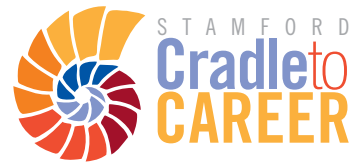


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2018 COMMUNITY REPORT

# BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

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# SC2C: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

## DEAR COMMUNITY PARTNERS,

It is with great pleasure that I share the Stamford Cradle to Career (SC2C) 2018 Report to the Community. I transitioned into the role of president in the first few weeks of 2019. Since then, I have had time to reflect on the organization's beginnings while looking to the future. I'm excited to begin building on the important work that was begun over the past few years.

I enter this leadership role recognizing that I have large shoes to fill. My predecessor, Mara Siladi, established the structure and culture of collaboration necessary to launch such a large-scale community initiative and did a remarkable job doing so. I know I speak for the many partners in Stamford with whom Mara worked closely when I thank her for her passion and commitment to making this initiative a reality.

Our backbone team has grown, and I am pleased to welcome both Lauren Scopaz-Daunais as vice president of Strategy and Operations and Tashi Shuler-Drakes as project associate. Lauren comes to the role after 11 years at Harlem Children's Zone and Tashi comes with considerable nonprofit experience working with youth and families.

We hope you enjoy this report, which reflects the accomplishments of SC2C to date and builds toward the future. We have an increased focus on improving our data infrastructure and integrating issues that impact our city such as ensuring equity and inclusion.

We invite all who have a vested interest in the future of our community – students, parents, community members – to become engaged in our efforts.



*Bridget F. Fox*

**BRIDGET FOX**

President, Stamford Cradle to Career  
United Way of Western Connecticut

## ENSURING EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

**A strength-based, asset-oriented approach to improving outcomes for Stamford... from Cradle to Career**

SC2C is a citywide collective impact initiative that aligns community resources to ensure equity and excellence in education for every child. Through partnerships and collaboration with civic, corporate, government, healthcare providers, schools and non-profit agencies, SC2C strives to create an inclusive, cohesive and empowered community. It takes a village to raise a child, and SC2C is building on the

past impact and success of established programs across our community, and is investigating and implementing best practices from across the country. By aligning resources, we are creating a continuum of support that ensures that all children in Stamford have the support and opportunities to develop productive habits of mind, body and heart and become contributing members of our society.

### STRENGTHENING STAMFORD THROUGH COLLECTIVE IMPACT: 5 Building Blocks to Success

- 1 | A Common Goal**  
Closing the educational achievement gap
- 2 | Shared Measurements**  
Improving outcomes and sharing data
- 3 | Mutually Reinforcing Activities**  
Challenging, inspiring, preparing and supporting our youth
- 4 | Continuous Communications**  
Engaging and collaborating with our community
- 5 | Backbone Support**  
Dedicated staff to coordinate collaborative efforts

# SC2C BY THE NUMBERS

## SC2C FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE PROFILE

**\$307,000**  
Operating Budget

**60+**  
Community Organizations

**70+**  
senior leaders from community groups participate in SC2C planning and oversight

**1000s**  
of hours of volunteer time

## Contribution and Support



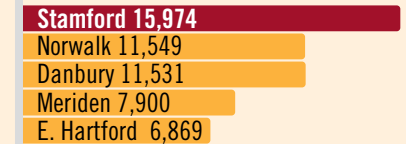
- Foundations: \$170,000
- United Way: \$100,000
- Corporate: \$25,000
- City of Stamford: \$12,000

## STAMFORD COMMUNITY PROFILE

**#2**  
Most populous city in Connecticut, and growing  
Source: 2012-2018 American Community Survey

**#22**  
for linguistic diversity in the US  
Source: WalletHub 2018

**Stamford**  
is the leader among Connecticut's fastest growing school districts  
Source: Stamford Public Schools (SPS) and the Connecticut State Department of Education, 2018

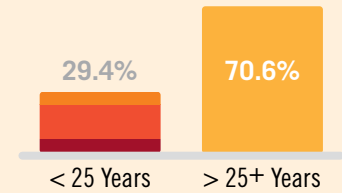


**40%+**  
of Stamford residents earn less than the basic cost of living in Fairfield County  
Source: ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Connecticut 2014 Report, 2016 Update, 2018 Update United Way of Northern New Jersey, 2009-2016.

**One Third**  
of all Stamford residents are under the age of 25  

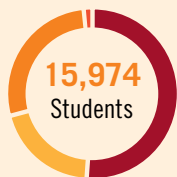
- Under 5 years: 5.8%
- 5 to 19 years: 16.6%
- 20 to 24 years: 7.0%
- 25+: 70.6%

 Source: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



**#27**  
for cultural diversity in the US  
Source: WalletHub 2018

## STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROFILE

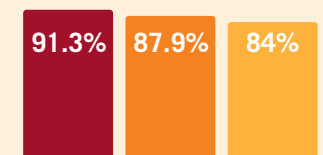


- Elementary: 8,188 (including PreK and Early Childhood Services)
  - Middle: 3,136
  - High School: 4,398
  - Alternative and Out-of-District Programs: 252
- Source: SPS, 2018



**55.4%**  
of SPS employees are Stamford residents  
Source: SPS 2018

**91.3%**  
High School Graduation Rate  
(up from 88.9 in 2016)



- SPS High School Graduation Rate
  - CT High School Graduation Rate
  - National Average Graduation Rate
- Source: SPS and CT Department of Education 2017-18

**52%**  
qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch  
Source: CT Department of Education 2017-18

**13.18%**  
English Language Learners  
Source: CT Department of Education 2017-18

**75**  
Languages spoken in the Homes of Students  
Source: SPS 2018

# SC2C IS LOOKING FORWARD WITH BOLD OBJECTIVES

## All Stamford Infants Will Be Healthy

### Infant Health and Development Network

As children’s first teachers, families have an immense impact on their children’s development and learning. Healthy development from prenatal to age three influences both future health and education outcomes. By addressing the needs of mothers in the early stages of pregnancy, SC2C is laying the groundwork for future positive habits.

In May, a **Go Before You Show** public awareness campaign was launched targeting low-income communities to increase access to educational information on healthy practices and nutrition among pregnant women.

**GOAL:** To increase the number of women enrolled in prenatal care for the first trimester to 90 percent.

In September, Children’s Learning Center, the Nurturing Family Network and All Our Kin expanded use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening process. The CAN successfully implemented a citywide system and database for screenings, assessing 74 children under the age

of five with a focus on those children who fall into the “monitoring or below” category of the ASQ.

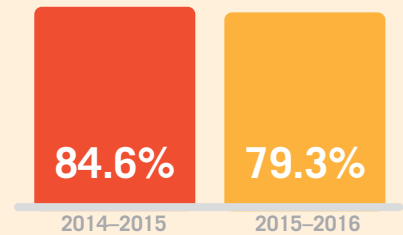
**GOAL:** To increase the number of infants and toddlers tested using the ASQ.

#### CO-CHAIRS:

**Erica Phillips**, COO, All Our Kin  
**Carole Elias**, COO, Family Centers  
**Emily Goldschmid**, Family Service Manager, Children’s Learning Centers

#### INDICATOR

**Percentage of Stamford’s New Mothers Receiving Timely Prenatal Care (Beginning First Trimester)**



Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health, HSS Section

## All Stamford Children Will be Ready for Kindergarten

### Kindergarten Readiness Network

Development of health, early education experiences and enrichment activities in the first years of life is most critical in establishing a solid foundation for children to succeed in school. The CAN is working to establish a meaningful and widely used standardized measure of child development to help ensure that children who require close monitoring and referrals for intervention services will receive the attention and resources that they need in a timely manner.

During 2018, the CAN worked and won agreement of all Pre-K agencies in Stamford and SPS to use one student profile, called Pre-school to Kindergarten Transition Summary (PKTS). In Fall 2018, 26 of the 39 preschools in Stamford helped complete the PKTS for 75% (953 total) of incoming kindergarten students. The data was shared with the schools and kindergarten teachers.

**GOAL:** To expand PKTS use to 85% of Pre-K agencies in Stamford by 2019.

In April and November of 2018, the CAN facilitated joint professional development events for more than 170 pre-school and kindergarten teachers. These new forums provide an opportunity for pre-school teachers and SPS kindergarten teachers to exchange ideas, best practices and concerns,

and build capacity of students to raise scores.

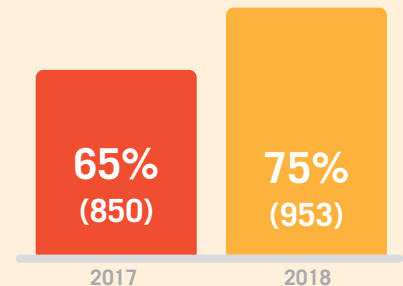
**GOAL:** To conduct ongoing data-driven professional development for preschool and kindergarten teachers to improve kindergarten readiness and success.

#### CO-CHAIRS:

**Kendra Brown**, Director of Early Childhood, SPS  
**Penny Lehman**, Director of Program Services, Children’s Learning Centers

#### INDICATOR

**Percentage of Incoming Kindergarteners with a Completed PKTS**



Source: SPS. Based on kindergarten enrollments

# All Stamford Students Will Read Proficiently by the End of Third Grade

## Early Grade Reading Network



SC2C recognizes that early grade reading is the most crucial academic skill because it is the foundation for all learning. A long-term study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that students who were not proficient in reading by the end of third grade were four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

Working with Chester Addison Community Center, Stamford Boys and Girls Club and INTEMPO, the CAN created action plans to infuse literacy into out-of-school-time supports, during the school year and in the summer. The goal is to increase the percentage of SPS third grade students who score at level 3 or 4 in English-Language Arts (ELA) on the Smarter Balance Assessment. The 2018 programs reached more than 100 students.

**GOAL:** To create alignment, consistency, and sharing between out of school time programs and SPS on literacy strategies and assessments.

Throughout 2018, three SPS training sessions drew over 135 teachers and mentors, providing specific teaching strategies to community center staff, mentors and volunteers. Professional development will be a continuing program for volunteers, new teachers and mentors as well as certified teachers.

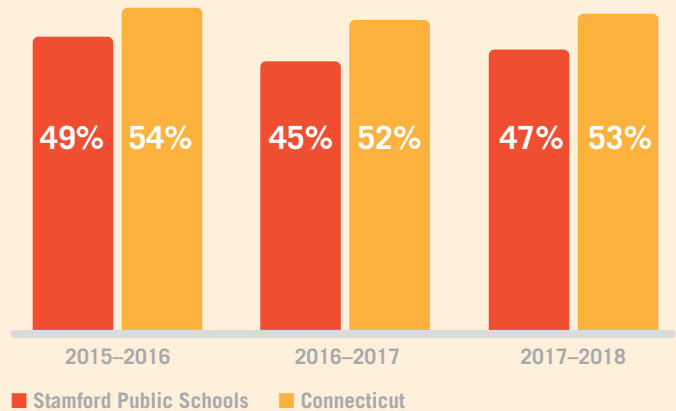
**GOAL:** To conduct ongoing professional development on literacy support strategies for out of school time program staff by SPS literacy and instructional staff.

### CO-CHAIRS:

**Brian White**, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, SPS  
**Alice Knapp**, President, Ferguson Library

### INDICATOR

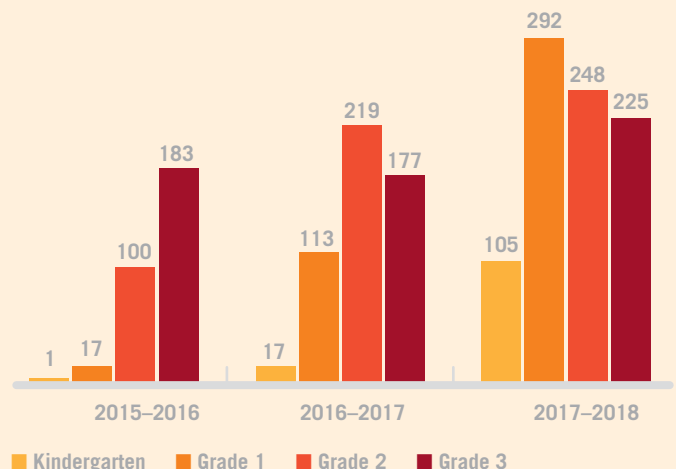
Percentage of SPS Third Graders Scoring at Level 3 or 4 in ELA on the Smarter Balanced Assessment



Source: SPS and CT Department of Education

### INDICATOR

Increase in Students Receiving SRBI\* Reading Support



Source: SPS and CT Department of Education. Data sourced from PowerSchool stored grades as of June 2018.

\*Scientifically Research Based Interventions

# SC2C IS LOOKING FORWARD WITH BOLD OBJECTIVES

## All Stamford Youth Will Succeed Academically and Attain Post-Secondary Degree and/or Obtain Employment

### Transition from High School to Postsecondary, College and/or Career

As a community, we want all students to find success in life, whether through post-secondary schooling, apprenticeships, certificate programs or career pathways. With the vision to build a workforce culture in Stamford, the CAN is focused on activities that will support a foundation of basic life and essential skills needed to be successful beyond high school for students pursuing college, career or postsecondary training. The CAN identified specific skills based on both the Community for Education basic life readiness skills and the National Association of Colleges and Employers' essential skills standards. The CAN is finalizing a digital brochure to build awareness and standardize language for these skills.

During 2018, the CAN provided, for the first time, a forum for community providers and local educators to exchange ideas and concerns. The CAN brought together many different viewpoints of professionals and community people involved with youth transitioning from high school to college and career pathways.

**GOAL:** To identify, build awareness, and create a common language for community organizations, local businesses, and SPS on the skills necessary for success in college and/or career to increase the effectiveness of support for youth in the development of these skills.

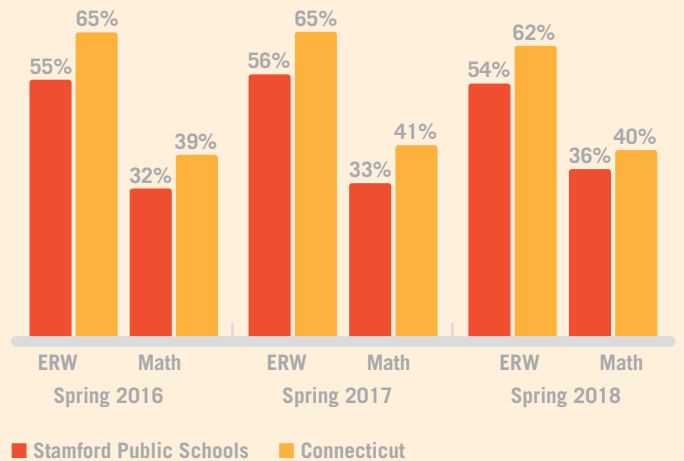


#### CO-CHAIRS:

**Jennienne Burke**, Board Member, Stamford Board of Education  
**Tina Rivera**, Principal, Academy of Information Technology & Engineering  
**Rebecca Wilson**, Coordinator for College and Career Readiness, SPS

#### INDICATOR

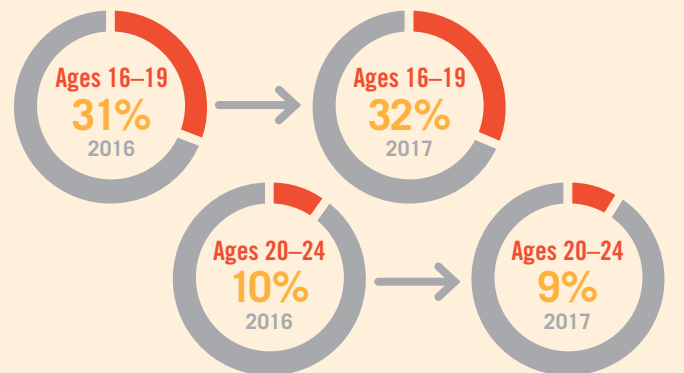
Percentage of Students Scoring at Level 3 or 4 in Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math on the SAT



Source: SPS and CT Department of Education.

#### INDICATOR

Youth Unemployment Rate



Source: American Community Survey, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Five-Year Estimates

# SC2C IS IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Community Task Force (CTF) is an overarching committee that identifies and aims to address issues affecting educational outcomes, which transgress age ranges or identified indicators. CTF selected the following four areas for its work in 2018, and worked within the SC2C network to expand effective practices and align resources.

## Food for Thought

Food Insecurity is not having adequate resources to access reliable food sources on a regular basis; it is an important factor in healthy child development, which will lead to better educational outcomes.

- SC2C partners provided **31,660** meals to at-risk children and their families
- **852** elementary children were supported through weekend backpack programs
- **2,500+** breakfast meals were provided daily through the federally funded School Breakfast Program

**GOAL:** Improve the reach, strength and effectiveness of existing programs that support kids who may be hungry after school and on weekends.

## Race, Equity and Inclusion

SC2C strives to improve equity for all populations. Stamford Public Schools are highly diverse; there is no majority ethnic or racial group. SC2C recognizes that the path to equity is a community effort, including training, introspection and policy development.

- **Four SC2C partner agencies** (DomusKids, Ferguson Library, Person to Person, and Building One Community) have undertaken intense self-examination and reviewed their history through the lens of race. As such, they have catalogued corrective actions, including changes in the way organizations perceive themselves, and how they engage staff, clients, and local communities.
- **6,000+** students, in all 21 SPS schools, received free, inclusive academic and enrichment programs through partnerships between SPS and SC2C nonprofit organizations
- **13,131** children were served by Ferguson Library Bookmobile outreach at various SC2C partner sites

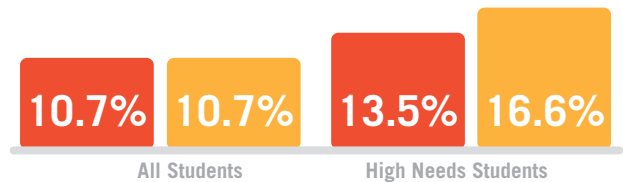
**GOAL:** Engage schools and community groups around how implicit bias impacts educational equity and how it can be reduced or eliminated to improve educational outcomes.

## School Attendance Project

Chronic School Absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more school days. Addressing this issue requires parental education and awareness, improved transportation options and collaboration to implement specific tailored solutions.

- SPS, Youth Service Bureau, Domus and others worked together to adopt a **Community-Based Diversion System**. The plan provides a roadmap for effective, developmentally appropriate, community-based responses to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.

**GOAL:** Reduce the rate of chronic absenteeism, particularly in the early years of a student's life.



■ Stamford Public Schools ■ Connecticut

Source: SPS and CT Department of Education, 2018

## Community and Family Engagement

Strong, two-way communications is a key to success in every one of our programs. SC2C is working to establish ongoing, meaningful dialogue with families around a common understanding of background experiences and everyday life in Stamford.

- **2,000+** attended US Day 2018, a day-long celebration, including the MarcUS for Change 5K, STEMFest and the Mayor's Multicultural Council's International Dance Festival
- **250** family members attended Building One Community (B1C) sponsored events to establish an ongoing dialogue between SPS, community leaders and immigrant families.

**GOAL:** Increase the level of engagement of chronically underserved groups.



United Way provides the backbone support for Stamford Cradle to Career, including three dedicated employees and fiduciary oversight, while volunteers from our partner organizations execute our vision. SC2C recognizes that successful children lead to a vibrant and thriving community. Building on Stamford's strong tradition of community collaboration, the SC2C Community Action Networks are aligned with Stamford Public Schools (SPS) to improve student learning in all dimensions of mind, body and heart. Today, SC2C is on its way to achieving measurable systemic change.

### JOIN OUR COLLABORATIVE AND MAKE AN IMPACT!

- Join an SC2C Community Action Network. To learn how you can help make an impact in our community, contact Bridget Fox, President, SC2C, [bridget.fox@uwwesternct.org](mailto:bridget.fox@uwwesternct.org).
- Become civically engaged by attending an SPS BOE meeting, or invite SC2C to present at your next organization's event.
- Make a donation to SC2C through the United Way, or support ANY of the 60+ partner non-profit organizations. Every dollar counts.
- Promote healthy life choices. It matters. Become a voice in your neighborhood, family, or organization to promote productive habits of mind, body and heart!

SC2C is a member of the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network. StriveTogether is a national movement



with a clear purpose: helping every child succeed in school and life from cradle to career, regardless of race, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with nearly 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices and processes to give every child every chance for success.

### STAY INFORMED AND STAY INVOLVED

To see a complete list of community partners and volunteers, to read previous reports online, or to sign up for the newsletter visit us online at [stamfordcradletocareer.org](http://stamfordcradletocareer.org).

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

**BOB ARNOLD**  
CEO, Family Centers

**TAMU LUCERO**  
Superintendent,  
Stamford Public  
Schools

**MIKE DUGGAN**  
Executive Director,  
Domus Kids

**KIM MORGAN**  
CEO, United Way of  
Western CT

**CINDY GRAFSTEIN**  
City of Stamford –  
Mayor's Office

**BOB NEIMAN**  
Board Member,  
Harvard Business School  
Community Partners

**JACKIE HEFTMAN**  
Board Member,  
Stamford Board of  
Education

**MATT QUINONES**  
CEO, Stamford Public  
Education Foundation

**CATALINA HORAK**  
Executive Director,  
Building One  
Community

**ANDREW TRAUB**  
Chair, Harvard Business  
School Community  
Partners

**MARC JAFFE**  
CEO, Children's  
Learning Centers of  
Fairfield County

**VIN TUFO**  
CEO, Charter Oak  
Communities

**ALICE KNAPP**  
President, The  
Ferguson Library

**DUDLEY WILLIAMS**  
Board Member,  
Stamford Board of  
Finance



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