

Stamford Public Schools

District Overview 2022-23





Mission

The mission of the Stamford Public Schools is to provide an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body and heart in every student.

Vision

The Stamford Public Schools will be a learning organization that continuously improves its effective, innovative and transformational teaching and learning. We will challenge, inspire and prepare all students to be productive contributing members of society.



SPS Strategic Plan: 2022-2027



Our 5 Pillars provide a coherent, strong foundation for our practices, programs and processes.

The pillars clearly define our priorities for the future.





Operational Excellence

Stamford Public Schools (SPS) will make decisions guided by our mission, goals and data, not emotions or public pressure. SPS will apply the approach to all aspects of our school systems, including staff, facilities, budgets and culture.



Operational Excellence

SPS Operates 22 School and Program Sites



**3M+ Sq. Ft of building space /
300+ Acres of Property**

- **APPLES PreK**
- **11 Elementary Schools (K-5)**
- **2 K-8 Schools**
- **5 Middle Schools (6-8)**
- **3 High Schools (9-12)**
- **SPS Anchor**
- **Adult & Continuing Education**



Operational Excellence

High Quality Educators and Staff

2,366 full time staff



8% increase in staffing since 2018



95.6%

of certified staff (teachers, counselors, administrators, etc.) have a masters degree or higher

84%

of SPS staff work directly with students

12.74 years

average number of years teaching at SPS



51%

of staff call Stamford HOME

20%

of SEA 2022 new hires are graduated from Stamford Public Schools





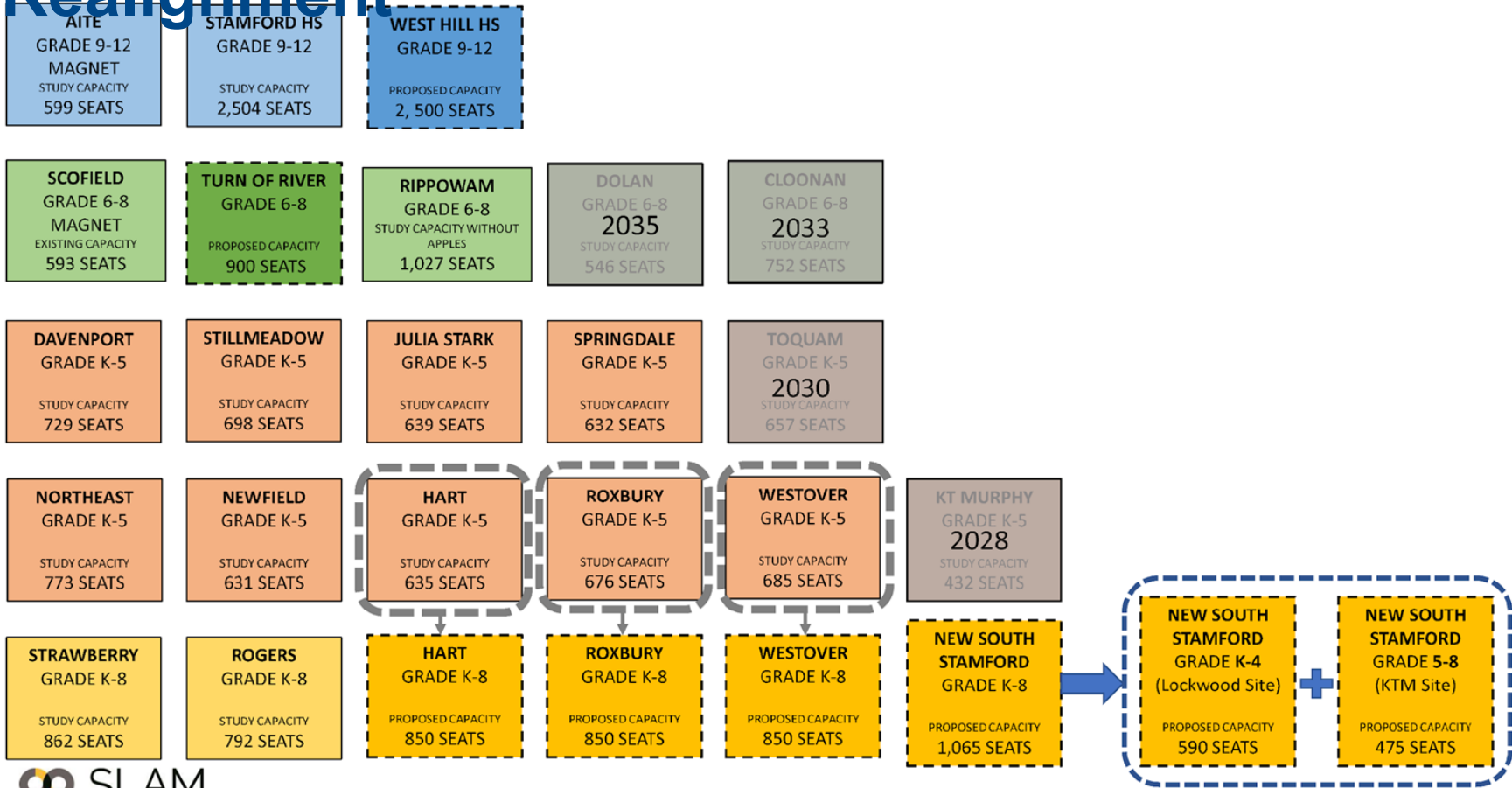
SPS in the Spotlight!

Eight SPS staff members are the recipients of 2023 Fund for Teachers (FFT) Fellowships. Fellowships empower our teachers to enhance their practice while amplifying their impact on the students in their classrooms.

- Susan Dougherty (SHS) - Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas
- Drew Denbaum (WHS) - Japan
- Robin Konrad (WHS) - Italy
- Kristina Lawson (SHS) - Costa Rica
- Jenel Iyer (SHS) - Costa Rica
- Robert Lutz (SHS) - Italy
- Caitlin Sheeran (TOR) - England
- Vincent Urbanowski (AITE) - CalTech in Pasadena, California

Operational Excellence

Long-Term Facilities Plan - Proposed Realignment



SLAM



Operational Excellence

Long Term Facilities Plan - Current Projects

2022-2023 Project Status

- Westhill High School:
 - Approved for state reimbursement in December 2021
 - Design begins July 2023
 - Occupancy for 2027-28 school year

- Roxbury K-8:
 - Added to state priority list in December 2022
 - Design begins December 2023
 - Occupancy for 2027-28 school year

- South End K-4 & 5-8 Schools
 - Proposal due to state in June 2023





SPS in the Spotlight!

The proposed **Roxbury K-8 School** is among six school projects statewide to be recommended for new construction. In addition, **Westhill High School** is one of two projects to be recommended for reauthorization. Earlier this year, the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services revised the reimbursement rate for Stamford Public School projects. The Roxbury project will be eligible for 60% reimbursement, while the Westhill project would be eligible for 80%.

Operational Excellence

District Snapshot: SPS Operating Budget

\$301,843,542 Total 2022-23 Operating Budget

Salaries + Benefits

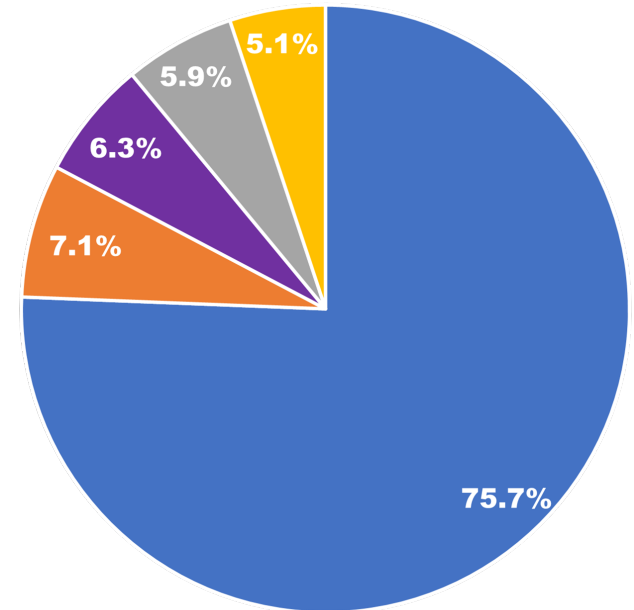
Transportation

Out of District Tuition

Professional Services

Other

- Facility Repair + Maintenance Supplies
- Construction Costs
- Utilities (Electricity + Gas + Water)
- Telephone + Internet
- Insurance (property + liability)
- Office Supplies + Postage
- Districtwide Copiers
- Classroom and Office Furniture
- Classroom Supplies
- Textbooks/Workbooks
- Professional Development
- Districtwide Software
- Instructional Technology
- Athletic Equipment
- Dues & Fees



Operational Excellence

District Snapshot: Spending Comparison

2021-22 Spending Per Pupil: Fairfield County^

District	Enrollment	NCEP			
1. Redding	1,215	\$26,621	11. Fairfield	9,359	\$21,581
2. Greenwich	8,378	\$26,311	12. Norwalk	11,881	\$21,396
3. Weston	2,208	\$24,262	13. New Fairfield	2,081	\$21,314
4. Sherman	387	\$24,170	14. Stamford	16,034	\$20,679
5. Westport	5,278	\$24,149	15. Newtown	4,073	\$20,035
6. Darien	4,708	\$23,180	16. Bridgeport	18,972	\$18,748
7. Wilton	3,715	\$22,980	17. Stratford	7,068	\$18,721
8. Ridgefield	4,564	\$22,394	18. Monroe	3,377	\$17,837
9. New Canaan	4,154	\$22,164	19. Trumbull	6,772	\$17,628
10. Easton	1,303	\$21,953	20. Bethel	3,126	\$17,507

SPS Ranks 14th
in Per Pupil Spending

^Data for Danbury and Shelton not yet available.

2021-22 Spending vs. State Average*

	Stamford	State Average*	Variance
Instruction	\$192,435,956	\$184,126,493	\$8,309,463
Support Services	\$53,294,953	\$54,823,218	(\$1,528,265)
Central Office	\$4,537,575	\$10,086,295	(\$5,548,720)
Transportation & Operations	\$43,317,662	\$41,708,083	\$1,609,579
Sum	\$293,586,146	\$293,586,146	

Compared to the State Average, SPS Spends:

- **5% MORE** on Instruction
- **Within 1%** on Support Services
- **45% LESS** on Central Office

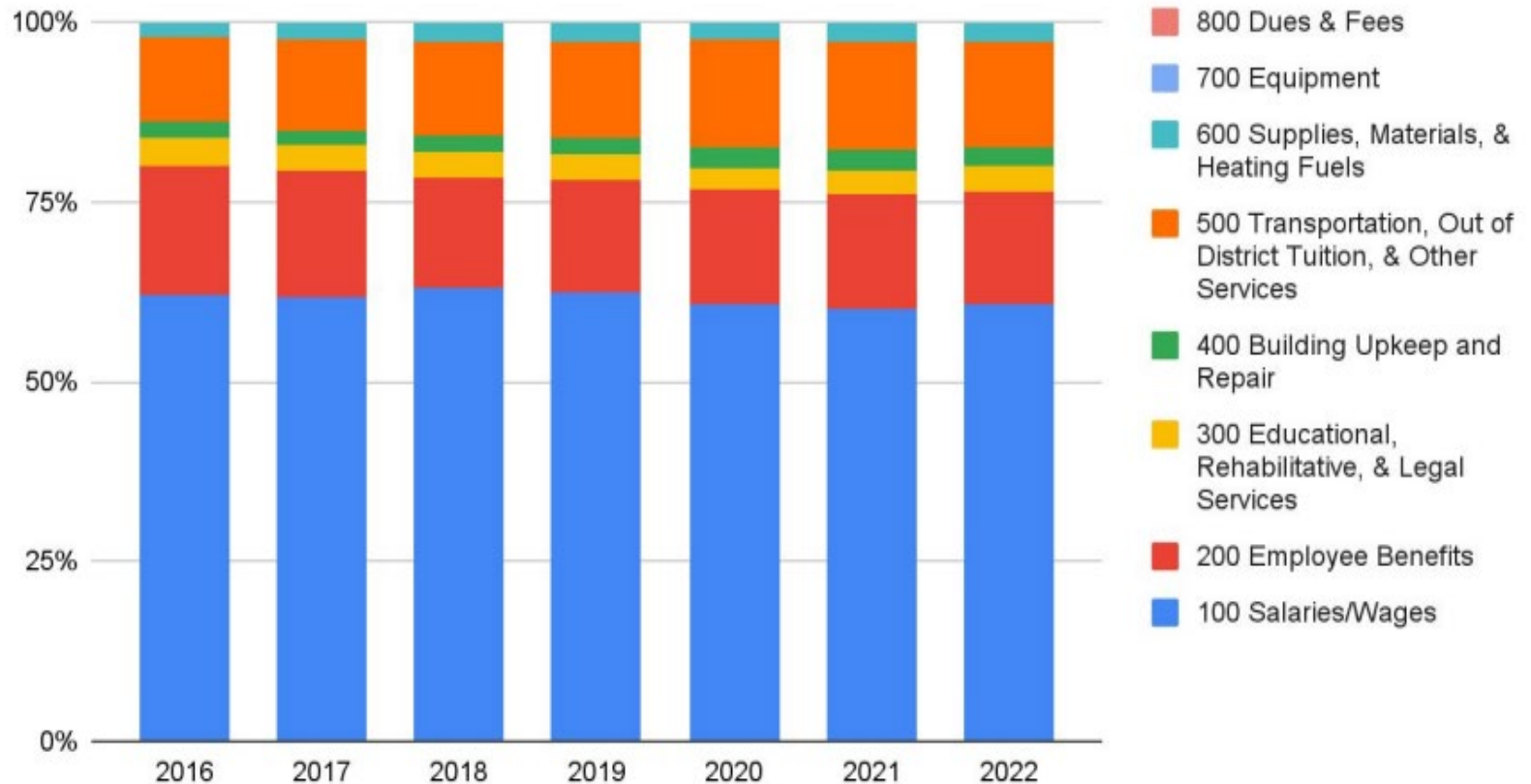
*Scaled to SPS 2021-22 Budget. Source: CSDE. Per Pupil Expenditures by Function, 2020-21 (as of 11/3/2022). Available [here](#).



Operational Excellence

SPS Maintains a Consistent Budget

Major Budget Objects 2016-2022





Strong Curriculum

TEACHING & LEARNING is central to everything we do. The goal of our curriculum and instructional practices is to prepare students for success in an ever-changing global society. We will move every student forward from where they start, including high-achieving and struggling students.

Strong Curriculum

Responding to the Curriculum Audit



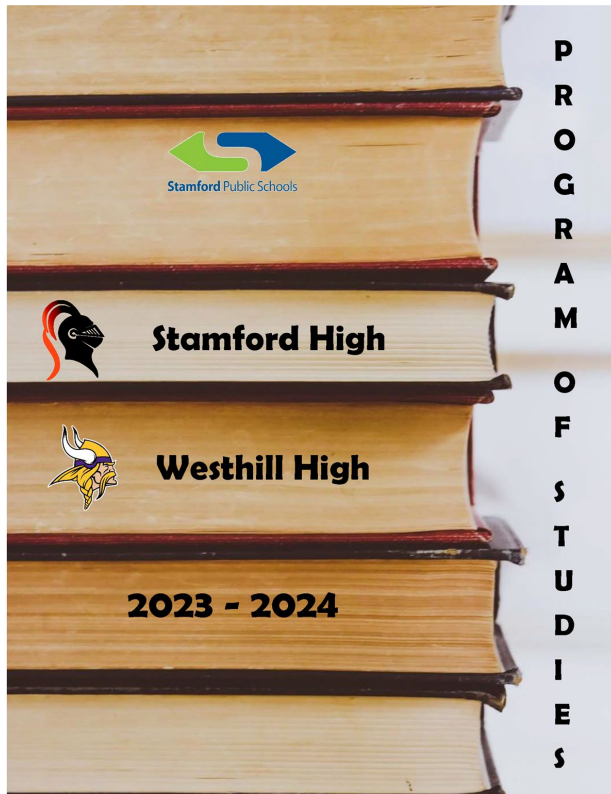
3-year plan for district-wide PreK-12 curriculum, instructional support, and assessments

- All High School core curriculum in place by Fall 2023
- Middle School ELA and Social Studies curriculum in place by Fall 2023
- K-5 ELA curriculum: adopting one of 7 state-approved curriculum models (Right to Read legislation)
- K-5 Math curriculum – Everyday Mathematics – already in place
- Integrated Math to replace Algebra 1/Geometry/Algebra 2 sequence beginning Fall 2023

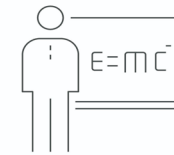
Strong Curriculum

SPS is a State Leader in Course Offerings

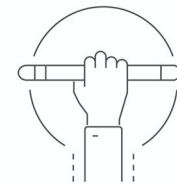
Through professional development and credential enhancements, our high school teachers are teaching some of the most advanced high school courses in the state.



SPS offers
25 UCONN ECE courses,
averaging 10 per high school.
(Top 5 in the state)



SPS offers
more AP courses
than any other
district in the state.



SPS is one of only
28 districts in the
state to offer a senior
Capstone Project.



Strong Curriculum

Specialized High School Programs

Students can apply to these programs regardless of their districted school:

The **Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE)**

Stamford High—**Early College Studies**

Stamford High—**High School of Business**

Stamford High—**International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**

University of Connecticut—**Early College Experience**

Westhill High—**Academy of Finance**

Westhill High—**Agriscience Program**

Westhill High—**Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)**

Westhill High—**The Computer Science Academy**



Strong Curriculum

Introducing Career Connected Learning

SPS is innovating to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the foundation needed to achieve long-term career goals. Career Connected Learning helps students adapt classroom learning to the real world and develop the knowledge, skills, and mindset to thrive in work, career, and community.

SPS will be offering 12 Career Pathways across its three high schools. Each Pathway includes resources similar to:

- Sequential HS courses
- Recommended clubs and organizations
- Hands-on elective courses and after-school experiences
- Opportunities to engage with business and industry partners
- Workforce Certifications
- Shadow days, mentoring and internship opportunities
- Future career guidance





SPS in the Spotlight!

Thirty-two SPS students, more than any other Connecticut school district, qualified and participated in the Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) State Finals on Saturday, March 25, bringing home **15 individual and team trophies**, including First Place Varsity Speaker and First Place Novice Speaker.



Student Centered

By putting the student at the center of all decisions, and empowering them with a voice to influence the same, SPS will fulfill our vision to CHALLENGE, INSPIRE and PREPARE all students to be productive and contributing members of society.

Student Centered

Serving a Diverse Student Community



16,709 Students

64.72%

High Needs

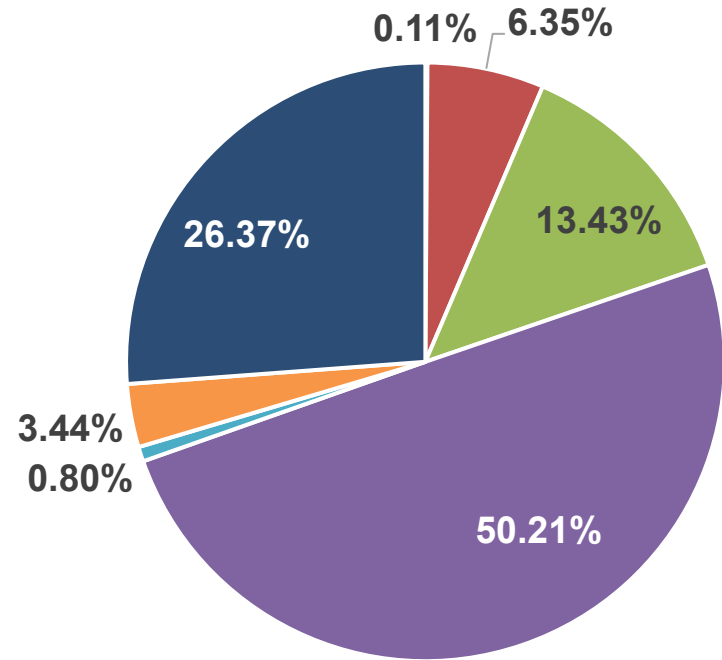
CT State DOE defines the **High Needs** student group as students with disabilities, English Learners, **or** students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

70+

Languages Spoken
in Student Homes

Top 10 Most Common Languages:

English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Ukrainian
Bengali, Polish, Arabic, Russian,
Portuguese, Hindi



American Indian or Alaska Native (0.11%)

Asian (6.35%)

Black or African American (13.43%)

Hispanic/Latino (50.21%)

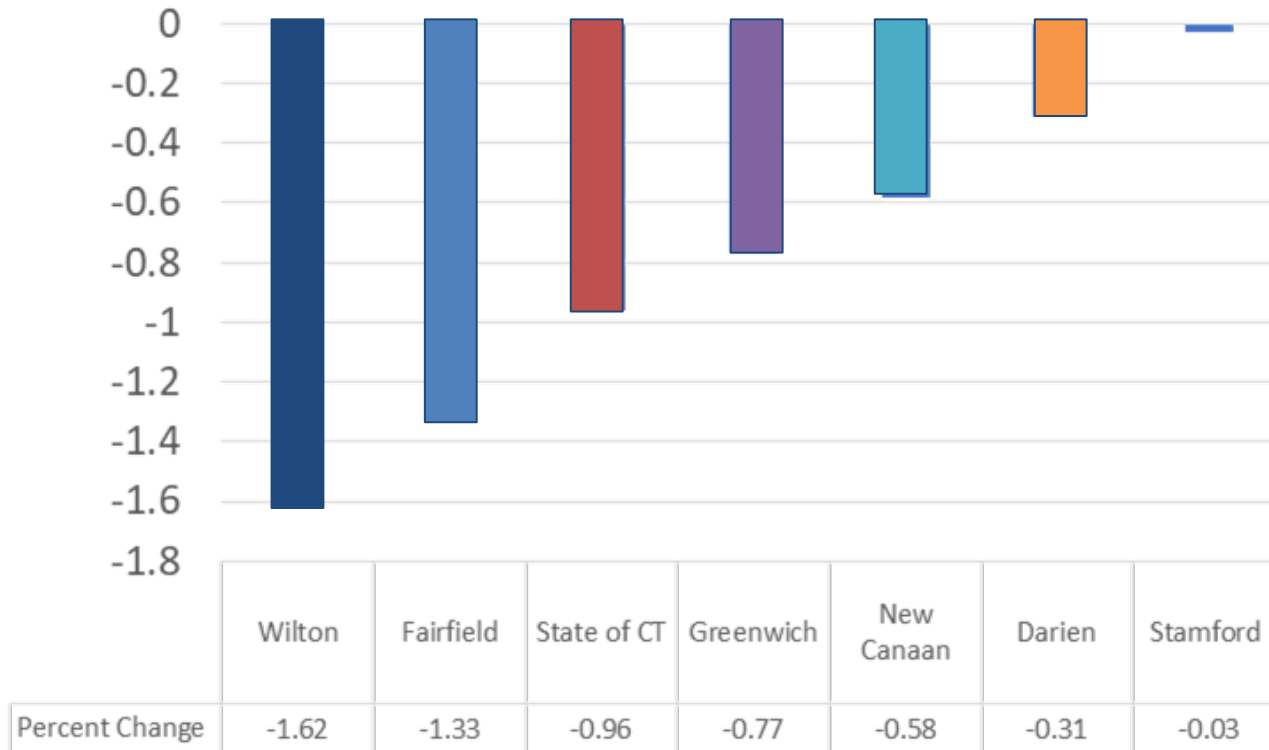
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (0.80%)

Two or More Races (3.44%)

White (26.37%)

Enrollment Trends 2016-2022

From 2016-22 enrollment statewide and in many neighboring districts decreased, while SPS enrollment was essentially flat (down 0.03%)

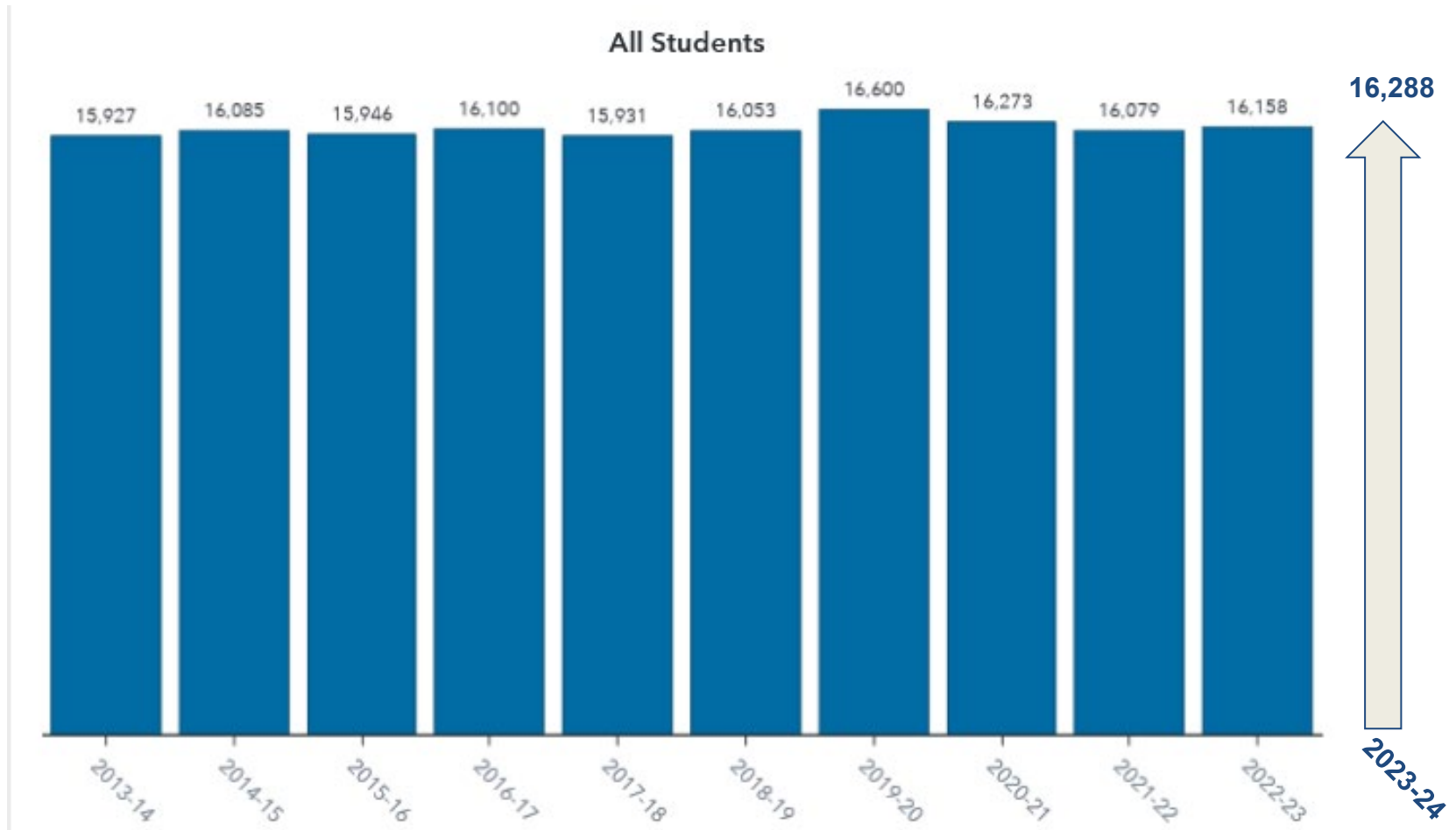


District and state enrollment data from CT Edsight.



Enrollment Trends

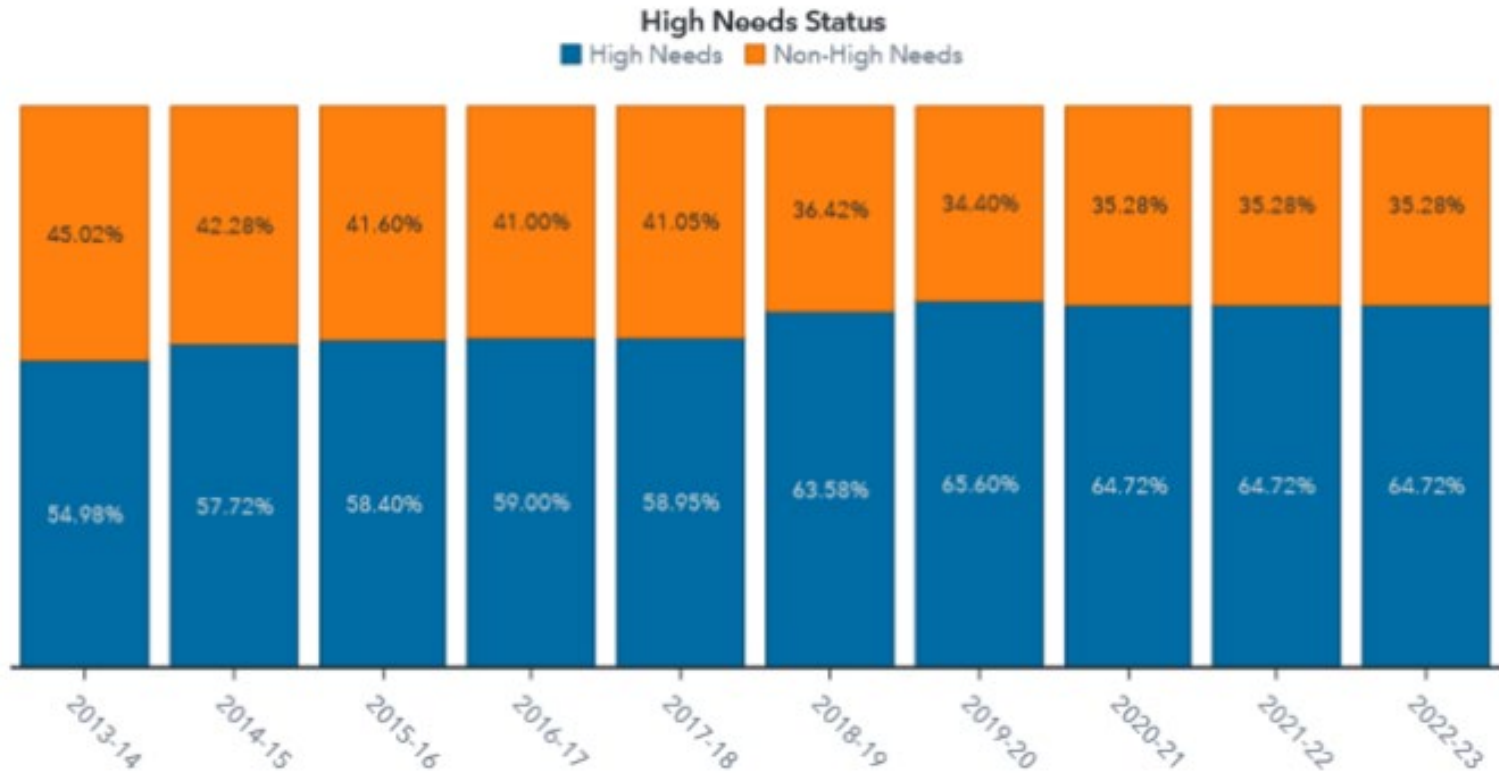
FY24 SPS enrollment projected to increase by **0.81%**.



Enrollment projections are calculated internally, as well as by Powerschool Predictive Enrollment Analytics, and are based on historical trends and birth rate analysis. District enrollment data from CT Edsight.



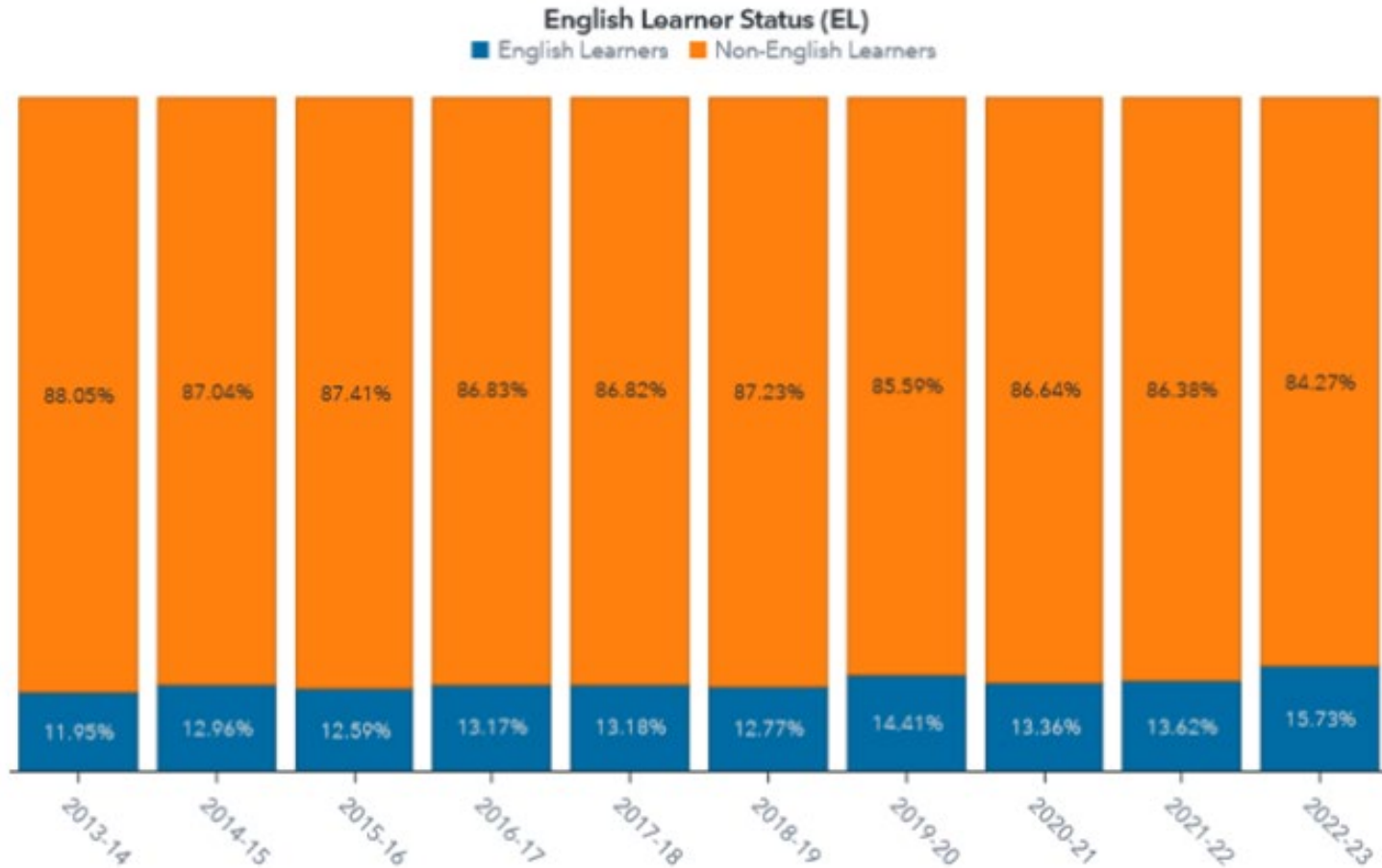
Enrollment Trends: High Needs Students



The CSDE uses student-level demographic data to create a **High Needs** student group. To be included in the **High Needs** student group a student must be a student with a disability, an English Learner, or a student eligible for free or reduced-price meals.



Enrollment Trends: English Learners



Student Centered

Identifying and Addressing Student Needs

- Focus on **Social Emotional Learning** to address health at every age
- Foster development of empathy and perspective among students
- Integration of **Restorative Practices** in Middle and High Schools
- Encourage and model **Healthy Lifestyle Choices**
- Collaborate with the community to address **Food Insecurity**
- Identify and address the causes of **Chronic Absenteeism**



Yale *Center for Emotional Intelligence*

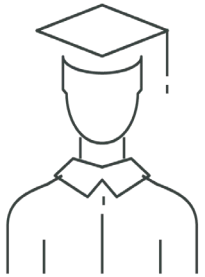
 **R U L E R**

choose love
COURAGE • GRATITUDE • FORGIVENESS • COMPASSION • THE CHOOSE LOVE FORMULA The Way Forward



Student Centered

Student Achievement: 4-Year Graduation Rates



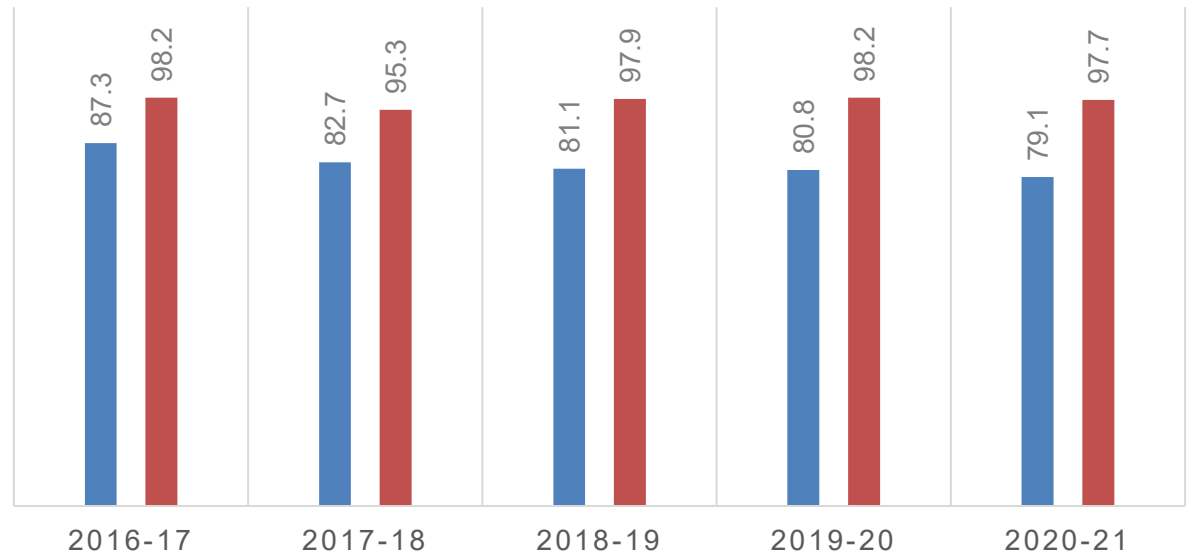
4-Year HS Graduation Rate

97.7% non high needs students

85.4% all students



■ High Needs ■ Non-High Needs



Four-Year Graduation Rate is the percentage of students who received a standard diploma within four years, including early and summer graduates from the cohort.
Source: EdSight.



Stamford Public Schools
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Student Centered

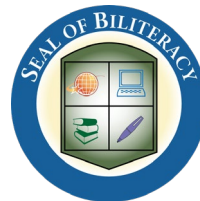
Fostering 21st Century Skills & Career Readiness

1,555

Advanced Placement exams taken in
30 subject areas in Spring 2022.
Sixty-six percent (**66%**) of exams taken
earned a score of 3 or higher.

102 students

from the Class of 2022 graduated
with a Seal of Biliteracy
in **15** different languages



(Albanian, Arabic, Creole, French, Georgian, Italian,
Marathi, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian,
Spanish, Tamil, Tagalog and Ukrainian)

1380

Top 10% of SAT Scores
(94th percentile nationally)

86.7%

11th and 12th grade students have
taken a state-designated College
and Career Readiness Course



Stamford Public Schools

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SPS in the Spotlight!



Most Accomplished Debate Program in the State



Award winning Student-driven Research



Student Winners at Humanities, Music and Art Competitions across the State



Regionally and Nationally Ranked Varsity Athletes



College Board National Recognition Program awardees



Nationally Recognized Future Business Leaders of America High School Programs



Odyssey of the Mind World Finalists



Stamford Public Schools
EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.



Culture of Inclusion

SPS strives to provide equitable opportunities for all students. We work collectively to...maximize the depth and scope of opportunities we offer while minimizing the achievement and opportunity gaps that exist among various student groups.



Culture of Inclusion

Prioritizing School Culture and Pride

Our school communities celebrate our diversity and teach critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and effective communications.

School communities utilize learning skills such as:

- Arts and Problem Solving
- CARES - Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control
- Higher Order Thinking School (HOTS)
- Leadership Through Service
- Responsive Classroom
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM)
- Student-Centered International-Mindedness
- Structured Inquiry



Culture of Inclusion

Prioritizing Communications

- Enhancing communications
 - Expanded use of PowerSchool
 - Adoption of Remind App
 - Superintendent's Weekly
 - SPS Quarterly
 - Getting to the Point (Staff Weekly)
- Engaging families and the community
 - Parent-Pop-Ups Webinars
 - Community Conversations
 - Back to School Day for elected officials
- Increase opportunities for student voice, leadership and advocacy
 - Mayor's Youth Council
 - School Governance Councils

SPS QUARTERLY

Stamford Public Schools | Stamford, CT Winter 2023

Welcome to the second edition of the SPS Quarterly, a publication created to keep our community-based organizations and partners, City Board members and staff, faith-based organizations, business leaders and the community at large informed about what's happening in Stamford Public Schools.

2023-24 Operating Budget

Stamford Public Schools recently presented its 2023-24 proposed operating budget to the Board of Education. The district is requesting a 3.95 percent increase for FY24, driven by higher health care premiums, increased fuel and gas costs, and special education expenses. The proposed budget enables us to maintain all present programs and services without adding new initiatives.

To learn more about the FY24 proposed operating budget, check out the fact sheet and FAQ available [here](#). I also encourage you to [join the presentation](#) made by Director of Finance Ryan Fealey during the January Community Conversation event hosted by Stamford P1 Council.

We are asking families and the community to support the proposed operating budget so SPS can maintain programs and services for our 16,200+ students.



Dr. Thina Luoma
Superintendent
Stamford Public Schools



District Snapshot: Spending Comparison

2021-22 Spending Per Pupil: Fairfield County*				2021-22 Spending vs. State Average**			
District	Enrollment	NCIP	Per Pupil	Instruction	Support	Central	Other
1. Bethel	1,212	\$2,241	\$1,895	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
2. Greenwich	8,373	\$2,521	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
3. Shelton	2,298	\$2,478	1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
4. Sherman	267	\$1,471	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
5. Stratford	5,213	\$1,411	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
6. Danbury	4,700	\$1,101	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
7. Meriden	1,711	\$1,781	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
8. Middletown	4,664	\$2,281	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
9. New Britain	4,664	\$2,281	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
10. Waterbury	1,101	\$1,101	\$1,881	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
11. Bethel	1,212	\$2,241	\$1,895	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200

SPS Ranks 14th in Per Pupil Spending

- 5% MORE on Instruction
- Within 1% on Support Services
- 45% LESS on Central Office

17,258

email accounts receive SPS News and Alerts

92.3%

of student records accessed via PowerSchool



Community Focused

It takes a village to raise a child, and SPS recognizes that partnerships with families, community leaders, and family-focused organizations are critical to our success.



Community Focused

Collaborating to Make a Difference

SPS continues to expand partnerships with community-based organizations, city and state officials, and business leaders as part of The United Way's STRIVE together collective impact initiative — Stamford Cradle to Career (SC2C).

3000

Students received before and after school academic and enrichment programs offered by community organizations.

2,328,710

meals provided for free to students aged 18 or younger. Meals are provided to meet food needs for weekdays and weekends.



960

Students across **17** buildings were mentored by **415** representatives of Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF).



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Community Focused

Offering a Continuum of Enrichment - PreK-12

SPS partners with community organizations to support the needs and interests of our students from PreK through graduation. Students interact with community partners at every grade level, including:

- Pre-K - Children's Learning Centers
- Kindergarten - Ferguson Library
- 1st grade - Sound Waters / Ferguson Library
- 2nd grade - Bartlett Arboretum / Ferguson Library / Orchestra Lumos
- 3rd grade - Sound Waters / Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 4th grade - Mill River Collaborative / Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 5th grade - Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 6th grade - Sound Waters / Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 7th grade - Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 8th grade - Discover Amistad / Ferguson Library / SPEF
- 9th-12th grade - Domus / Community Health Centers / Mayor's Youth Services Bureau / Ferguson Library / SPEF



BARTLETT ARBORETUM
& GARDENS



Mill River Park
COLLABORATIVE



Stamford Public Schools
EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.



Community Focused

SC2C & SPS Collaborative Efforts

- SC2C hosted monthly SNAP 101 Trainings in partnership with End Hunger CT!
 - Hosted in English and Spanish
 - Participants learn the tools, facts, and language necessary to encourage eligible families to sign up for SNAP and HUSKY, addressing common questions and misconceptions about these programs.
- SC2C co-sponsored an Early Grade Reading Professional Development for community partners focused on early grade reading strategies.
 - Out-of-school providers learned the strategies used in our classrooms.
- SC2C's Bridge to College program combats "summer melt" by ensuring that identified SPS students fulfill their requirements prior to the start of the fall semester.
 - Participating students found the program helpful in completing all the steps to enroll in college.





SPS in the Spotlight!

SPS collaborated with **Orchestra Lumos** (formerly the Stamford Symphony) to bring an Artist in the Community residency program to all SPS second graders. The residency features the award-winning Dalí Quartet, spotlighting the Latin American quartet repertoire.

Thank you for working with SPS to make a difference in the lives of Stamford students and their families!

