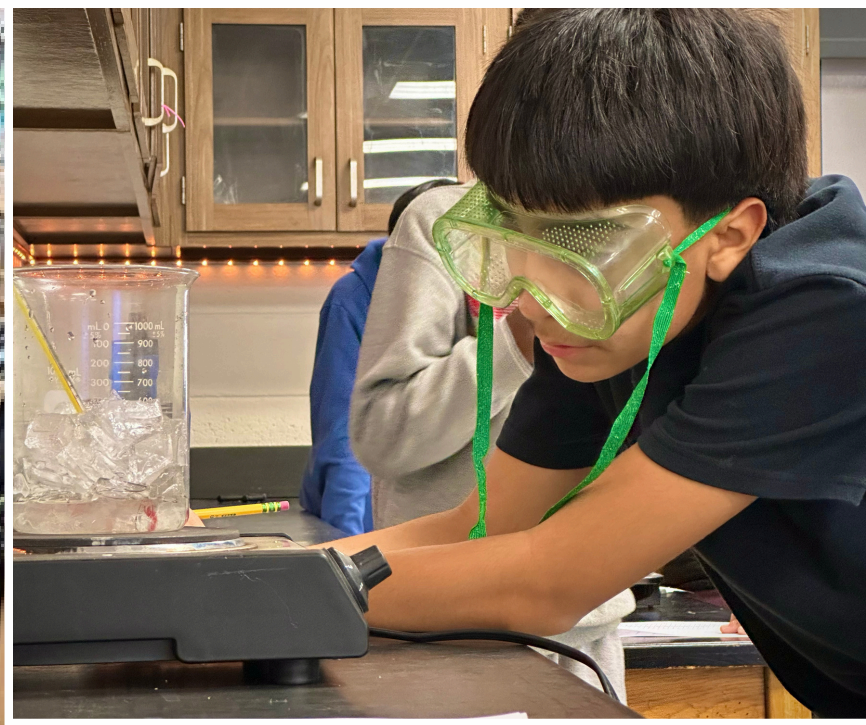
Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Looking Back, Moving Forward







A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Members of the Stamford Community:

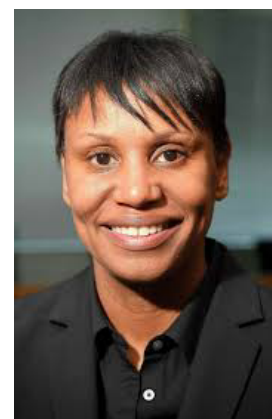
I am pleased to present the 2024 Stamford Public Schools Annual Report highlighting some of the amazing work that was accomplished by our students and staff during the 2023-24 school year. I am extremely proud of our educators and staff for continuing to advance our mission by providing every student with a high quality education that fosters productive habits of mind, body and heart.

Inside this report, you will find key operational data, highlights of academic achievements, and stories of success that reflect the immense talent and potential in our community. It is a testament to the collective effort of our educators, support staff, parents, and local partners who work together to create a positive and inclusive learning environment for our more than 16,000 students.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering excellence in education and ensuring that all students have access and opportunity to pursue a successful future.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students and our community.

Stay Safe & Healthy!
Dr. Tamu Lucero
Superintendent



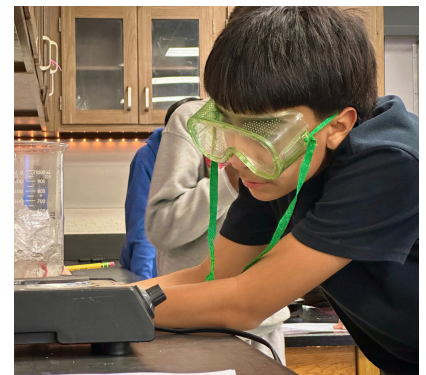
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Stamford Public Schools strives to challenge, inspire and prepare our students to succeed in our rapidly-changing City and world. During the 2023-2024 school year, various systemic changes were made in support of our district mission. Over \$350,000,000 was invested into the district's priority initiatives and programs. The following successes are the result of a fiscally responsible approach combined with significant collaboration among our community, staff, students and families.

16,300+
PreK-12
Students



5th
Largest
District in
Connecticut



2,970
Employees



23
Program
Locations

Stamford's average per-pupil spending (\$20,679) ranks **14th in Fairfield County**, behind Greenwich (\$26,311), Darien (\$23,180) and New Canaan (\$22,164)

Stamford Public Schools receives funding from the City of Stamford as well as state, federal, and private grants. The operating budget—which is approved annually by the Boards of Education, Finance and Representatives—funds day-to-day operations. Grants typically fund specific programs, services, or staff positions.

2023-24 Total Budget (Operating & Grants): \$366,942,188

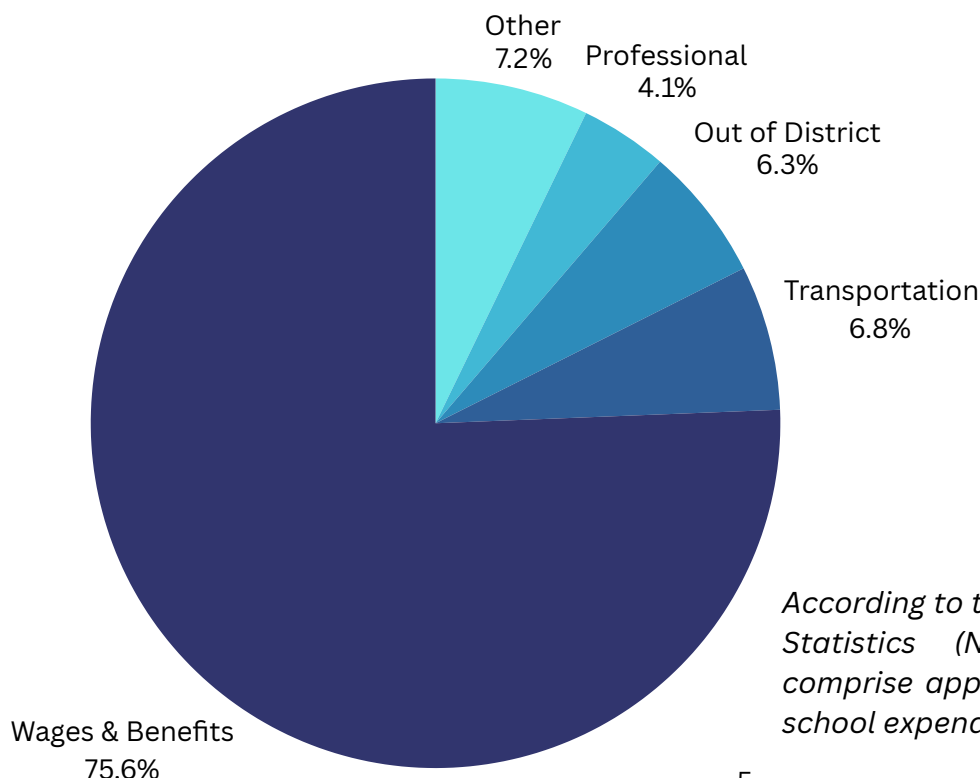
2023-24 Operating Budget from City: \$313,562,896

2023-24 Grants Budget: \$53,379,292

NOTE: The capital budget is allocated separately and funds major investments and projects, including school renovations and new school construction. Projects in the Long-Term Facilities Plan are part of the capital budget.

Compared to state-wide average, Stamford spends:

5% MORE on instruction
45% LESS on central office expenses



According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), salaries and benefits comprise approximately 80 percent of public-school expenditures in the United States.

FACILITIES



\$6.2M
Building Repair & Maintenance Budget

3M+
square feet of building space

\$9M+
Awarded to SPS through State of Connecticut's HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grants Program



New K-8 South School Added to State's 2024 Priority List at a 60% Reimbursement Rate



Stamford High's new multipurpose synthetic playing field will enhance competitiveness, improve player safety, provide consistent playing conditions, and extend the playing season.

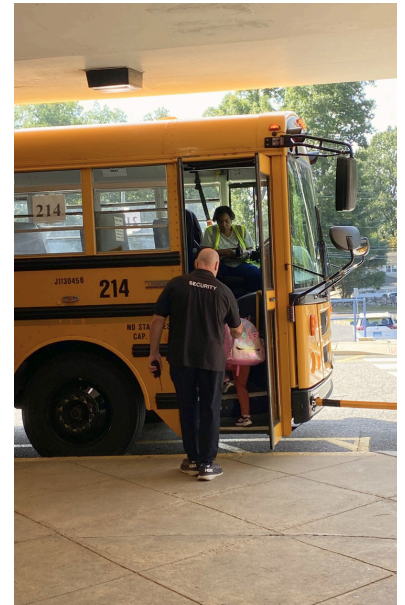
SAFETY & SECURITY

The safety and security of students, staff, and visitors is a top priority for Stamford Public Schools. The SPS Security Department is responsible for emergency management and the implementation of safety and security policies, plans, and training. This department also manages all internal investigations related to student or staff misconduct.

SPS employs 55 building-based school security staff who assist with student and visitor management, securing points of entry, monitoring student behavior, and assessing threats. School security staff are assigned to all PreK-12 building sites.

There are six School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to Stamford Public Schools. SROs are sworn police officers who have received additional training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response strategies. SROs are employed and supervised by the Stamford Police Department but work full time in our schools.

The security department continues to offer training to all of our staff through a collaboration with the Stamford Police Dept. in areas of Active Assailant Training and Emergency Response.



FY24 Security Upgrades

- Numbered exterior doors and windows to aid first responders
- Continued replacing aging AirPhone systems
- Purchased and installed additional security cameras
- Continued installation of RAPTOR visitor management system
- Upgraded/replaced classroom door locks

TECHNOLOGY



The SPS Technology Plan was introduced during the 2023-24 school year. This plan addresses technology use as it supports Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Personalized Professional Development, Budget and Resources, Community Partnerships, Data, Privacy and Infrastructure. The plan follows the Future Ready Schools® Frameworks, an industry standard for digital learning, visioning, planning and implementation.

**17 schools buildings
upgraded to 10GB
internet speed**

**More than 300
Promethean
Activ Panels
installed
in classrooms**

**Introduced
multifactor
authentication
for staff email**

COMMUNICATIONS

Stamford Public Schools prioritizes frequent communication about what is happening across the district and the individual schools. SPS and the individual schools make information available via their websites, the REMIND app, email, and social media. SPS and the individual schools also host frequent meetings to share important information about our schools and programs. 2023-24 communication and community engagement highlights included:

- 47 Superintendent Weekly Messages
- 38 Issues of Getting to the Point (weekly staff newsletter)
- 8 Cafe con la Super Spanish-Language Community Conversations
- 8 School Tours with Stamford Board of Realtors
- 6 Community Conversations with Dr. Lucero
- 5 Parent Pop-up Webinars
- 4 SCOPES Meetings
- 4 Issues of the SPS Quarterly (produced in 4 languages)



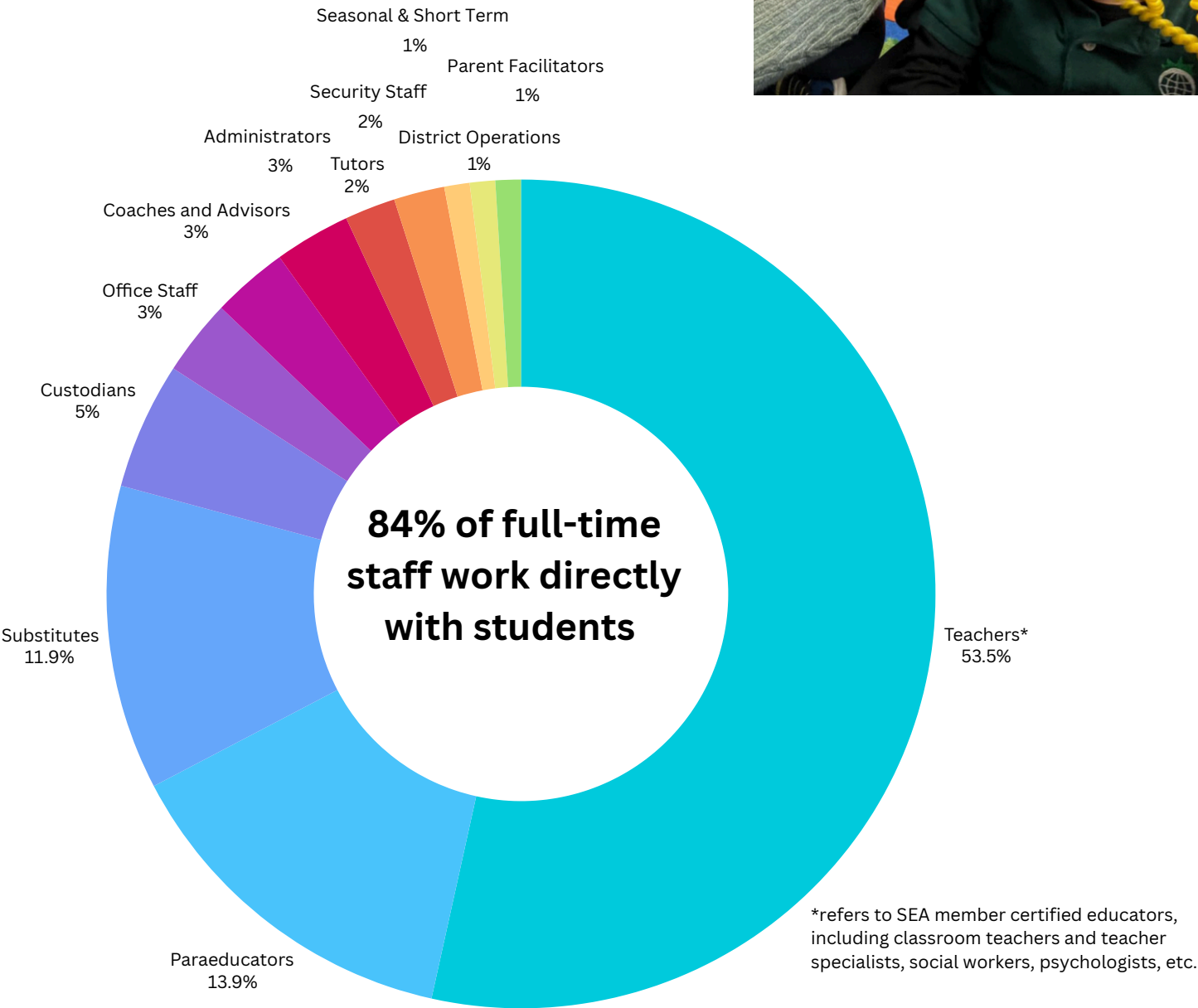
FOLLOW US



HUMAN RESOURCES

With 2,970 staff, Stamford Public Schools is a major employer in our community. The majority of our staff are state-certified educators and administrators.

Employees by Function



17% of certified educators hired for the 2023-24 school year graduated from SPS

54% of SPS staff reside in Stamford

STRONG CURRICULUM

Stamford Public School's instructional practices aim to prepare students for success in an ever-changing global society. We move every student forward from where they start, including both high achievers and those struggling academically. Written curriculum, as the most critical tool to support high quality teaching and learning, not only defines high levels of student learning, but also supports teachers with suggestions on how to deliver differentiated, student-centered instruction that is responsive to students' needs, backgrounds, and perspectives.

The 2023-24 school year was year two of a three-year project to develop new or updated curriculum in all content areas across PreK-12. Hundreds of our teachers are contributing to this work by participating in curriculum development committees. As of December 2023, the following content aligns with "Gold Star" curriculum standards:

English Language Arts & Literacy:

- All courses in grades 6-12
- All Kindergarten literacy units

Mathematics

- All courses in grades 6-8
- Integrated Math I

Science:

- All courses in grades 6-8
- High School Biology courses
- High School Chemistry courses

Social Studies:

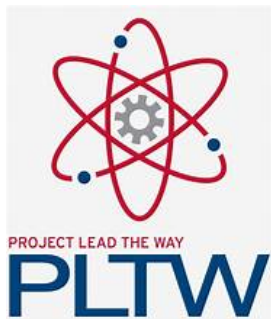
- All courses in grades 6-8
- High School World History I & II
- High School Civics I & II
- High School US History I & II



CAREER PATHWAYS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SPS continues to expand its Career Pathways Program, which offers students the opportunity to explore multiple academic pathways that align with their skills and passions.

- More than 100 students completed the Introduction to Manufacturing course.
- SPS finalized an agreement with CT State Housatonic for students to earn credits in Benchwork and Blueprint reading beginning in 2024-25.
- Piloted an Introduction to Public Safety pathway in collaboration with the Stamford Police and Fire Departments and Stamford EMS.
- A second cohort of students completed the pre-apprenticeship construction program at Westhill High School.



AITE Named Project Lead the Way Distinguished School

The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering High School (AITE) was named a 2023-24 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing students with transformative learning experiences through PLTW Computer Science, Biomedical Science, and Engineering. AITE was just one of seven schools in Connecticut to be recognized as a PLTW Distinguished School.

Expanded Intradistrict Business Offerings

The 2023-24 school year marked an expansion of academic offerings for high school students interested in pursuing business careers. At Westhill, the successful Academy of Finance became an intradistrict program welcoming students from throughout Stamford regardless of their zoned school. At Stamford High, the inaugural cohort of students in the new High School of Business began their studies.

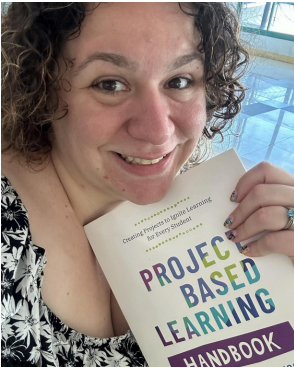


EDUCATORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Westhill Science Teachers Wendy Bosco and Sean Otterspoor, were two of 28 high school teachers from across New England who completed the professional development course Teaching the Genome Generation, sponsored by Connecticut-based Jackson Laboratory.

Davenport Ridge Elementary School Principal Michael Pisseri presented at the national STEM conference at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. Davenport features a special emphasis on STEM, including higher order, thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills.



The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced that SPS Anchor teacher and coach, Jessica Bromberg-Alvarado, was selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Short Term Program. The Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching sends expert U.S. educators to support schools in participating countries. Jessica traveled to the Philippines prior to the 2023-24 school year to provide training in Project-Based Learning.

TEACHER & PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

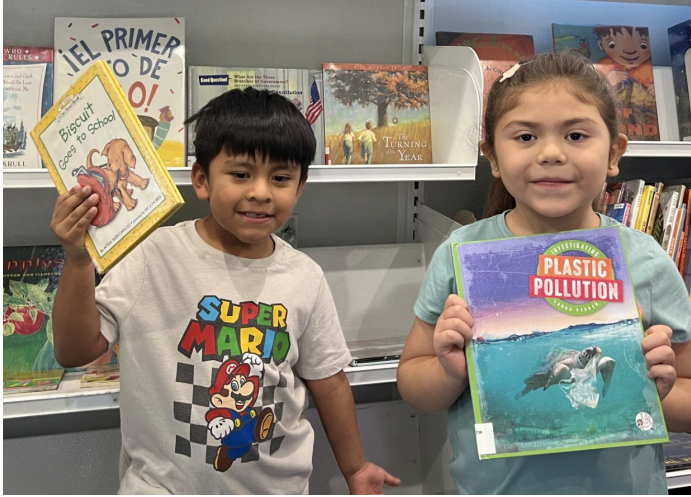


Congratulations to Stillmeadow Kindergarten teacher Carolyn Tschinkel, who was named the 2024-25 SPS Teacher of the Year. Ms. Tschinkel is a 33-year teaching veteran who describes her job as a “childhood dream come true.”



Congratulations to Stark Elementary's Maritza Nunez, the 2024-25 SPS Paraeducator of the Year. Maritza has supported our students as a paraeducator for 23 years and is also the proud parent of SPS graduates.

LEARNING IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Differentiated Learning in early Grades

Scheduling 90-minute literacy instructional blocks in K-2 allows for differentiated, small group instruction from the classroom teacher and stations where students practice applying their newly-acquired skills in reading, writing, listening and discourse.

Encouraging Creative Thinking at Every Grade Level

Our teachers provide fun and engaging opportunities for students to learn new concepts that combine play with education, while promoting teamwork and social skills. SPS manages nearly 20 multi-million-dollar grants that support district-wide in-school and after school enrichment programming.



The spirit of scientific inquiry was on display at Cloonan Middle School as 8th graders showcased their engineering prowess in the Egg Drop Contest, orchestrated by science teachers Mr. Russo and Mr. Kelly.

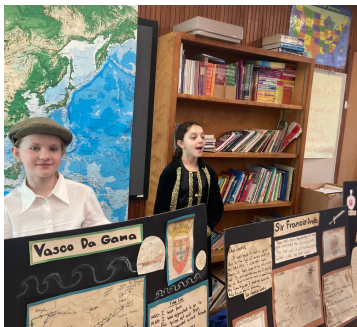
Hart Magnet School collaborated with Snapology to provide every classroom with an interactive environment in which to explore science, technology, engineering, robotics, art and math using LEGO® bricks and other tools to empower their creativity.



STUDENT CENTERED

16K+

PreK-12
Students



51%

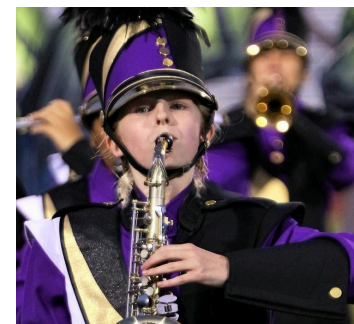
qualify for free
or reduced-price
meals

17%
qualify for special
education services



17%

are multilingual
learners



150+

clubs and sports
programs for high
school students



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- All secondary schools implemented Restorative Practices programs, which focus on strengthening relationships and connections between individuals, both youth and adults, in a school community.
- Every school hosted three or more Social Emotional Learning (SEL) professional development (PD) sessions. Topics included an overview of SEL, integrating SEL into instruction, analyzing data in the Aperture System, and a school attuned approach to SEL.
- SPS completed implementation of the Devereux Student Strength Assessment (DESSA) for grades K-12. Provided at no cost by the Connecticut State Department of Education, DESSA is a suite of research-based SEL screening tools and assessments.

FOOD SECURITY

Free Meals for All Students

Stamford Public Schools participated in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) service option during the 2023-24 school year. Through CEP, all SPS students had access to breakfast and lunch at no charge. CEP is part of the federally funded National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

263K

meals served
monthly
district-wide

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities

The Stamford Coalition of Parents Expecting Success (SCOPES) – a committee of the Parent Teacher Council of Stamford – was relaunched in 2023-24 in partnership with Stamford Public Schools. SCOPES is a parent support network and community resource on special education issues.



MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES

75+ Languages Spoken in Student Homes

In support of our many families who speak a primary language other than English, SPS makes information accessible via PowerSchool, REMIND, and all school websites in the following languages:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. English | 6. Polish |
| 2. Spanish | 7. Russian |
| 3. Ukrainian | 8. Portuguese |
| 4. Haitian-Creole | 9. Arabic |
| 5. Bengali/Bangla | 10. Tamil |

COMMUNITY FOCUSED

Stamford Public Schools collaborates with cultural and educational organizations from across the region to enrich our students' educational experience. In addition, SPS partners with community based organizations, city and state officials, and business leaders to ensure our families have access to available community resources that support educational success for all Stamford children regardless of income, race or circumstance.

GALA, which is a collaboration with the New Haven-based non-profit Discovering Amistad, fosters leadership skills for female students and highlights their future potential. This year, 12 SPS high school students participated in the GALA program.

According to Discovering Amistad, "The program focuses on the history and relevance of the Amistad Uprising of 1839 and the impact and tools of non-violent activism." The program encourages participants to investigate the topics of identity, oppression, privilege and equality and teaches them how to build leadership and teamwork skills.



In recognition of their dedication to sportsmanship and community service, the Stamford High School Athletic Department was awarded the 2022-2023 Michaels Jewelers Cup Award and the Fred Balsamo Sportsmanship Award, from the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

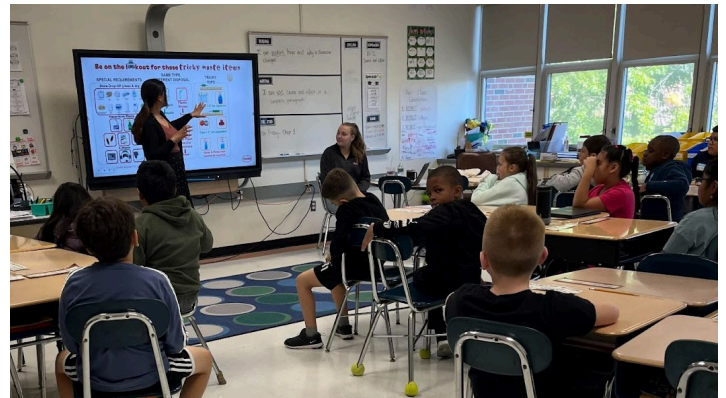
COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED LEARNING

Third grade students at Hart Magnet School enjoyed hands-on learning as part of the SPS animal studies unit while visiting The Whittingham Discovery Center in Mill River Park.



The Belltown Fire Department visited Newfield's Kindergartners who enjoyed seeing a fire truck and the "Jaws of Life" equipment. The presenting firefighters included a current Newfield parent and former Newfield students.

Stark Elementary third and fourth graders learned about innovative sustainability programs from Henkel employees. The students learned about recycling, composting and reducing waste in order to keep our planet safe and clean.



Newfield Reading Teacher Marci Marcus and Lenore Fogel, Director of the UJF Reading Partners Program, provided a workshop for the Reading Partner volunteers in our elementary schools. Reading Partners is a program that pairs volunteer reading tutors with children in grades K-3.

CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Stamford Public Schools works collaboratively with its community partners to maximize opportunities available to students and minimize the achievement and opportunity gaps that exist among various student groups.

Stamford Public Schools celebrates the value of multilingualism and recognizes the 265 SPS students who recently qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy. District wide, 187 seniors and 78 juniors were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy during 2023-24, a designation that they can read, write, speak and understand a language in addition to English. This year, students achieved the designation in 22 different languages.



Westhill High School Art Teacher Jada Hansen partnered with the Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS) to teach students how to create pottery in the tradition of Indigenous Peoples. The project exposed students to a method of indigenous pottery-making to help them understand and respect cultural practices of Native Americans.

More than 30 percent of our families speak Spanish at home, so the Human Resources Department collaborated with the Adult & Continuing Education team to offer free Spanish for Educators courses in 2023-24. More than 50 SPS teachers, administrators, and staff completed the course.







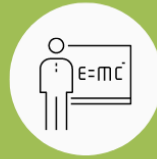
EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT

Congratulations Stamford Public Schools Class of 2024!

We celebrate your accomplishments and are inspired by where you are going next!



**1,000+ graduates from
AITE, Stamford High,
Westhill, Anchor and
Adult Education**



**90+% of graduates enrolled in
College-and-Career Readiness
courses during high school**



**Graduates will attend 186
colleges and universities,
across the US, Canada,
Europe and South America**



**189 Graduates earned a
Seal of Biliteracy in (one of)
22 different languages**

U.S. Air Force
Albany State University
Albertus Magnus College
Amherst College
Apprenticeship Program
Auburn University
Babson College
Barnard College
Belmont University
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Brigham Young University
Brunel University
Carnegie Mellon University
Central CT State University
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clark Atlanta University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
CT State - Gateway
CT State - Norwalk
CUNY Baruch
CUNY Hunter College
CUNY New York City
Dean College
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Eastern Conn State University
Eastern Nazarene College
Eckerd College

Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Fairfield University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Georgia State University
Guilford Technical College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Houston Community College
IE University - Madrid
Indiana University-Bloomington
Iona University
Israel Defense Force
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Keene State College
Law, Public Safety, Corrections
and Security
Lehigh University
LIM College
Loyola University Chicago
Lynn University
Manhattanville University
U.S. Marine Corps
Massachusetts College of Art &
Design
Massachusetts College of
Pharmacy and Health Sciences
McGill University

Mercy University
Miami Dade College
Montclair State University
Mount Holyoke College
New England College
New England Institute of
Technology
New York University
Norfolk State University
North Carolina A & T State
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State U at Raleigh
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Pace University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Penn State University
Plymouth State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen's University Kingston
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Roger Williams University
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University-Madrid
San Diego State University
Santa Monica College

Seton Hall University
South Carolina State University
South Piedmont College
Southern Adventist University
Southern CT State University
Southern New Hampshire Univ
Springfield College
St. John's University
Stevenson University
Stony Brook University
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY College of Technology
SUNY Cortland
Syracuse University
Temple University
The Catholic Univ of America
George Washington University
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Western Ontario
Towson University
Tufts University
Tulane University
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy
University of Bridgeport
University of California
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
UCONN - Storrs
UCONN - Stamford
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois
University of Maine

University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Mount Saint Vincent
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin
Vaughn College
Villanova University
Virginia State University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St Louis
Waynesburg University
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
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