



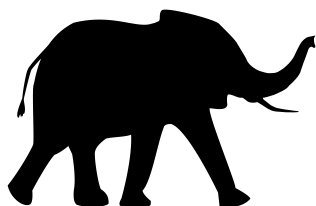
2024-25



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

Professional Learning Communities

Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness

21st Century Knowledge & Skills

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

2,488*

Students



275 Teachers

184

(Full time)

69

(Part time)

Support Staff

18 Administrators

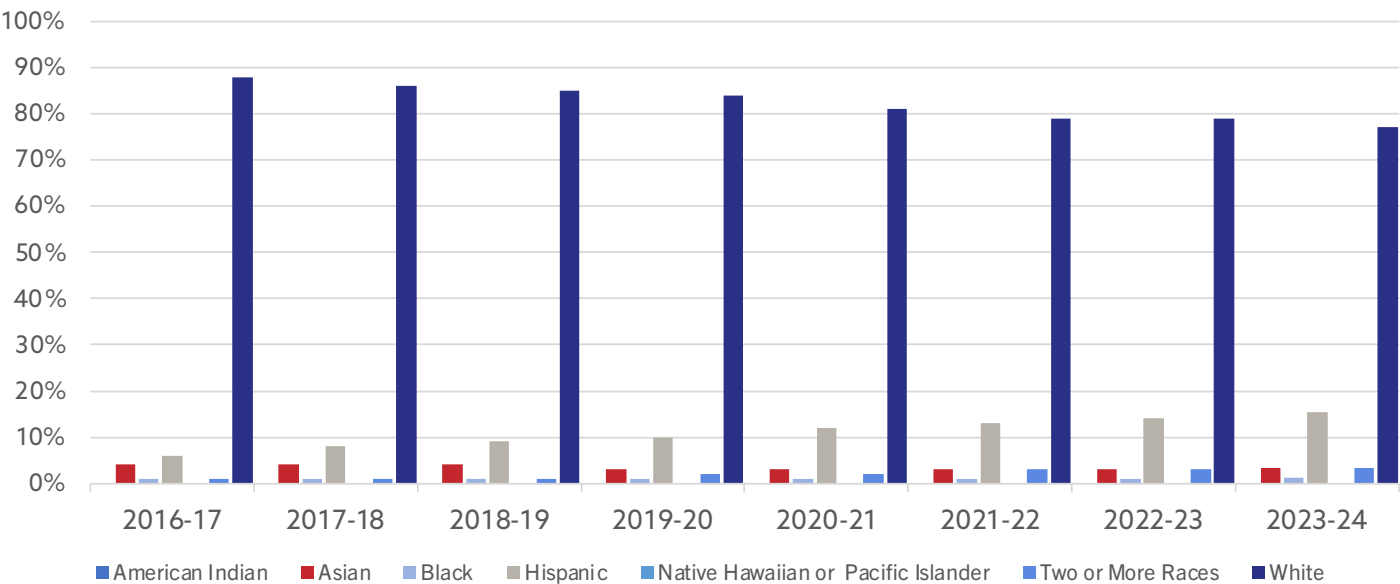
*Excludes out of district enrollment

**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.

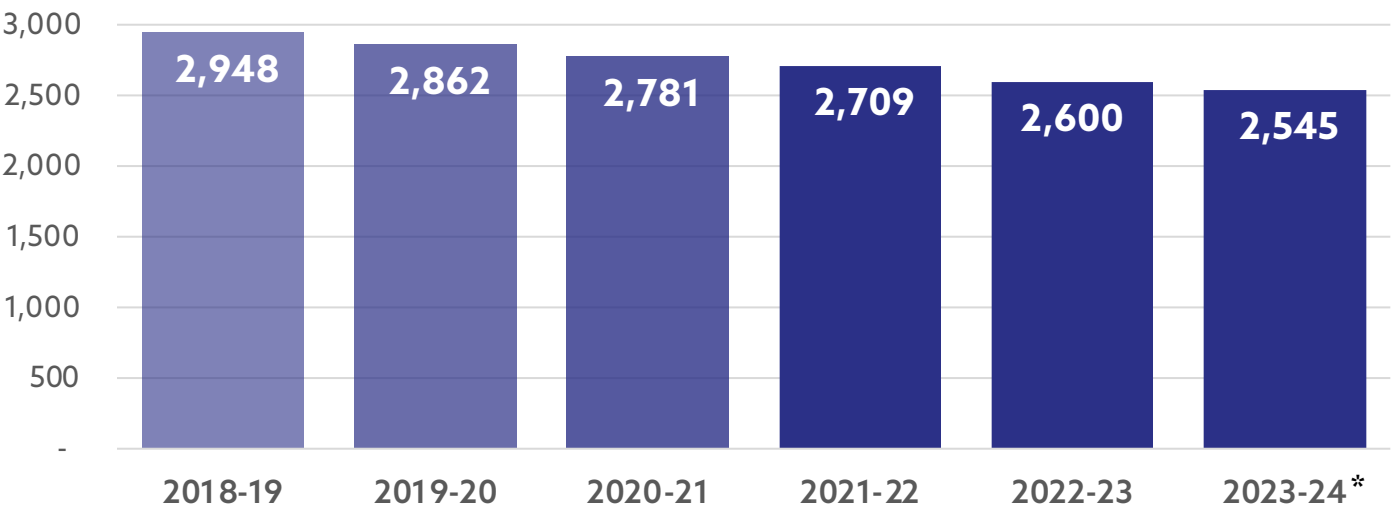
In the last 12 years, the number of students in the district identifying as non-white increased from 8% to 21%. By 2030, that number is projected to increase to 25%.



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.



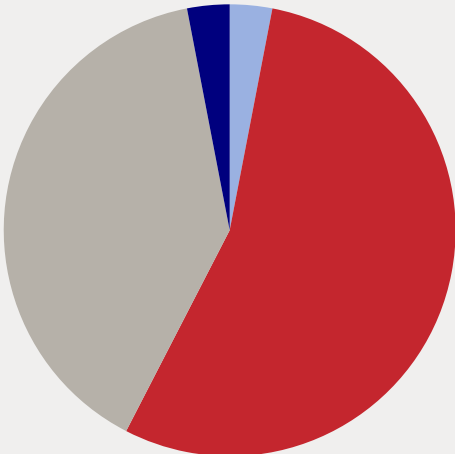
When, What, and How We Learn

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



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness

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



There are many innovative and proactive approaches in our schools that support our students' social, emotional, and physical wellness. Programs and skills are developmentally appropriate and flexible, and designed to engage and support all students.

Wellness Team Mission

The mental health team teaches and models for all students the life-long skills of self-regulation, self-management, and effective social engagement.

School Counselors provide direct services to all students at Tier 1, students who need support at Tier 2, and help to identify and support students who need Tier 3 assistance.

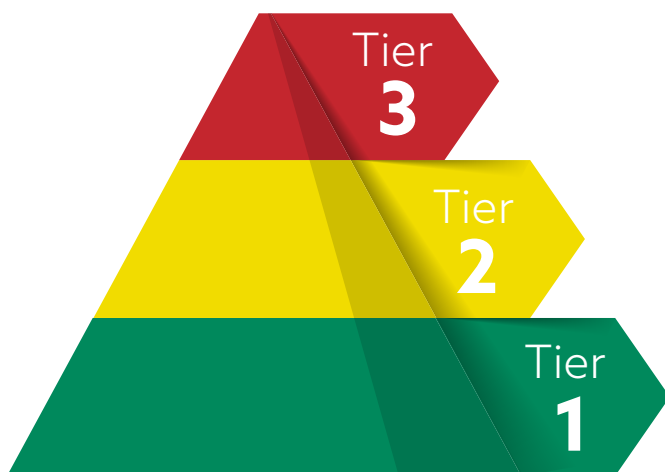
School Social Workers facilitate classroom lessons and work with greater emphasis on Tier 2 individual and group counseling. They also provide unique connections between our families and community agencies and support services.

Student Assistance Counselors (SAS) are employed in partnership with the Student Assistance Services Corporation for our middle and high schools. SAS counselors offer a unique level of confidentiality with a focus on drug and alcohol counseling. They also provide Tier 1 classroom lessons to students and Tier 2 individual support.

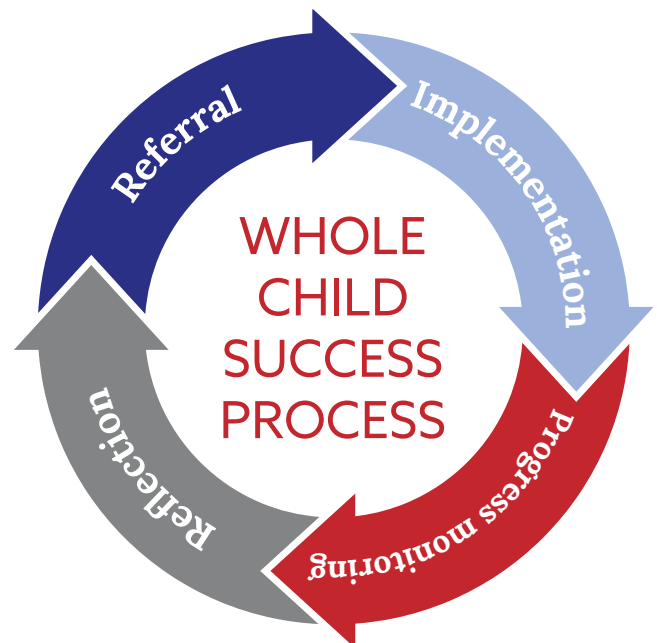
School Psychologists facilitate classroom lessons and provide Tier 2 assistance through individual counseling, assessment, and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) planning. They also provide school-based Tier 3 support, as well as transition support for students in out-of-district Tier 3 programs.

The Whole Child Success Team is a proactive, collaborative approach to support the social, emotional, physical, and academic growth of our students. This data-driven process supports students who are struggling by examining all aspects of the child's life - from academics to social to family situations.

Tiers of Support



- Individually focused, more intensive interventions
- Targeted interventions to work on specific skills
- Core instruction for all students



The Family Liason is responsible for communicating with families new to Somers schools, helping them make new connections, and building home-school partnerships. The position is funded through the Somers Partners in Prevention (SPP), in collaboration with SCSD.

The Path to Social and Emotional Wellness

Tier 1 lessons are part of the core instruction for all students. They are developmentally appropriate and build upon each other each year. The common focus is teaching practical strategies to manage emotions and to be present for learning.

Responsive Classroom (K-5)

Teaches students to be engaged as a learner and to be a positive member of the classroom community.



School to school transition support (K, 3, 6, 9, 12)



Second Step (2-5)

Develops emotion regulation skills and strategies.

JCK and Self-Care Programs (9)



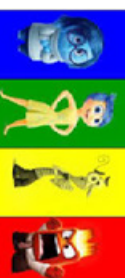
Explores the importance of talking about mental health and practical self-care strategies.

College & Career Planning (10-12)



Zones of Regulation (K-3)

Develops emotion identification and regulation skills.



DBT Steps-A (6, 8, 10)

Teaches students the concept of dialectics and the core skills of mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.





Tier 2 support is targeted intervention that helps develop specific skills in individuals and groups of students who need support beyond the core classroom instruction.

Counseling check-ins are part of the Tier 2 process in all Somers schools. These visits create a consistent adult connection and routine monitoring of students, as well as encourage effective coping skills and decision-making.

Small Groups - Elementary

At our two elementary schools, various small groups meet to build personal connections, practice routines and play, share personal experiences, and process transitions.

Social Skills



Changing Families



Problem-Solving



Small Groups - Secondary

At the middle school, small groups are largely focused on peer relationships and further development of interpersonal skills and self-awareness. Groups at SMS help students form positive social connections and mitigate feelings of isolation.

Newcomers



Selfcare



Peer Guidance



At the high school level, Tier 2 support focuses on individual check-ins and building-level counseling services. There are also targeted efforts in partnership with the SHS Student Life Coordinator to help students engage in the school community through clubs and extra-curricular activities to create a greater sense of belonging.

Tier 3 is highly individualized support for students who have not found success in Tier 1 or Tier 2 interventions. These supports may include specialized, school-based programs (True North and Transitional Support Program) and out-of-district special education placements.

Social and Emotional Survey 2022-23

A social-emotional survey is administered each fall and spring to students in grades four through 12, with fourth grade also participating next year. The survey helps identify students who need extra support beyond the social-emotional wellness Tier 1 lessons.



MEASURING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL GROWTH as identified by the CoVitality Survey

Improvement Among "Struggling" Students

Fall 2023 to Spring 2024

SIS	↑	61%
SMS	↑	71%
SHS	↑	65%

Rate of Growth in Connectedness

Fall 2023 to Spring 2024

SIS	92%
SMS	87%
SHS	63%

This survey captures a moment in time and does not define the student. It is one of many valuable tools SCSD uses in conjunction with academic screening used to determine the needs of each individual student.

Note: some students choose to opt out of the survey.

What happens when the survey indicates that a child is struggling?

Those students are contacted by a wellness team member, followed by a phone call to the family. Working with the student and the family, the wellness team designs and implements a support plan when appropriate.



Faculty/Staff/Community Learning

Executive Functioning Training

Professional learning for faculty in kindergarten through 12th grades to learn how to best support students' executive functioning, including organization, time management, and initiation of tasks.

- **All staff** (K-12) received two hours of virtual introductory training
- **35** staff members (K-5) participated in a 10-week in-service Executive Functioning training



**Fall 2023 Wellness Summit:
Executive Functioning
Training for Parents**

Middle School Mentoring

The middle school mentor program connects 8th graders with 6th graders to influence positive interactions, socialization, and a sense of belonging while limiting social isolation within the school environment. Once per week during 6th-grade lunch, 8th-grade mentors create meaningful connections through games and conversations with 6th graders. Our goal is to empower and inspire all participants to thrive while building lasting friendships that contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

- 2023-2024 - **63** mentors
- 2024-2025 - **75** mentors



Secondary Building-Based Clinical Services

In the spring of 2024, SMS and SHS added an in-house therapist through a NYS grant supported by Student Assistance Services.

- Somers students in grades 6-12 are now able to access therapeutic services within the school building. Our providing therapist also partners with a prescribing psychiatrist through telehealth services to address medication management.
- These services are different from school-based mental health supports, as students can engage in therapy in the same way they would with an outside service provider. The same level of confidentiality exists, as the therapist is not a school employee, but is contracted through funding from a NYS grant and Student Assistance Services.

Social Emotional Wellness Advisory Council (SEWAC)

This team consists of students, parents, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, and community members

SEWAC is a resource and a springboard to aid the district in better fulfilling the district's mission of supporting the social, emotional, and physical wellness of all learners.

Extra-curricular Engagement

When students are socially and emotionally connected and engaged in school, attendance, grades, and graduation rates increase.



570 Number of student athletes at Somers High School



SHS Clubs	SMS Clubs	SIS Clubs
70 clubs	12 clubs	8 Clubs
578 members	285 members	210 members



“The experience of theatre brings out a piece of you that you never expected. Exploring emotions and learning to be vulnerable around a cast of people teaches you to bond and love each other as well as the world around you.”



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

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.



The Somers Central School District offers a curriculum that provides students with a voice in their learning and the best opportunities to demonstrate growth and achievement. The programs and teaching methods are designed to meet the needs of varied learners, focusing on the knowledge and skills necessary to solve problems, think critically and creatively, and work collaboratively and cooperatively with others.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Primrose Elementary School

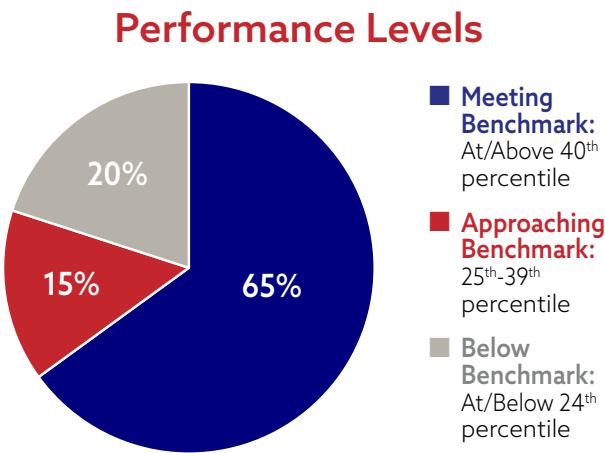
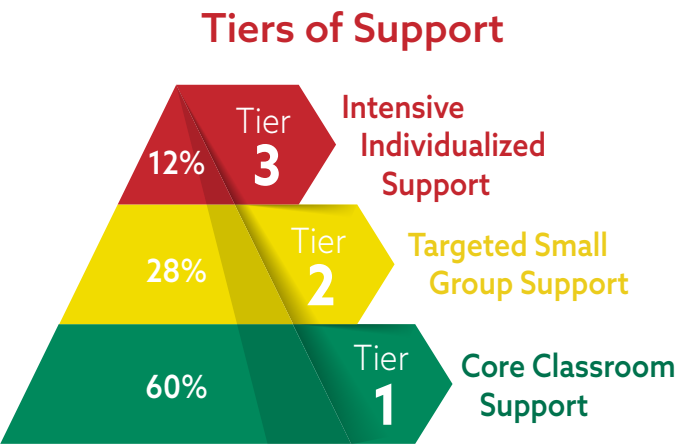
Grade 2 Achievement Data

At **Primrose Elementary School**, “A Place of Great Beginnings,” students in pre-kindergarten through second grade focus on developing fundamental skills in reading, writing, and math. These building blocks are complemented by exposure to the arts and physical education, as well as social-emotional awareness.

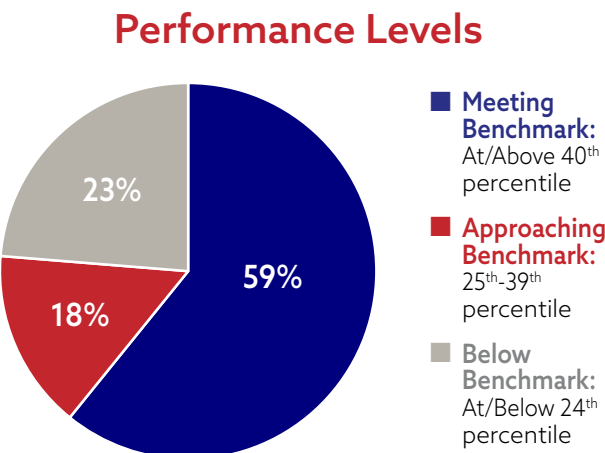
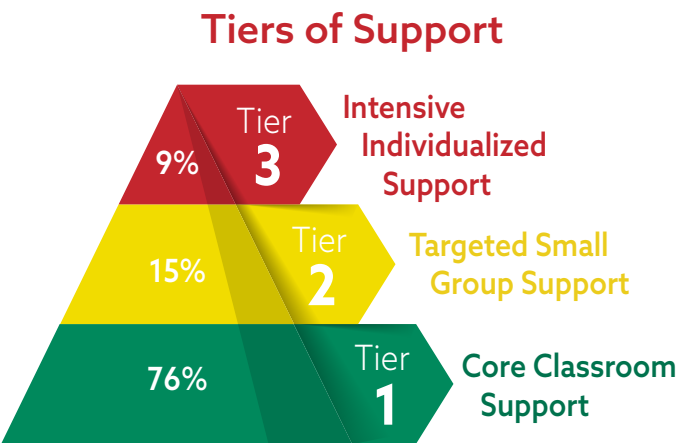


The pyramid on the left shows the Fall 2024 multi-tiered supports for students in the exit year of Primrose Elementary School, second grade. The pie chart on the right demonstrates how effectively those supports are meeting the needs of students.

Internal Benchmark Assessment - Reading



Internal Benchmark Assessment - Math



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Somers Intermediate School

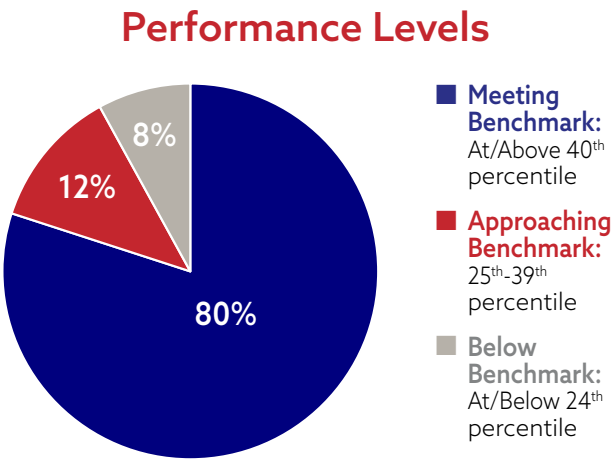
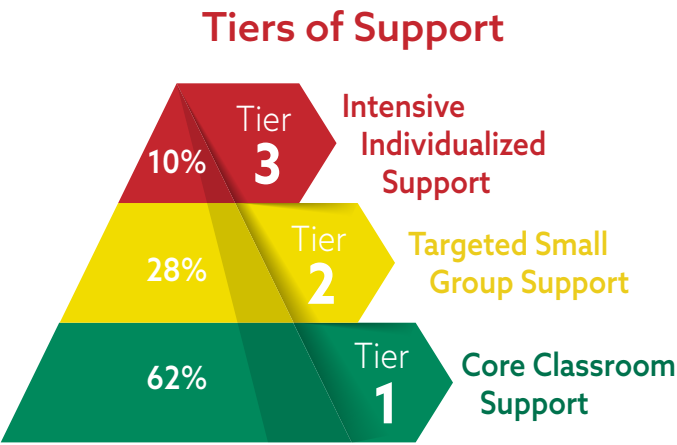
Grade 5 Achievement Data

Somers Intermediate School builds on the foundational skills learned at Primrose in all subject areas. The most notable shift is from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” In math, students move beyond basic number sense and operations into multi-step problem solving tasks. The academic experience is combined with the continued development of children’s social, emotional, and physical wellness, as well as exposure to visual and performing arts.

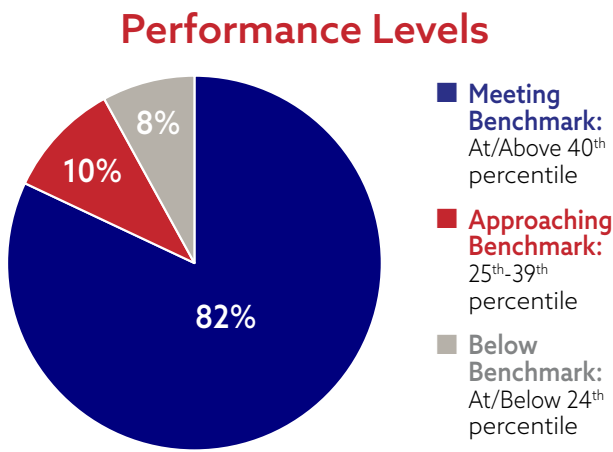
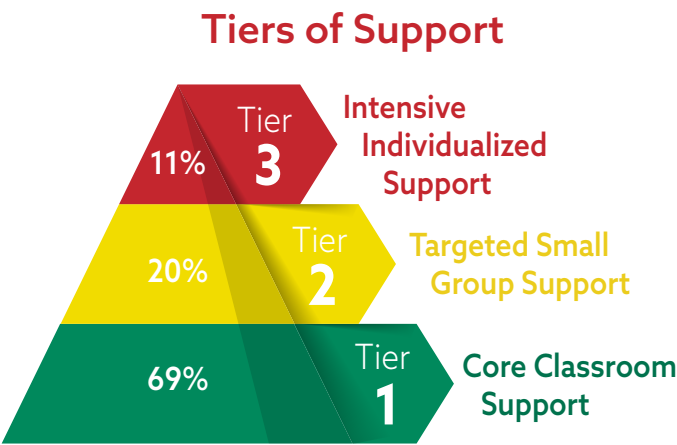


The pyramid on the left shows the Fall 2024 multi-tiered supports for students in the exit year of Somers Intermediate School, fifth grade. The pie chart on the right demonstrates how effectively those supports are meeting the needs of students.

Internal Benchmark Assessment - Reading

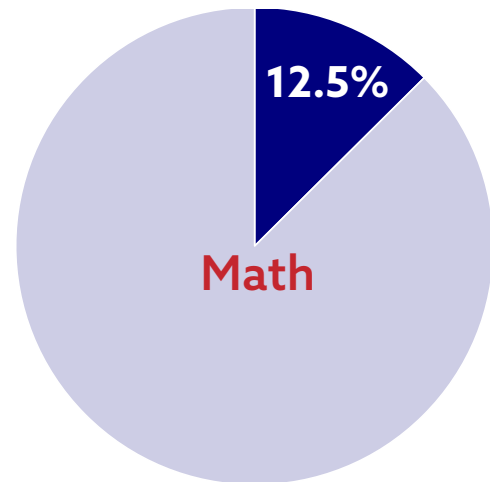
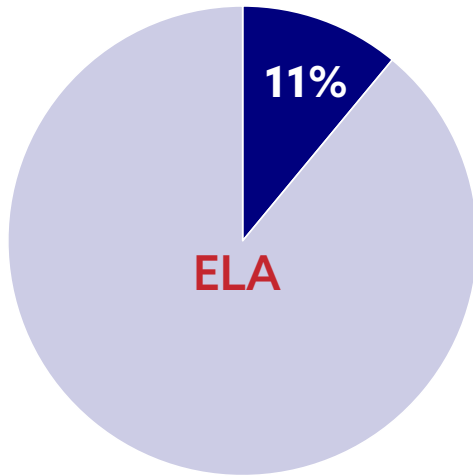


Internal Benchmark Assessment - Math



Somers Intermediate School New York State Testing Program

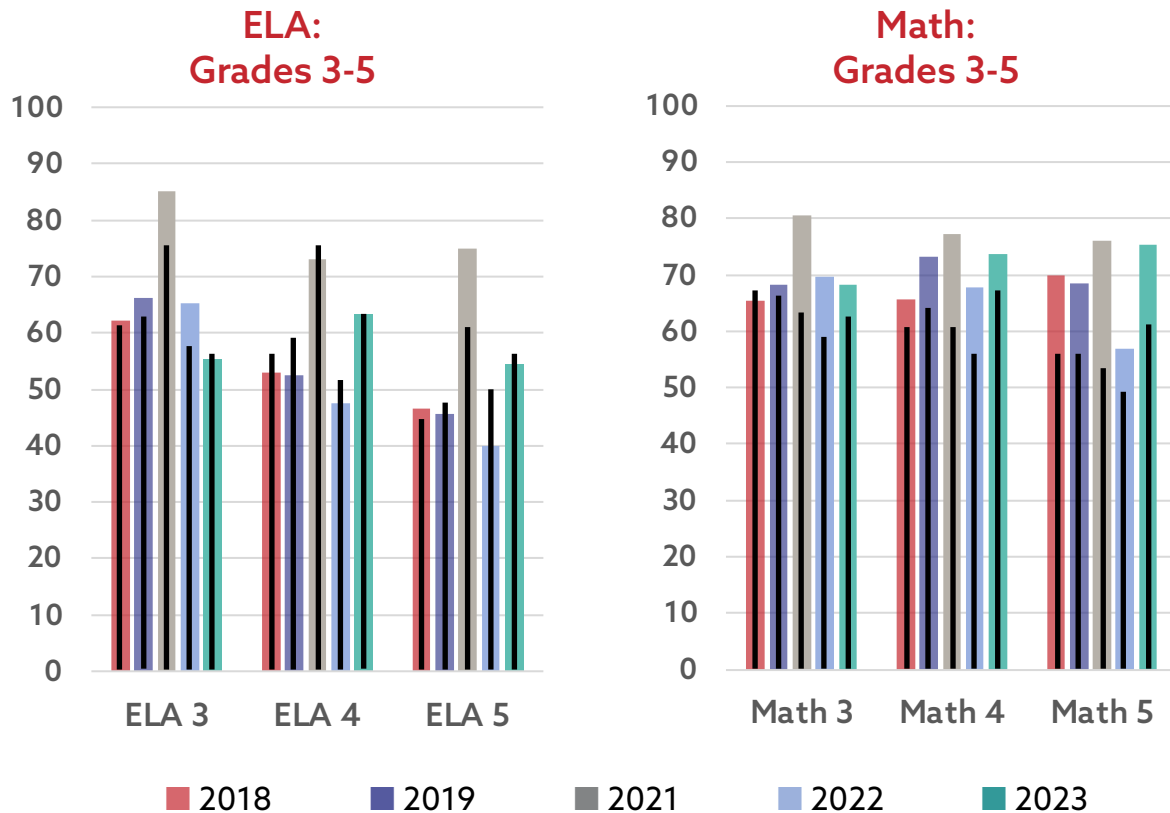
SPRING 2024 STATE TEST OPT OUT RATE



Somers CSD Compared with Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Districts

The inner black bar represents the PNW BOCES average.

The 2024 data was not available at the time of this report.



*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19

**Grade 4 Science not administered in 2023

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Somers Middle School

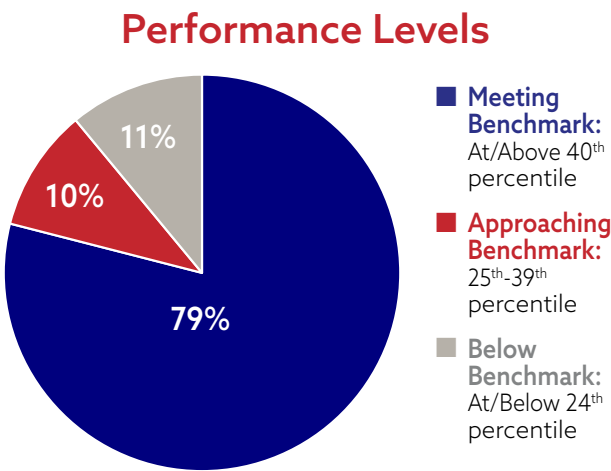
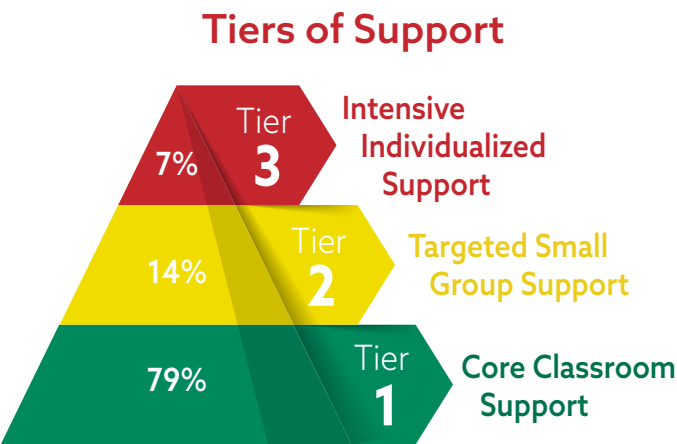
Grade 8 Achievement Data

Somers Middle School is an accredited International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme school. Students pursue advanced concepts in subjects through a framework of inquiry, action, and reflection. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for a global society, the challenges of today, and the challenges of the future while making real world connections.

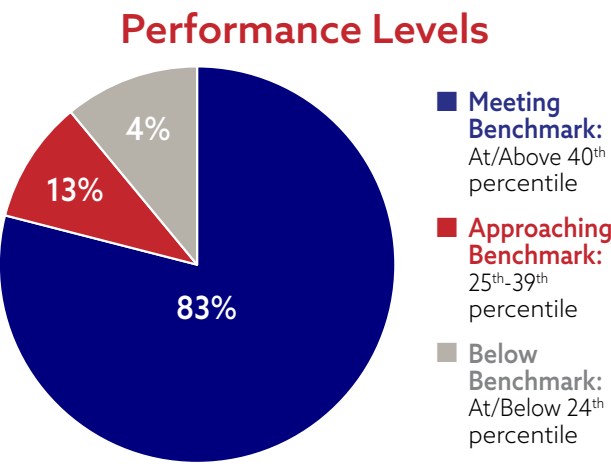
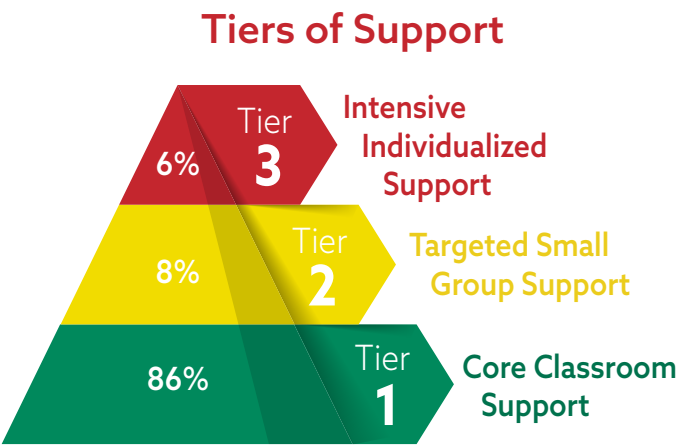


The pyramid on the left shows the Fall 2024 multi-tiered supports for students in the exit year of Somers Middle School, eighth grade.

Internal Benchmark Assessment - Reading

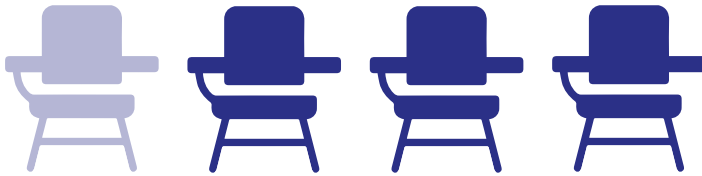


Internal Benchmark Assessment - Math



Somers Middle School New York State Testing Program

AVERAGE REFUSAL RATE



1 out of 4

SMS ELA Test
Refusal Rate



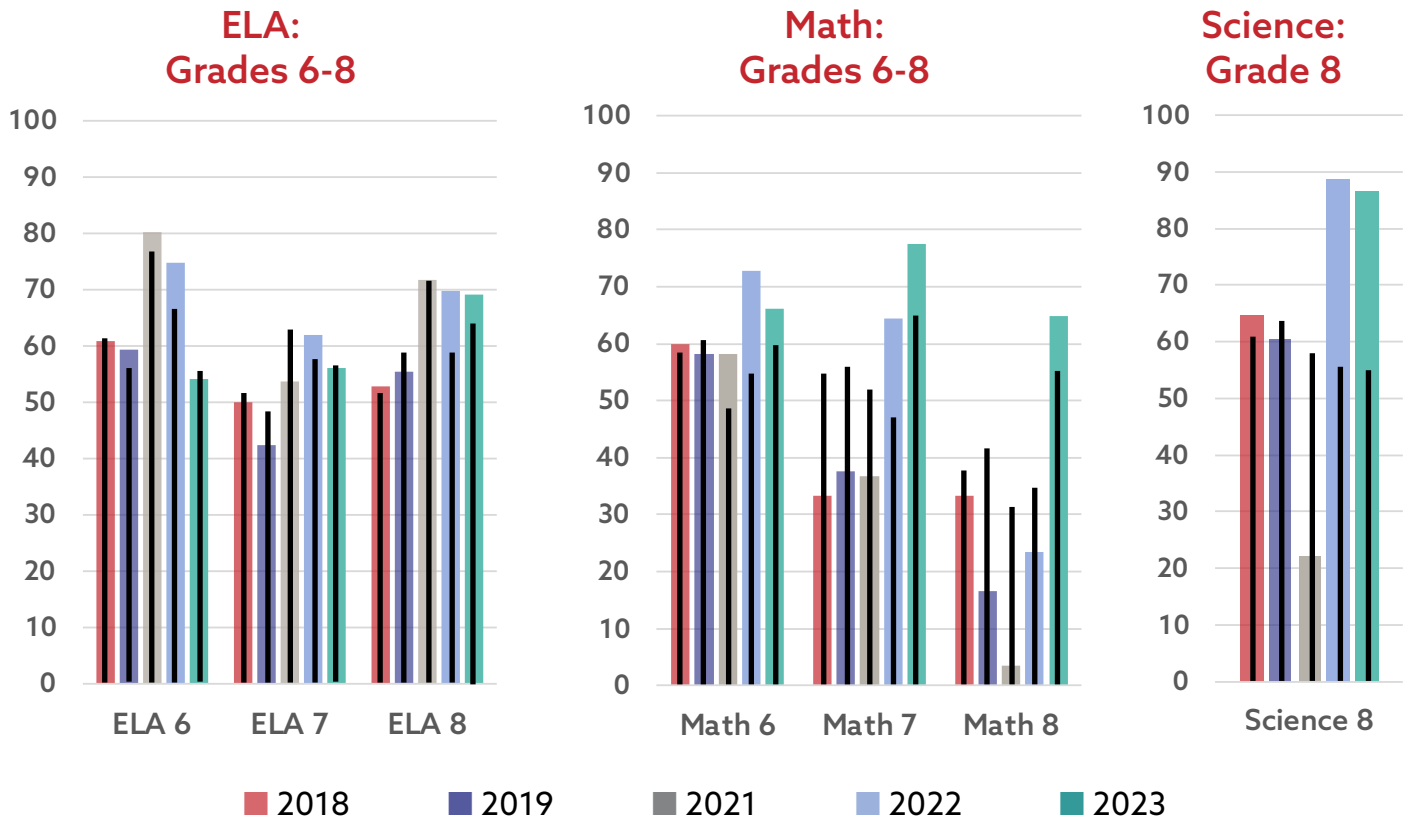
1 out of 3

SMS Math Test
Refusal Rate

Somers CSD Compared with Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Districts

The inner black bar represents the PNW BOCES average.

The 2024 data was not available at the time of this report.



*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Somers High School

Grade 9 - Grade 12

Somers High School is an accredited International Baccalaureate School and offers the IB Diploma Programme for students. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and real-world application across all disciplines, preparing students for future academic and career pursuits. As the capstone of their high school experience, seniors complete an independent Senior Experience. This culminating project allows each student to showcase their skills, gain valuable hands-on experience, and demonstrate their readiness for life beyond high school.



96% **4-Year Graduation Rate**

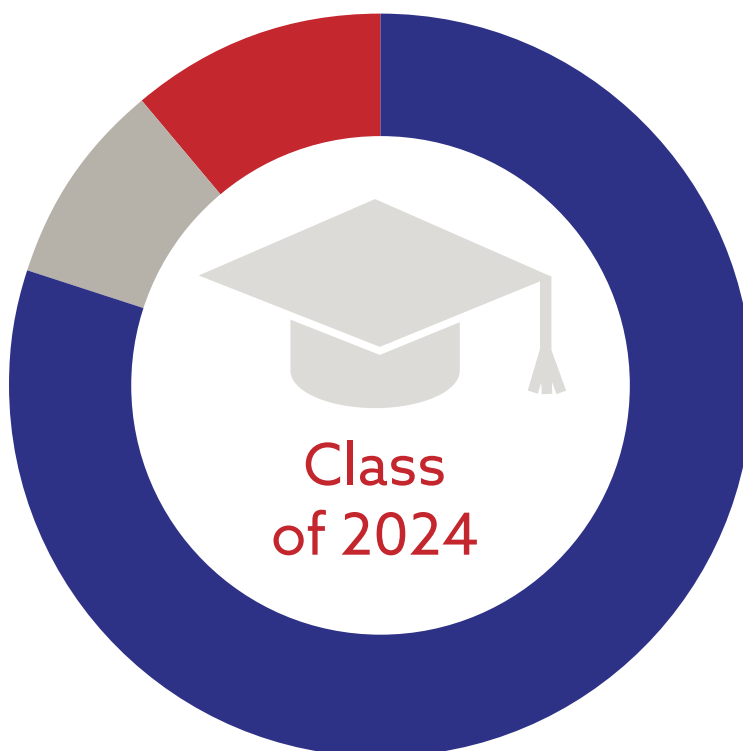
99% grad rate including students who complete high school in up to 6 years.

Post-Secondary Plans

84%
4 Year College

10%
Career Ed
Workforce
Gap Year
Military

6%
2 Year College



6
Science Research
International
GENIUS
Olympiad
Winners

7
NYSED
Academic
Excellence
Award Winners

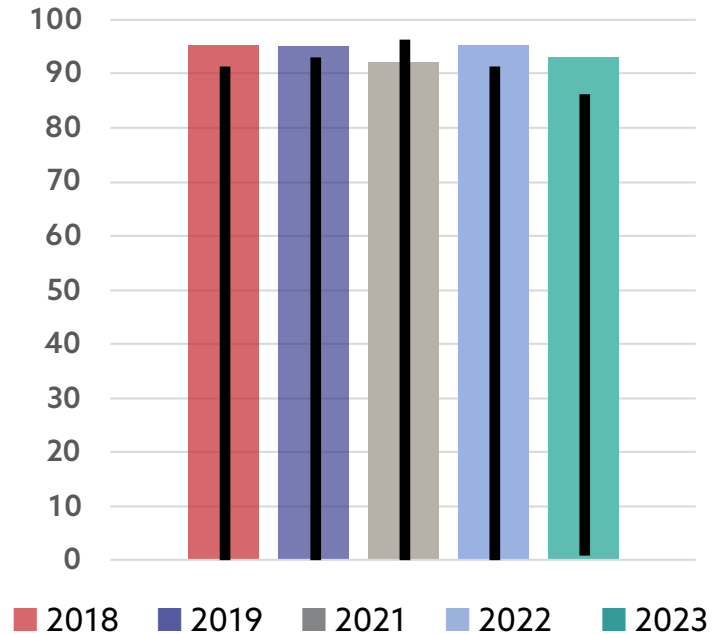
SHS Regents - State Testing Results

The inner black bar represents the PNW BOCES average.

The 2024 data was not available at the time of this report.

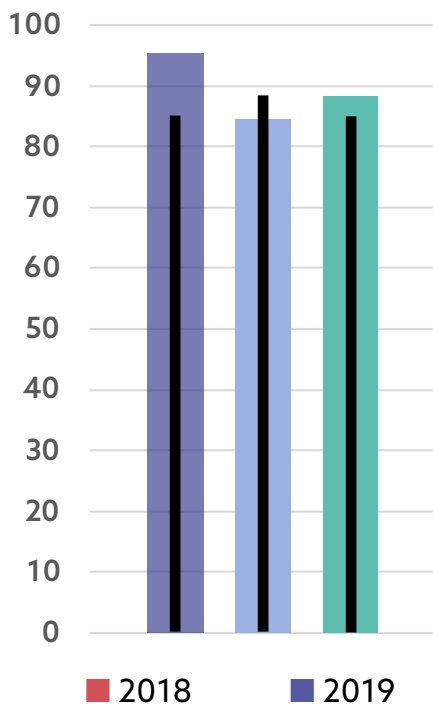


English Regents



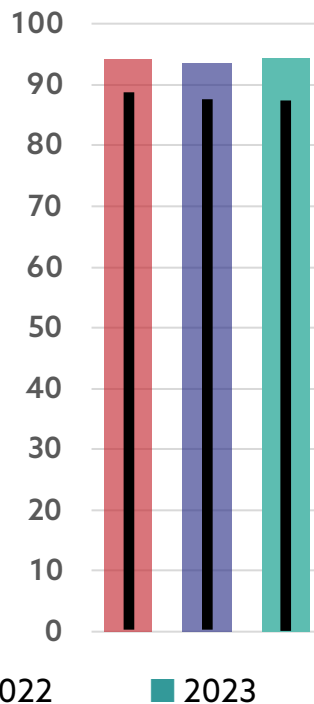
*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19

Global History II Regents



*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19

U.S. History Regents



Global History II:

- A newly created Regents exam was administered in 2019
- There was no Regents exam in 2020*
- The Regents exam was optional in 2021 (no Somers students took the exam)

U.S. History:

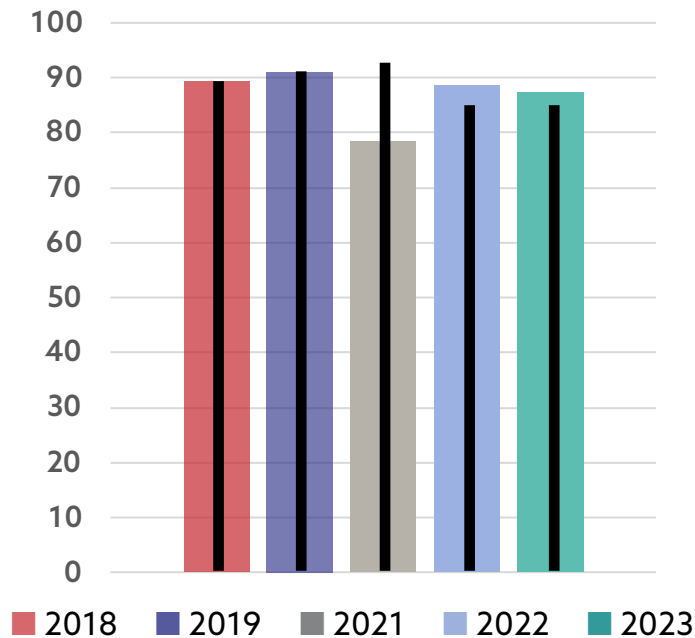
- There was no Regents exam in 2020*
- The Regents exam was optional in 2021 (no Somers students took the exam)
- The Regents exam was canceled by the NY State Department of Education in 2022

SHS Regents - State Testing Results

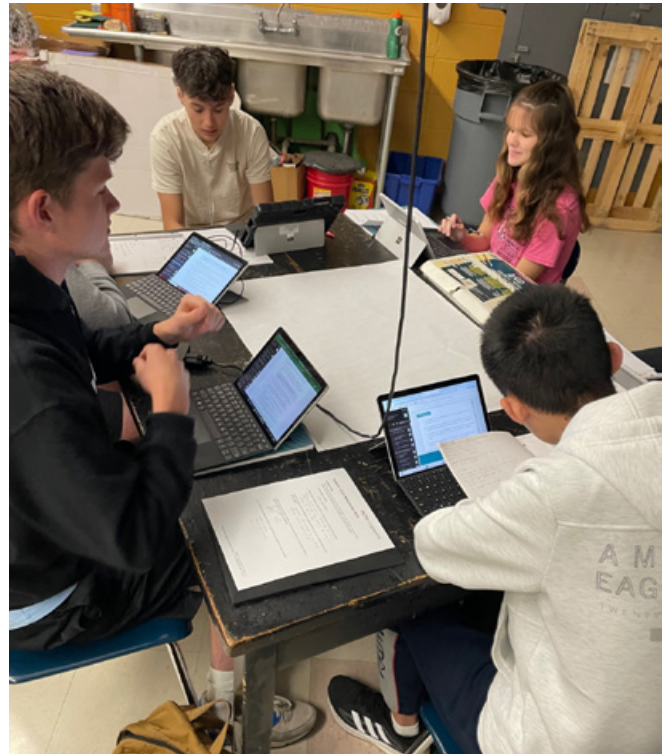
The inner black bar represents the PNW BOCES average.

The 2024 data was not available at the time of this report.

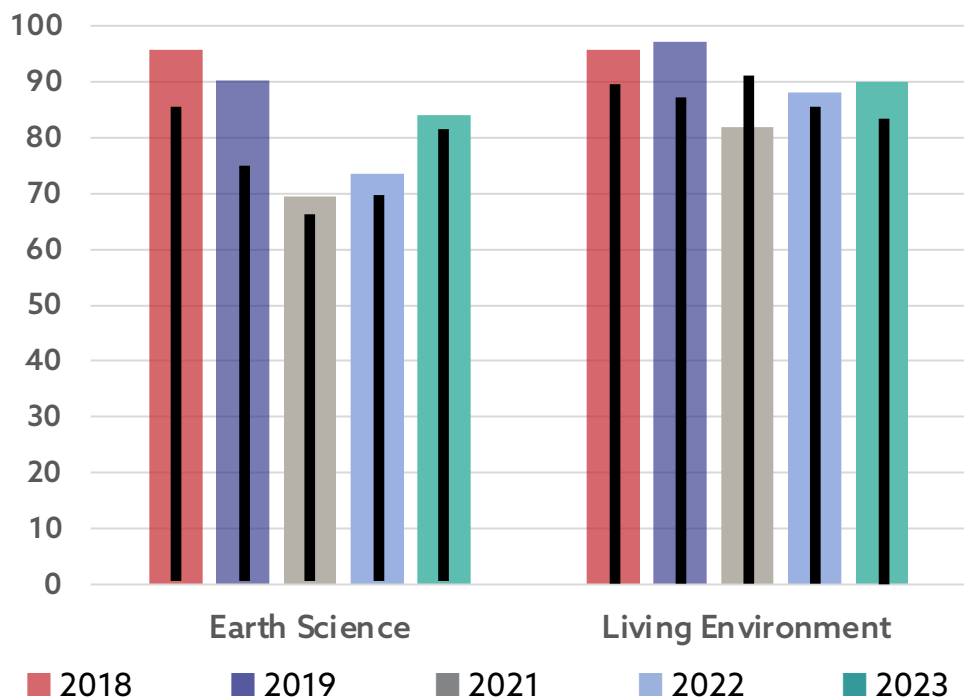
Algebra I Regents



*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19



Science Regents



*No statewide testing in 2020 due to COVID-19

SAT 5-Year Trends

YEAR	# of Graduates Who Took the Exam	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Mean Score	Math Mean Score
2020	203	584	577
2021	106*	598	601
2022	136	584	571
2023	125	589	569
2024	118	589	567

*No test administered to this cohort in 12th grade. Data reflects only exams administered pre-COVID.

ACT 5-Year Trends

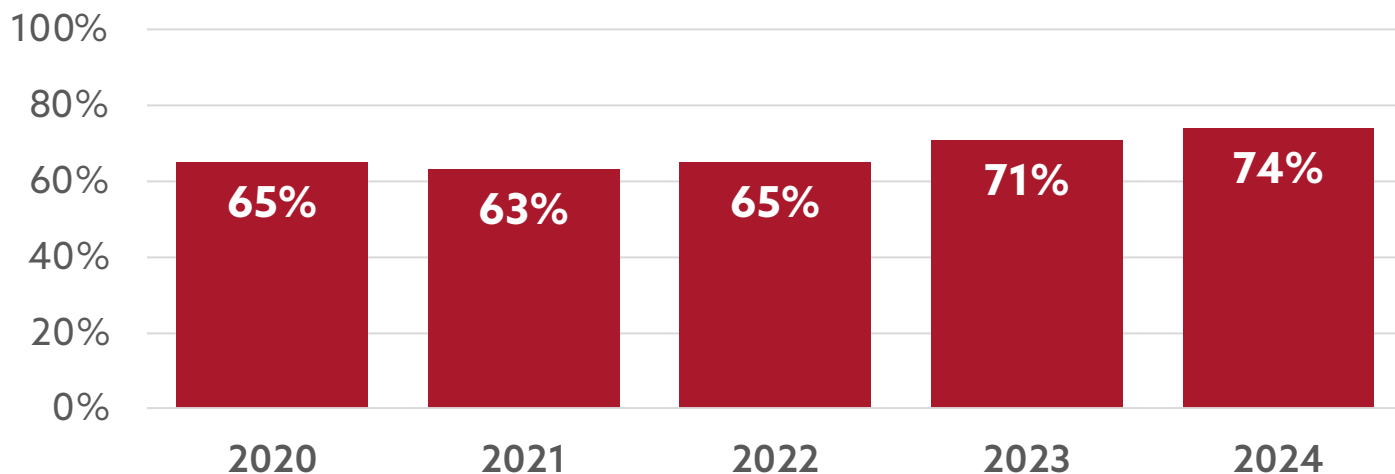
YEAR	Composite Mean Score
2020	25.5
2021	26.5
2022	24.7
2023	26.8
2024	25.8

Many colleges and universities are no longer requiring SAT or ACT scores for admission.



Seniors Who Took at Least One AP or IB Course While at Somers High School

With increased enrollment in AP and IB college-level courses, student performance continues to remain strong.



The overall, five year increase in enrollment in AP/IB can be attributed to embedded honors courses, professional learning, open course selection, and the academic and writing support centers.

AP Score Performance

Total AP Students with Scores 3+

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total AP Students	235	234	284	316	322
Number of Exams	533	464	613	677	719
AP Students with Scores 3+	198	183	230	249	239
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	84.26%	78.21%	80.99%	78.80%	74.22%

AP SCHOLAR AWARDS: 2024

Highest participation rate since AP first offered, highest # of exams taken.

55

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

30

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

27

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Somers High School has earned "Gold" recognition on the 2024 AP School Honor Roll for enabling 48% of the Class of 2024 to earn college credit by earning at least one AP exam score of 3.



SHS has earned "Platinum" recognition for optimizing college readiness by creating opportunities for 17% of the Class of 2024 to take a total of 5 AP exams across their high-school years, with at least 1 taken in 10th grade.



SHS has earned "Silver" recognition for expanding the school's college culture by enabling 64% of the Class of 2024 to experience one AP course before graduating.





**SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL
SCIENCE RESEARCH**

**Science
Research**

59

students
participated

IB HIGHLIGHTS 2024

9

Number of IB diplomas
awarded.

165

Number of juniors and
seniors participating in
Independent Research
Experiences.

303

Total number of research
projects and papers
completed by juniors and
seniors.

SL and HL Percentage of Students Proficient or Above

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total IB Students	123	84	146	177	165
Number of SL Exams	62	83	120	178	133
% of SL Exams 3+	98%	100%	96%	92%	93%
Number of HL Exams	50	57	70	73	82
% of HL Exams 4+	98%	96%	93%	81%	72%



Advanced Course Offerings

38

AP/IB courses
offered at SCSD

2024-2025 Participation in Dual Enrollment Courses

Albany University:

- Science Research - 35 Students
- College Level Spanish - 62 students

Syracuse University:

- Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA): Public Policy - 73 Students

Rochester Institute of Technology:

- Project Lead the Way: Introduction to Engineering Design - 86 Students
- Project Lead the Way: Principles of Engineering - 22 Students
- Project Lead the Way: Civil Engineering and Architecture - 24 Students
- Project Lead the Way: Digital Electronics (Bi-Yearly Rotation with Civil Engineering)
- Project Lead the Way: Principles of Biomedical Science - 73 Students
- Project Lead the Way: Human Body Systems - 53 Students

Westchester Community College:

- Calculus - 47 Students
- College Level Italian - 26 Students
- Advanced College Level Italian - 24 Students

Total enrollment in DE classes at Somers High School: 525

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Global Citizenship

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



SCSD leverages student-centered learning activities designed to give children a hands-on approach to learning about their commitment to the larger community.

Responsibility, Belonging, Acceptance

ASPIRATION:
Make a global impact

Annual
Veterans
Brunch at SHS



ASPIRATION:
*Be responsible
to each other
and to the
planet*



SIS Sticks Together

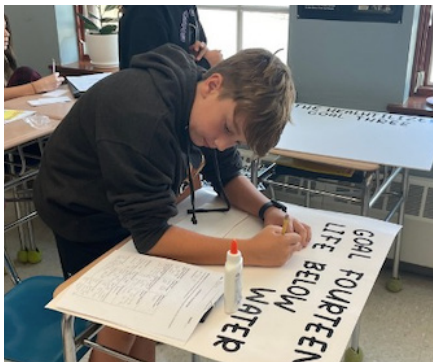


Making Valentines for Paramount residents



Tuskers Football Champs Greet
Primrose Students

Creating
Superheroes to
Tackle Global
Issues



SIS
Recognizes
Heroes
Who Show
Kindness,
Respect, and
Gratitude



SIS Students
Collect Food
for St. Luke's
Somers Food
Pantry



Middle Years
Programme's
Community
Projects

ASPIRATION:
*Mutual
 respect for a
 diverse school
 community*



Primrose Celebrates
 Lunar New Year

ASPIRATION:
*Facilitate
 Students'
 celebrations
 of family
 traditions
 and cultural
 heritage*



Italian Class Visits
 Arthur Avenue



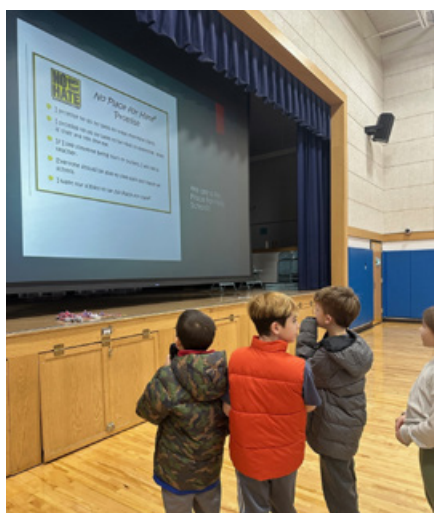
Appreciating
 All for
 Inclusive
 Schools
 Week at
 Primrose



SMS
 Students
 Visit France
 Virtually



SHS Mentors



Declaring
 School is
 'No Place
 for Hate'



Creating
 Models of
 Nez Perce
 Homes



Celebrating
 Friendsgiving at
 Primrose"

International Baccalaureate in Somers



SCHOOL	PROGRAM	STATUS
 SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL <i>Forward in Excellence</i>		Accredited grades 6-8
 SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL <i>Forward in Excellence</i>		Accreditation received for grades 9-10 in 2024-25
		Accredited grades 11-12

MYP Community Project



The MYP Community Project is a cornerstone of the IB MYP. This project encourages students to identify a need within their community and take meaningful action to address it. Through inquiry, research, planning, and reflection, students develop key ATL (Approaches to Learning) skills, including collaboration, critical thinking, and self-management. The Community Project not only fosters civic engagement but also helps students connect their learning to real-world impact.

Tusker 102

The new Tusker 102 class, taken by all sophomores, expands upon the freshmen Tusker 101 course. The class focuses on IB learner attributes and helps students to explore their knowledge, interests, and abilities and to develop their research and critical thinking skills.



World Language

World Language begins with Spanish lessons that start in kindergarten. At Somers Middle School, options broaden to include French and Italian as well as Spanish. The district also grants the state Seal of Biliteracy on diplomas for seniors who excel in English and another World Language. In 2024, 15 seniors earned the seal.



Computer Science and Digital Fluency

All SCSD students are equipped with the computer, digital, and online skills to make the most of everything that ever-evolving technologies offer while remaining responsible, safe online citizens.

K-5:

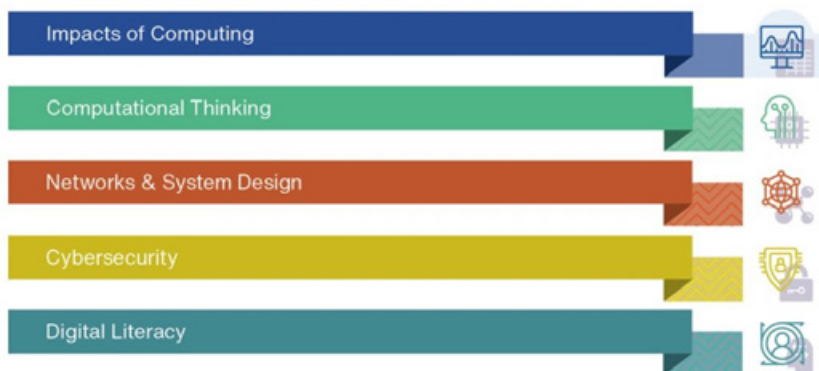
- How to be a digital citizen
- Beginning research skills
- Keyboarding skills

6-12:

- Technical navigation
- Data analysis and design
- Ethical considerations and appropriate use

Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards

The New York State K12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards were adopted by the Board of Regents in December 2020. The new standards focus on five key concepts:



Each concept contains two or more sub-concepts and within the sub-concepts are a number of standards. The standards are grouped into grade-bands: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Instruction in the standards must be implemented so as to allow students to achieve the applicable standards by the end of the band.



Inclusive Schools Week

Held the first full week of December, Inclusive Schools Week is a time to celebrate the district's diversity and to reaffirm SCSD's commitment to providing a welcoming environment that provides all students with the highest quality education.



Senior Internships

As the culmination of their high school journey, seniors engage in an independent Senior Experience. This final project provides an opportunity for students to highlight their skills, gain meaningful hands-on experience, and showcase their preparedness for life after high school.



A mural created in part by a senior intern for a Westchester business



A senior internship with the Bronx Zoo

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

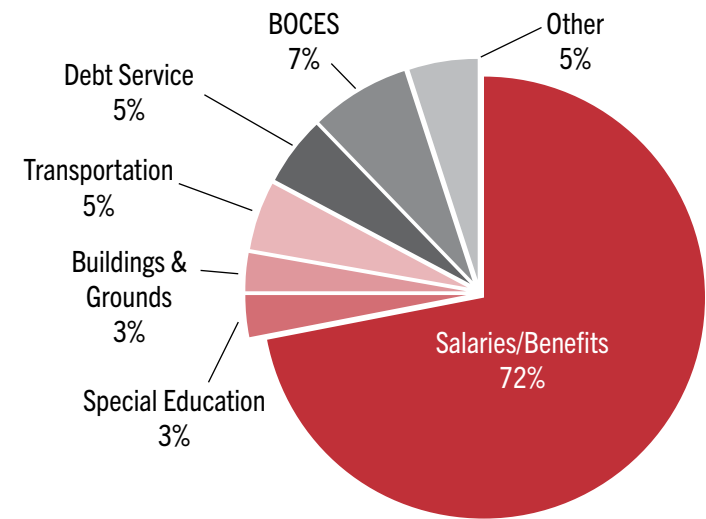
Fiscal Stewardship

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

Somers residents are committed to preparing students for success as individuals and global citizens in the 21st century. The fiscal support provided by the Somers community to our schools and students is a promise made by the residents that the children of Somers will receive an outstanding educational experience. It is a promise that we, the community of Somers, are dedicated to maintaining and improving upon the 90-year tradition of excellence for generations to come.



Expenditure Breakdown



Nearly three-quarters of the annual budget is allocated for salaries and benefits.

4

Buildings, 600k sq feet space

228,015

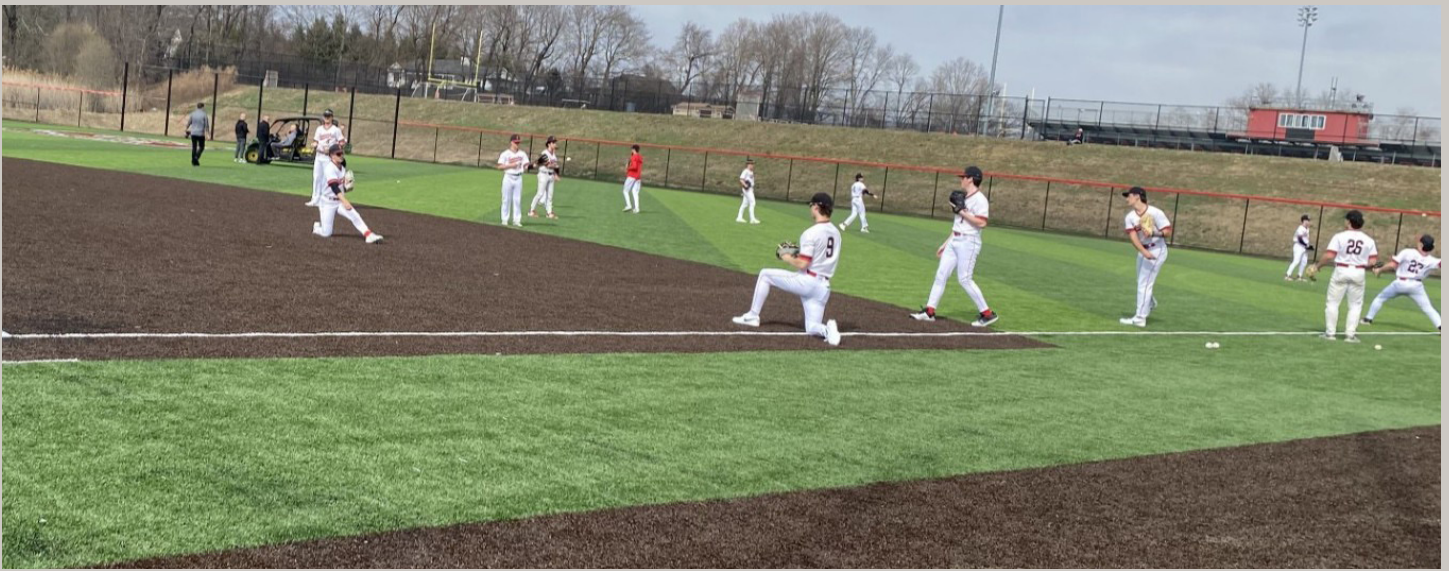
Meals served each year

55

Acres of lawn/field

680,000

Miles per year



Athletic Facilities Upgrade

New tennis courts and baseball and softball fields have been completed in a four-year athletic facilities project that saved money by avoiding borrowing. By saving the \$7 million cost of the project in advance, rather than borrowing money by selling bonds, the district saved taxpayers approximately \$2 million in interest payments.

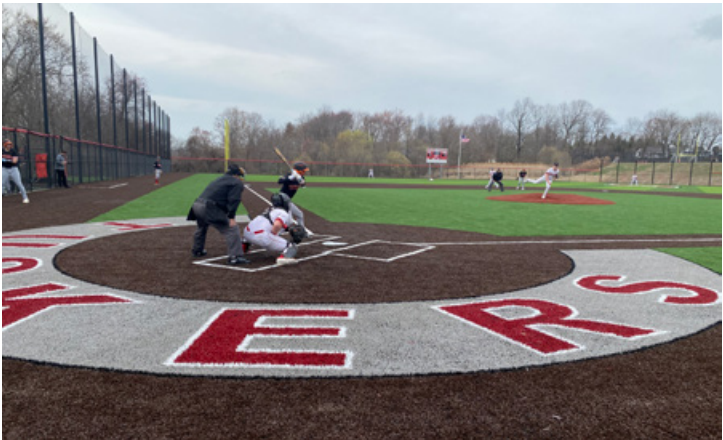
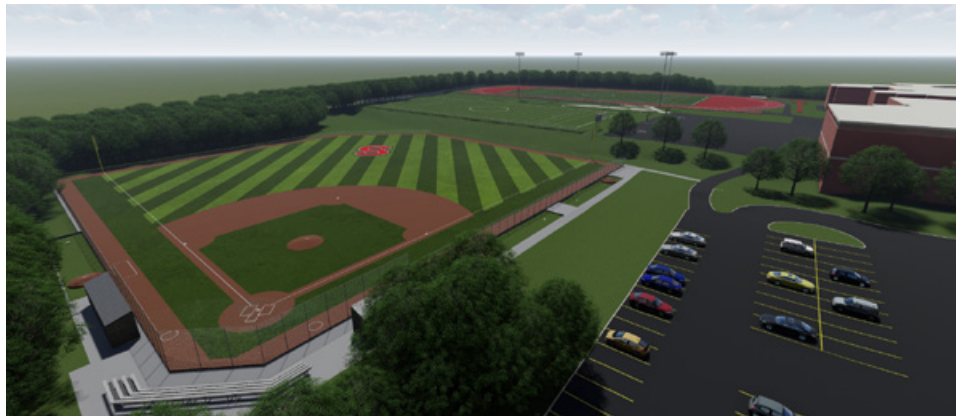


Six new tennis courts built behind Somers High School opened in time for the SHS boys' spring 2025 season. They replaced a grass field and include perimeter fencing, secure access, wind screens, bleachers, and flood lights. Some of the courts are lined for pickleball.

Updated throwing cages will be completed in the spring.

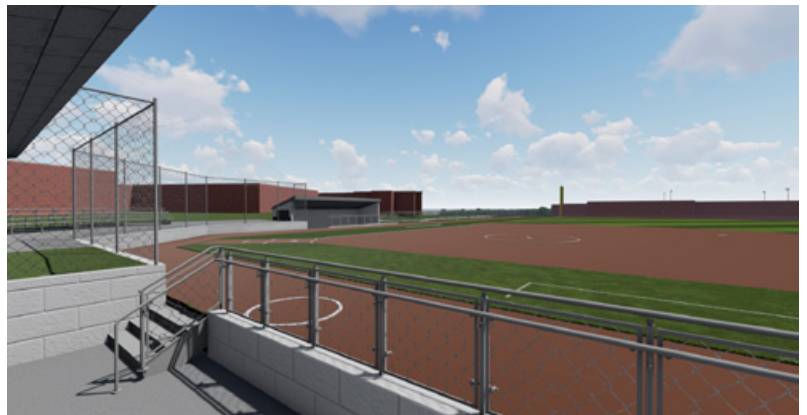


The synthetic turf baseball field replaced a previous grass field, with upgrades that include new bleachers, bullpens and a batting tunnel, renovated dugouts, and a new scoreboard.



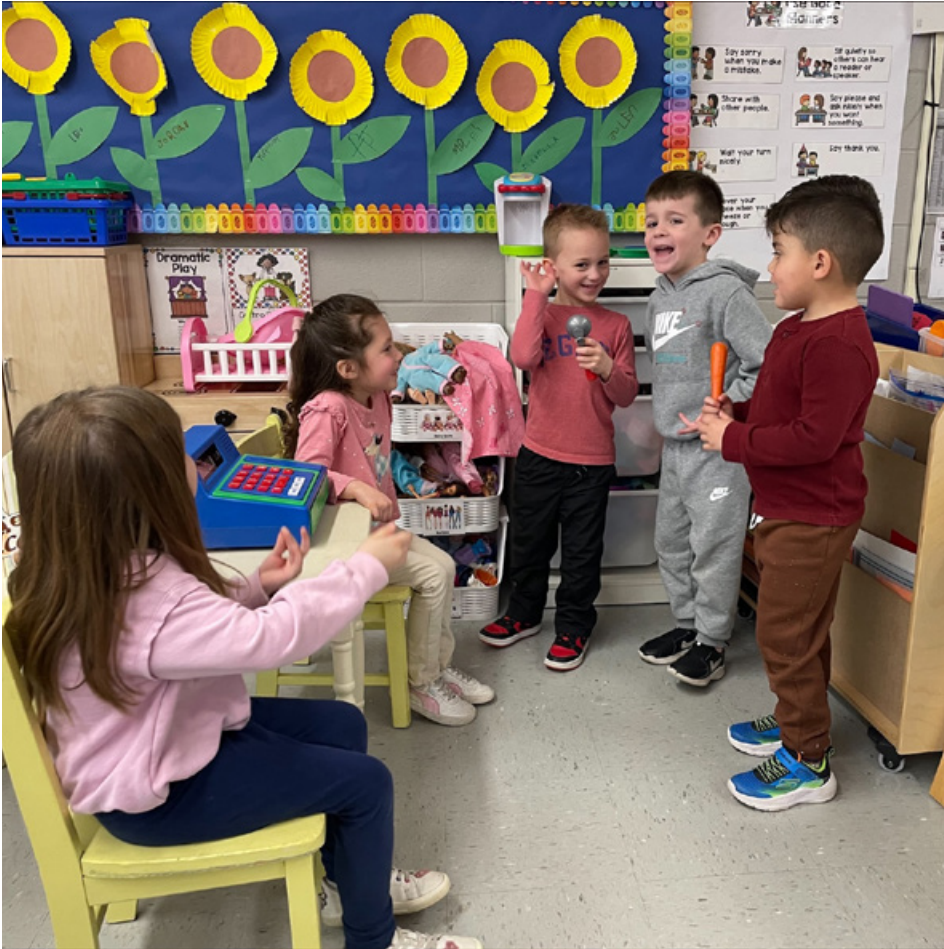
The softball field at Primrose has been replaced with synthetic turf and facilities include new bleachers, new dugouts, bullpens, batting tunnel, and a new scoreboard.

The softball and baseball fields were ready for the spring 2025 season.



Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The SCSD Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program continues to prove popular. The state-funded program helps to prepare students for Primrose Elementary School. In fall of 2025, we will retain five UPK classes for the second year in a row.



\$13,000

Savings per Child

Saves families over \$13,000 per child in preschool tuition.

100%

Funded

100% funded with New York State funds.

**Maximizes
available space in
Somers schools**

Revenue Opportunities

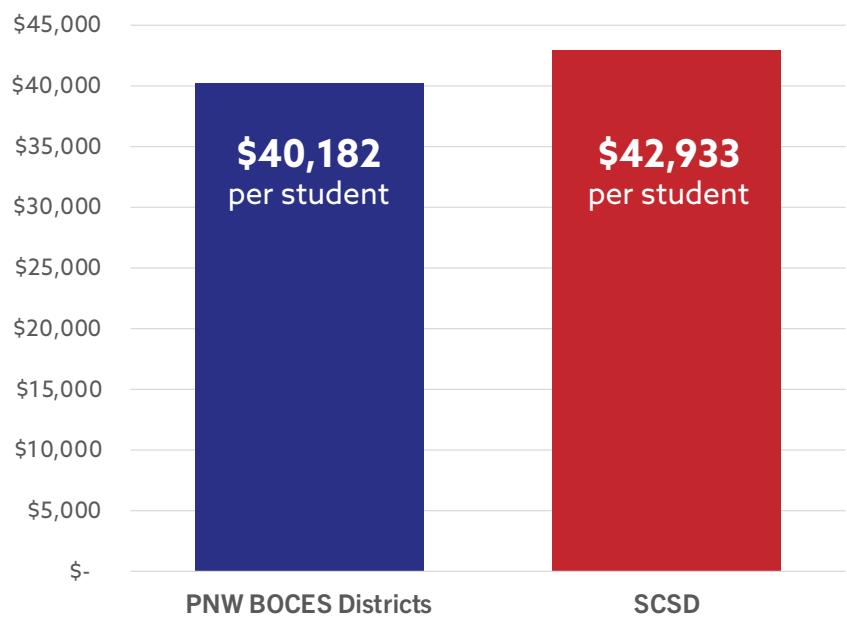
The district is using declining enrollment to bring in extra revenue. Extra space in all four buildings is leased to education programs run by PNW BOCES, generating approximately \$150,000 in revenue each year.

\$150,000 REVENUE

Focused on Results

The expenditure per student in SCSD is commensurate with the amount spent per student in area districts. SCSD has met the goal of staying within plus or minus one standard deviation of the average spent on each student among all PNW BOCES districts. The standard deviation for PNW BOCES districts is \$4,651.

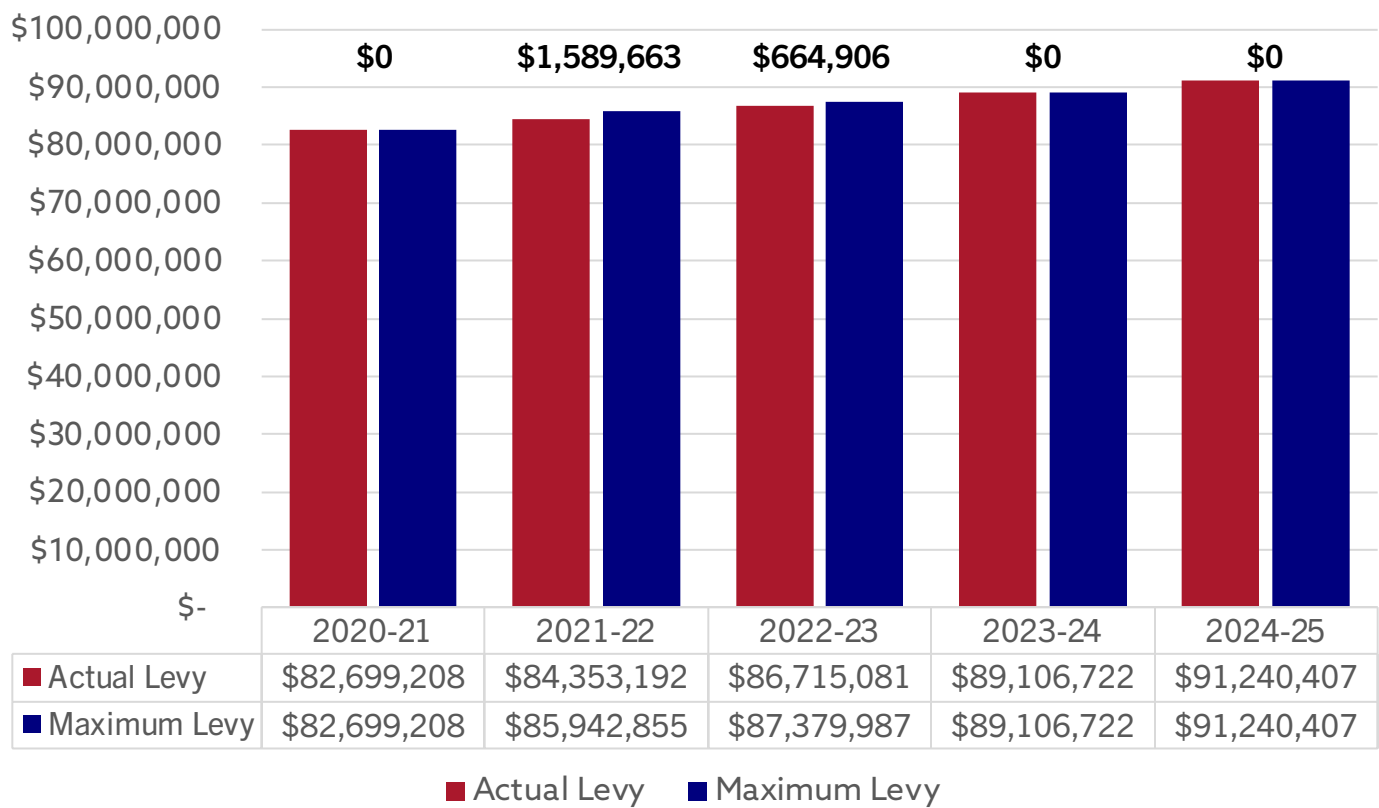
2024-2025 School Year



Maximum Tax Levy Limit History

The district has stayed within the allowable tax cap since the cap's inception in 2012, and will continue to do so for the 2025-26 school year. We have been able to remain below the tax cap in the face of challenging economic times and changing levels of support.

Taxpayers saved \$2.25 million

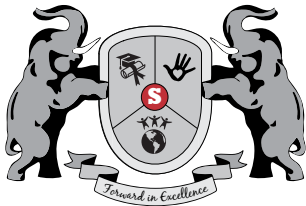


Responsible Planning

Thoughtful planning for safe, sound, and effective learning spaces is paramount to the overall success of the district. We are updating our structures and spaces, both inside and outside of our schools to foster student engagement. Enhancements include updating auditoriums, science labs, tech labs, and playgrounds with state-of-the-art equipment to provide welcoming environments that encourage exploration and discovery.



In May 2025, the voters approved a new, \$63.9 million capital bond to pay for these updated structures and spaces. The payments on the new bond will start at the same time that previous bonds will be paid off, resulting in the same net cost to taxpayers for capital debt.



Designed for Learner Engagement

Engaging learning spaces have a positive impact on student growth and success.

Infrastructure: Upgrades, enhancements and exterior improvements, HVAC upgrades, rooftop units, fire alarm system upgrades and replacements.

Indoor: Classroom restructuring, science room upgrades, SHS auditorium, rooftop units, SMS art room, STEM, flooring upgrades.

Outdoor: Playgrounds, track resurfacing, LED lighting at Turf 1 and Turf 2 fields, press box, drainage upgrades, asphalt, walk and curb replacement and repairs.

ELEMENTS OF 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.

The Somers Central School District leverages community partnerships and residents' expertise, social media channels, and community feedback to enrich the educational experiences of Somers students.



Community Involvement

There are countless ways the greater community supports the Somers Central School District's mission to educate the whole child. Groups and individuals share enriching experiences with students, broadening horizons for all.

In April, the district partnered with the Town of Somers to present the second annual Tusker Café.

Somers residents were invited to join an evening session to discuss the connection between mental and physical wellbeing and simple steps to combat isolation, increase connection and create better outcomes for themselves, families and community.



At the second annual MYP Showcase, eighth graders proudly presented the community projects they carried out with help from local volunteers and organizations.



In the Holiday Give Back, Somers Intermediate School students made items such as hot chocolate cups and ornaments to sell, raising money for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



NYS Assemblyman Matt Slater visited Somers High School to speak with students about the proposed statewide ban on cellphones in school.

Helping Out

At the monthly Tusker Shop, families and other members of the community are invited to take what they need from a wide range of donated items, free of charge. Located in Somers Middle School, the shop was founded and is run by SCSD's Family Liaison Raisha Hernandez. Donated items include clothing, books, toys, household necessities, and school supplies.



Creating Community Across All Ages

Engagement among students of all ages is a focus in Somers schools, with the intent to build a sense of belonging within our school community and beyond. Older students have been visiting younger children to teach, play, listen, and coach.



In the Future Educators Club, SHS students interested in becoming educators or working with children partner with teachers at Primrose Elementary School and Somers Intermediate School to create and teach lessons at those schools. Often, the lessons are inspired by a book, which the club members choose and read to the younger students.



On May, 12 kindergarteners visited SMS to enjoy time reading Elephant and Piggie books, available in various languages, with their middle school friends. With the books, they learned some French including counting and basic greetings.



At Somers Intermediate School, high school science students volunteered their time and experience with the younger kids, helping them prepare their science projects for Science Night.



Somers Middle School students created plush-toys for kindergarteners based on the younger students' colored drawings of friendly monsters.

Community Engagement

Community engagement in Somers schools means more than a name on a mailing list - it means a seat at the table. The district proactively engages families and other community members in a variety of councils, committees, and task forces that are charged with setting school policy. These volunteers bring invaluable expertise, passion, and talent that are an integral part of the decision-making process in the district. School leaders value and rely on these partnerships, which is built on trust, respect, and results.

TEAM Tuskers is a one-to-one mentoring program, matching adults in the community with a student to provide support and friendship and improve students' social and emotional well-being.

SEWAC members provide input and direction to the district on how best to support Somers students' social and emotional wellness.

District-Wide Safety Team Parent organizations are represented on the team, which reviews and revises the district-wide school safety plan, encompassing activities and protocols from early prevention through crisis response.

Citizens Finance Committee members work with the district on budget development, multi-year planning, and legislative issues.

Somers Community Council This town-run community engages community stakeholders, including SCSD, to identify issues impacting the community, centralize resources to assist people/families in need, and keep community organizations apprised of initiatives.



Parent Teacher Association

Special Education Parent Teacher Association



**Somers Education
Foundation**



Town of Somers



YMCA



The Lions Club

Media Engagement

Sharing the great accomplishments and initiatives in the district in a variety of ways provides a window into our schools and classrooms.



The district shares feature articles, infographics, Board of Education updates, and pictures with *The Somers Record* newspaper, reaching 12,000 readers in print and online editions.



Tusker Nation,
monthly e-newsletter
sent to community and staff

For 2024-2025 (through May 23)

3,196	57%	37%
Viewers (average)	Open Rate (average)	Industry average



Weekly
Superintendent's letter

January 10, 2025 - May 23, 2025

72.5%
Open Rate



Website
Sept. 1, 2024-May 28, 2025

321K
Page Views



Instagram
Sept. 1, 2024-May 28, 2025

21.3K	329.4K	474
Reach	Views	New Followers



Facebook
Sept. 1, 2024-May 28, 2025

63.1K	30.3K	194
Reach	Views	New Followers



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

WWW.SOMERSSCHOOLS.ORG