



Each year, we take time over the summer to look back on the previous school year to mark our achievements and draw attention to opportunities for growth. The 2022-2023 school year was a busy and exciting one. Much attention was given to our proactive response to the 2021-2022 Curriculum Audit. Throughout the year, we began to implement a 3-year plan for district-wide PreK-12 curriculum, instructional support, and assessments. We are excited to share that 65 percent of the SPS K-12 curriculum will be “gold standard” by Fall 2023, with 100 percent of curriculum meeting or exceeding these high standards by Fall 2025.

This spring we also introduced Vision 2025. The roadmap to ensure we reach and exceed the goals outlined in our 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan, Vision 2025 defines the framework, supports and assessments that will be implemented to ensure we attain the goals associated with each of the district’s five strategic pillars. The following report is organized to illustrate progress being made in each of our five pillars: Operational Excellence, Strong Curriculum, Student Centered, Community Focused, and Culture of Inclusion.

SPS continues to lead districts across the state in access and opportunity, providing more Advanced Placement (AP) and UConn Early College Experience courses than our neighboring districts. This past Spring we announced the launch of our new High School of Business at Stamford High. The first district in the state to offer the program from MBA Research & Curriculum Center, the intradistrict program will welcome over 40 students this fall. Over the course of the four year program, students will take six semester courses, and their studies culminate with a capstone project that challenges them to start and run their own business. The HS of Business is our second business focused college and career readiness program, complimenting our successful intradistrict Academy of Finance located at Westhill High School.

In June 2023, SPS shared excerpts of its 3-year Technology Plan in anticipation of the plans full release. The Plan assesses the current technologies used throughout SPS, and identifies best practices and emerging solutions from across the educational sector.

In June we also launched our first Cafe con la Super event. Our in-person Spanish language Community Conversation series invites parents to join me to share ideas, concerns, and engage in lively conversation.

It was certainly a productive and exciting year. The following pages are but a snapshot of a much longer list of successes. I am proud to lead a diverse district that continues to build on our past successes and innovate for the future. With a focus on academics, attendance, healthy lifestyle choices, social emotional learning, and service learning, we continue to support our students and fulfill our mission of fostering productive habits of mind, body and heart.



Dr. Tamu Lucero,  
Superintendent,  
Stamford Public  
Schools



### 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS

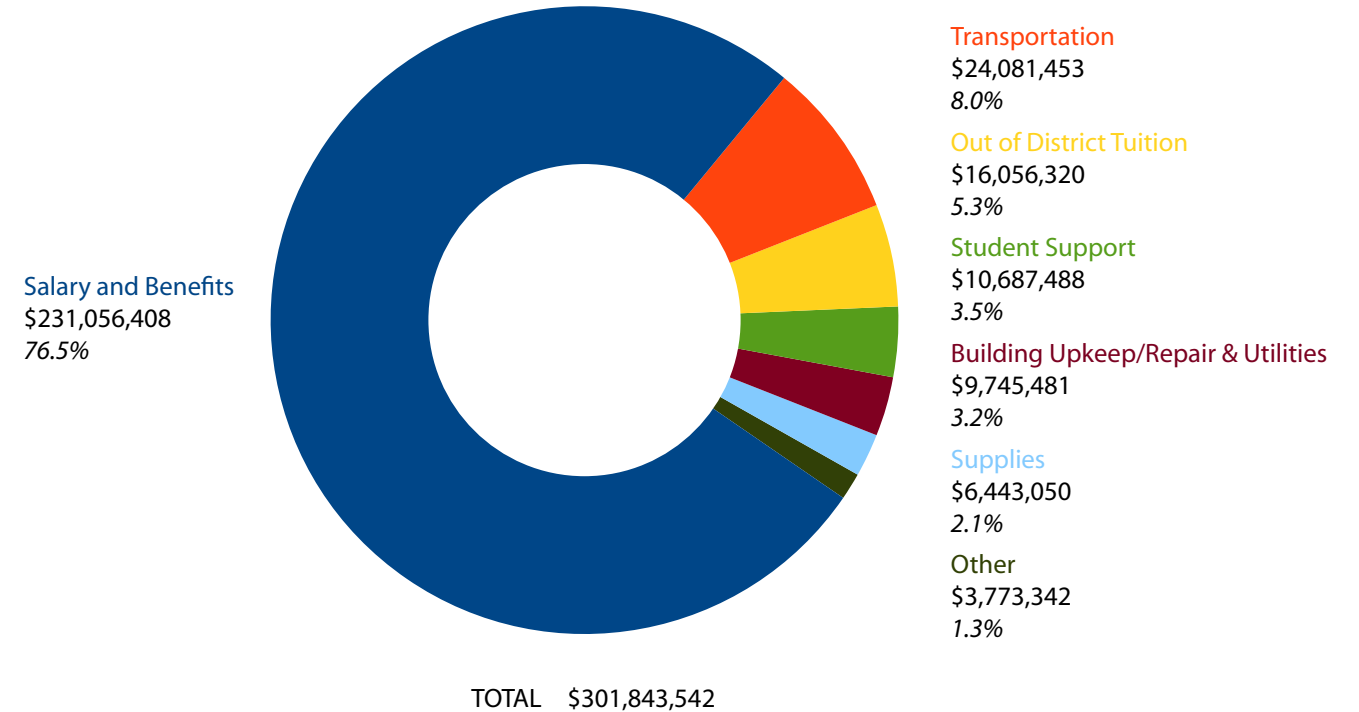
In Fall 2022, SPS introduced our 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan, including our 5 pillars for success: Operational Excellence, Strong Curriculum, Student Centered, Community Focused, and a Culture of Inclusion. Vision 2025 is the roadmap to ensure we reach and exceed the goals outlined in our 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan. Vision 2025 defines the framework, supports and assessments that will be implemented to ensure we attain the goals associated with each of the district's five strategic pillars.

The following highlight just a few of the successes and achievements accomplished by our district, staff and students during the 2022-2023 school year in support of Vision 2025, as well as insight into areas of focus for the coming school year.

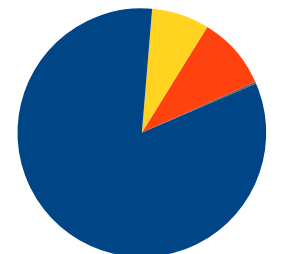
As a large, urban school district SPS faces an evolving and unique set of opportunities and challenges. SPS makes decisions guided by our mission, goals and data. Our goal is to equitably allocate resources to provide a world-class educational experience for each student.

### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

#### Total 2022-2023 Operating Budget



City of Stamford- Operating Budget	\$301,843,542	83.0%
State Grants	\$26,340,222	7.2%
Federal Grants	\$34,941,136	9.6%
Private and Other Grants and Income	\$353,322	0.1%
<b>Total Operating &amp; Grant Budget</b>	<b>\$363,478,222</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### FINANCE

As the second largest city in Connecticut, Stamford has experienced incredible growth across all sectors, including its school population. Our annual budgets ensure students have access to the teachers, tutors, programming, mental health support, and additional resources they need to be successful in and out of the classroom.

#### SPS Ranks 14th in Per Pupil Spending in the region

Compared to the State Average, SPS Spends:



NOTE: The SPS Operating Budget includes all funding for the Day-to-Day Operations of our district and schools. Funding comes from the City of Stamford, as well as State, Federal, and Private Grants.

## FACILITIES



SPS works in close collaboration with the City of Stamford to address all current and future needs of our school campuses and facilities.

- In December 2022, in support of the SPS Long-term Facilities Plan, the state approved the construction of a new Westhill High School building with an 80% reimbursement rate (occupancy targeted for 2028-2029). The state also increased the reimbursement rate of all eligible construction projects to 60%, up from 20%. This new rate of 60% will be applied to the construction of the new Roxbury K-8 school (occupancy targeted for 2028-2029).

- In June, 2023, SPS submitted its 3rd application to the state's Office of School Construction and Grants for the South End School Campus funding for a two-building campus, including a K-4 and 5-8 school.

- Stamford High School (SHS) will be the beneficiary of \$3,000,000 in state bond funding to create a synthetic multipurpose field that will accommodate baseball, as well as supporting soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The goal of this project is to enhance competitiveness while improving player safety, providing consistent playing conditions and extending the playing season.

### 24 Facilities

- 1 Pre-K
- 11 Elementary
- 5 Middle
- 2 K-8 schools
- 3 High School
- 7 Magnet Programs
- 3 International Baccalaureate Programs
- Adult Education Programming
- 3M+ Sq. Ft of building space /300+ Acres of Property

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

School safety is linked to improved student and school outcomes. Prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year, SPS hired a 35-year veteran of the Stamford Police Department, Joseph Kennedy as the Safety, Compliance, and Employee Relations Manager. Mr. Kennedy has completed a comprehensive assessment of the SPS facilities and works with building communities to identify and address concerns related to safety and security. During the 2022-2023 school year, SPS employed 53 security personnel across all facilities. The Safety team maintains a close working relationship with the City of Stamford, including the Mayor's Office, Police, Fire and EMS. SPS and city department made adjustments that resulted in more effective communications and identifying opportunities for improvement in response times and services provided. SPS continues to adopt and implement new systems and technologies to ensure safe school environments.

## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

The Stamford Public Schools is fortunate to have school-based health centers located in a number of schools, including Westhill, Stamford High, Cloonan, Dolan, Rippowam/AITE, and Toquam (access to Dolan). School-based health centers provide comprehensive on-site medical and behavioral health services to children and adolescents. The Cloonan Middle School school-based health center is accessible to the community. In addition, throughout 2022-2023, SPS partnered with Community Health Centers to offer behavioral health services at various locations.

## TECHNOLOGY



Every school community has at least one Technology Integration Support Specialist (TISS) or Technology Professional Development Leader (TPDL) who oversees technology distribution, maintenance and integration in each of our buildings. All students K-12 have access to appropriate technology devices to support student learning at school and at home. In June 2023, SPS shared excerpts of its 3-year Technology Plan in anticipation of the plans full release. The Plan assesses the current technologies used throughout SPS, and identifies best practices and emerging solutions from across the educational sector. The plan addresses technology use as it supports Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Personalized Professional Development, Budget and Resources, Community Partnerships, Data, Privacy and Infrastructure. The plan will be implemented beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, and follows the *Future Ready Schools® Frameworks*, an industry standard for digital learning visioning, planning and implementation.

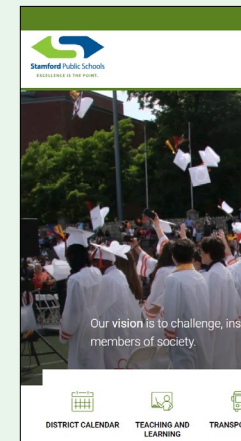


Bus transportation is provided for in-district students who live at least 1 mile or more from their district school, as well as any student with an identified physical or mental disability requiring specialized transportation. Throughout the school year, parents have the ability to track their child's bus in real time by using the FirstView app. During the Spring 2023, with a goal of increased efficiency and on-time rates, SPS worked with families to identify those who are assigned bus transportation but do not utilize the school bus.

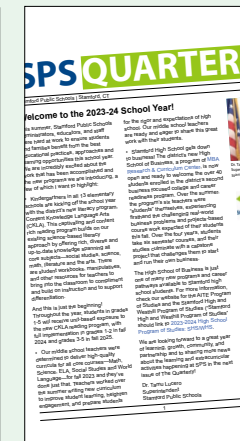
**>> 14,000 Students Eligible for Bus Service**  
**>> 85% on-time rate\***

*\*(2022-2023 bus service was significantly impacted by the national bus driver shortage. Due to the driver shortage, some routes were combined and required a longer timeframe.)*

**The Public Affairs Office** strives to effectively, clearly and consistently communicate with the SPS community on all matters related to the education of SPS students and the operations of the SPS organization. Our goal is to inform and educate - internally and externally, of the work underway to advance the key tenants of the strategic plan and to build awareness of new initiatives and programs, student and staff achievements, and noteworthy programs and partnerships that support SPS as a high-quality learning organization.



In Summer 2022, SPS launched newly designed websites for the district and all school communities. Website content is now available in the 10 most common languages spoken by SPS Families.



In Fall 2022, SPS introduced the *SPS Quarterly*, a community publication highlighting what is happening in SPS which is published in English, Spanish, Ukrainian and Haitian Creole.



In March 2023, SPS launched *Getting to the Point*, a weekly digital newsletter which provided information and updates for all staff.



In May 2023, Superintendent Lucero introduced *Vision 2025*. The roadmap to ensure SPS reaches and exceeds the goals outlined in our 2022-2027 District Strategic Plan, *Vision 2025* defines the framework, supports and assessments that will be implemented in the next two years.



In June 2023, SPS launched our monthly 'Café con la Super'. This in-person Spanish language Community Conversation series invites parents to join me to share ideas, concerns, and engage in lively conversation.

DINING SERVICES



SPS has partnered with Chartwells K12 Food Service Provider for over 14 years. The goal every day is to ensure that students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than when they came in.

- 128 associates serve meals 181 operating days per year
- Served more than 2.6 million meals
- Catered over 20 district wide principal meetings
- In 2023, Chartwells K12 added new vegetarian and vegan options to the menu
- Chartwells K12 hosted over 40 popular tasting events each semester, and held wellness meetings with students, administration and parents, to receive feedback on meal service.
- Chartwells donated meals to The Ferguson Library, at the Government Center for newly enrolled ESL students, and at Rogers for students and their families.
- During the summer, meals were donated to the Salvation Army's weekly book drive.
- Student engagement is up - last year we held numerous events and programming. Mood Boost featured foods for elementary, Discovery Kitchen offered monthly themes for middle schools, and Student Choice enabled high school students to

help guide menu development! Additionally our Thompson Hospitality diversity partner prepared a featured meal each month for the entire school year, cooking at a different school each time.

- In Spring 2023, SPS elementary schools partnered with Chartwells K12 to launch Share Table. The tables are in the cafeteria and offer students a place to put prepared foods that came with their Chartwells K12 lunch that they don't want on a table for another student to take and eat. Students are helping to reduce the amount of food waste in the elementary schools! We are looking forward to partnering with a Food Rescue US to not only reduce waste, but contribute to feeding the community.

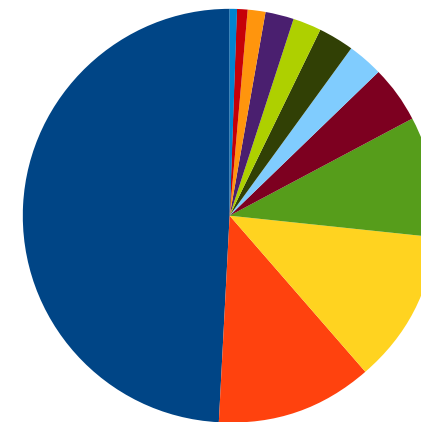
HUMAN RESOURCES

SPS is committed to recruiting, hiring, and supporting our valued employees.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Central Office staff met with every school community in support of the development of our Long-term Staffing Plan. SPS is devoted to addressing the staffing demands associated with increased enrollment and the ever-changing needs of our student population. Further, we are dedicated to increasing our workforce diversity, as we strive to demonstrate the value in representation for our students and staff. As a district, Stamford Public Schools empowers teachers to enhance their practice through professional development and unique individual learning opportunities, while amplifying their impact on the students in their classrooms.



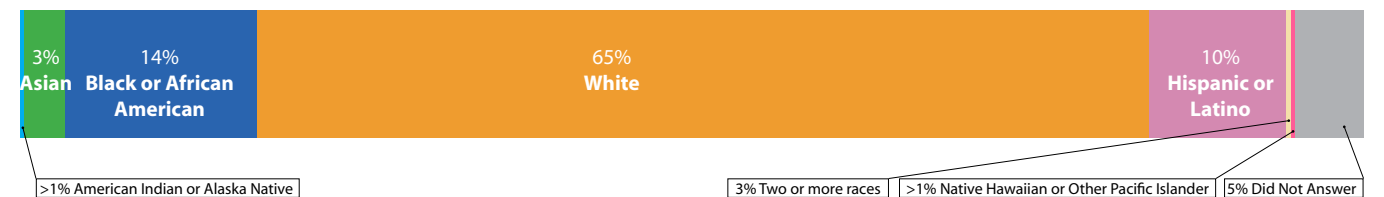
3238 Employees



- 1584 certified staff FTE (teachers and students support staff)
- 399 Paraeducators
- 390 Coaches and Advisors
- 300 Substitutes
- 151 Custodial staff
- 90 Tutors
- 83 Office Support Staff
- 77 Administrators
- 67 Seasonal and Short-term
- 51 Security Workers
- 23 Family Facilitators
- 23 District Operations

- 52.2% of Stamford Staff also call Stamford HOME
- 10+ years average number of years teaching at SPS
- 18% of SEA 2023 new hires are graduated from Stamford Public Schools
- 95% of certified staff (teachers, counselors, administrators, etc.) have a masters degree or higher

ALL STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS



## STAFF MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Marina Giuliano, AITE teacher, has been selected as an Urban Leaders Fellow.** She is one of 60 fellows selected from a nationwide pool, who will be working in Atlanta, Georgia, this summer, one of the seven urban target areas. As an Urban Leaders fellow, Marina Giuliano, will have the opportunity to contribute to building community-centered change through partnering with an elected official on the development of high-quality critical policy, as well as, work alongside an innovative non-profit organization, committed to social justice & community impact. She is honored to contribute to the effort to transform communities through people and partnerships, working together for an equitable community.

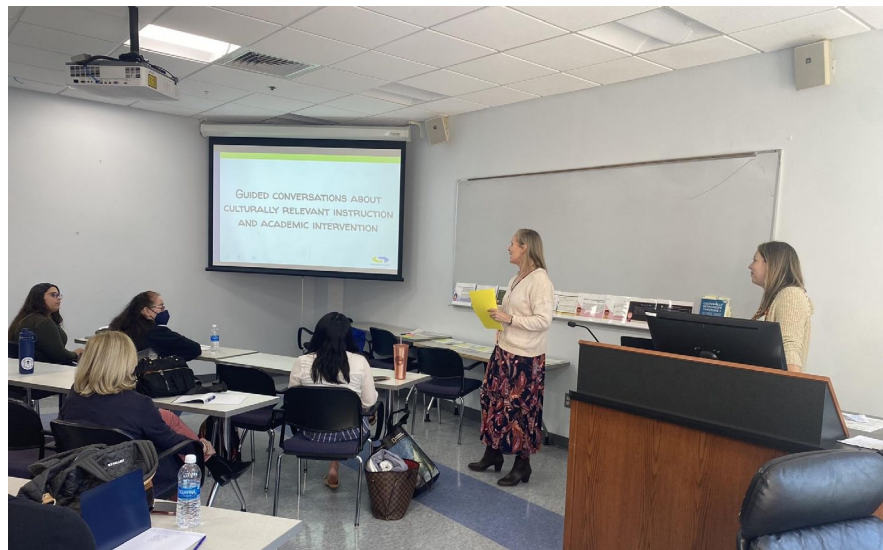


**Eight Stamford Public Schools (SPS) staff members were the recipients of 2023 Fund for Teachers (FFT) Fellowships.** Japan, Italy, Costa Rica, Oxford and Houston are some of the places Stamford teachers will travel as part of a fellowship program designed to help them bring lessons back home to their schools. The fellows will be traveling to meet their goals of better addressing the needs of their students by deepening their curricular understandings.

**The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced that Jessica Bromberg-Alvarado has been selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Short Term Program.** The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching sends expert U.S. educators to support schools in participating countries. Jessica will travel to the Philippines in August 2023 to provide training in Project-Based Learning.



**Teacher of the Year - Elba Sims, Turn of River Middle School (TOR), New Arrivals** was named the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year. Teaching as many as 20 New Arrival students, who spoke up to eight different languages, at one time, Elba is an SPS SUPERHERO. Her classroom is a safe space filled with enriched charts, visuals, vocabulary, and love. When not in the classroom, Sims is an active member of various organizations, including Building One Community, Parent University and the TOR School Governance Council. She is a dedicated member of the ASD program and advises the LGBTQ Club at TOR.



**SPS TOSAs for EL PD and Coaching share insights for staff members across the state!** At the 2022 ConnTESOL conference where educators statewide gathered to hear about strategies to support English language learners, SPS staff members Lauren Bachner, Sandy Schwoerer, Yasmin Tirado were chosen to present on "Culturally Relevant Instruction and Academic Intervention."



# Meeting Gold Standard Curriculum Standards

Strong curriculum, and the engaging instruction that brings it to life for every learner, is central to all that we do in Stamford Public Schools.

Over the past two years, hundreds of the district’s teachers worked to create new knowledge rich, well-rounded and the most up-to-date curriculum in every core subject—English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages, to meet the “gold standard” standards set by the district.

To date, 65% of curriculum in the district is now gold standard curriculum, including all the core curriculum at the middle school and high school levels. And 100% of the curriculum district-wide will meet this high standard by the fall of 2025.

This was a monumental and necessary undertaking. The district’s gold standard curriculum is not only aligned with all new state and federal standards, it allows for a more seamless transition between elementary, middle and high school; puts in place assessments most appropriate for the course material and the expected learning and skills acquisition; and ensures

consistency within and across our schools while empowering teachers with the flexibility to adapt units and introduce materials and supports to meet the unique needs and interests of their students.

In Kindergarten classrooms, students will receive reading instruction using the district’s new literacy program, Content Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). This captivating and content rich reading program builds on SPS’ science-based literacy approach by offering rich, diverse and up-to-date knowledge spanning all core subjects—social studies, science, math, literature and the arts. There are student workbooks, manipulatives, and other resources for teachers to bring into the classroom to compliment and build on instruction and support differentiation.

Elementary students in grades 1-5 will receive unit-based exposure to the new CKLA program, with full implementation in grades 1-3 by the fall of 2024 and grades 4-5 by the fall of 2025.

A middle school teacher led review of the 6-8 math curriculum culminated with the adoption of REVEAL Mathematics as the district’s new

math program. Reveal is built on the latest research in how students learn best, and it offers technology and instructional resources that support effective differentiation and scaffolded support for students at every level of learning.

With all the core course curriculum updated and in place, attention now turns to elective courses at the high school and expanding opportunities for high schoolers to explore and discover, through focused and concentrated courses of studies, the pathways to higher education, careers, and workforce readiness.

A new curriculum dashboard for parents and caregivers launched for the 2023-2024 school year provides families with access to an overview of material being taught in a given year for each subject, including sequencing, pacing, expected assessments, and a selection of potential reading materials. The dashboard, and the information it offers, creates even more opportunities for families to engage in meaningful conversations at home with their children about the learning taking place at school.

It is an exciting moment in Stamford Public Schools.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ART

SPS selected Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) as our K-5 Reading Program. Implementation begins Fall 2023 in kindergarten classes districtwide. Students in grades 1-5 will have unit-based exposure to the program throughout the year with full K-5 adoption by Fall 2025.

## MATH

SPS selected Reveal mathematics series for grades 6-8 and Integrated Math I, II and III for high school students. SPS adopted Integrated Mathematics to teach the material currently presented in Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. Implementing Integrated Mathematics will enable students to learn algebra, geometry, and statistics in tandem over a three-year period rather than in siloed courses. Integrated Mathematics follows the same approach that is being used to teach mathematics in K-8. The adoption of Integrated Mathematics will take place over a three-year period beginning in Fall 2023.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

Knowing how to earn, spend, and save money effectively is a key skill for students in high school and beyond. SPS offers various financial focused courses at all three high schools, including financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management. Students have the opportunity to pursue the Finance Pathway, as well as enroll in the intradistrict Academy of Finance located at Westhill High School.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

SPS Vision for Social Emotional

Learning (SEL): All students will acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Emotional Learning (SEL) has been integrated into our school communities, with schools adopting various programs to support their students needs, including Responsive Classroom, PBIS, Open Circle, Restorative Practices and Yale RULER. In 2022, SPS began the implementation of a Social Emotional Universal Screener to identify students in need of additional support.

## ENGLISH LEARNERS

86+ staff members supporting 2764+ students in 22 locations

During the 2022-2023 school year, our new arrivals center (NAC) teams,

teachers from our middle and high schools, students, and families came together to define the traits that every English Learner should master while in the program. The work will continue into the coming school year, with a focus on aligning the assessments and curriculum to these skills which are related to speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as academic, social, and life skills. This work strives to strengthen students’ success in general education classes and enable them to be fully included in their new environment.

## GIFTED AND TALENTED

In May 2023, SPS hosted a Community Conversation to share how SPS supports our gifted and talented students. Building administration works with the classroom teacher, the student, and the family to support the student through differentiated instruction, independent and small-group pursuits, before and after-school enrichment, as well as grade advancement or compression.





SPS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the skills needed to achieve long-term career goals. Our Career Pathways programs redefine the education experience, offering students the opportunity to investigate multiple pathways and potential careers that align with their skills and passions.

In 2022-23, SPS introduced the Construction Management Pathway. Our first cohort of students participated in the Carpenter Pre-Apprenticeship, taking the required woodworking class and construction management class offered at Westhill High School. Twenty-one students fulfilled the requirements and earned one year's worth of credit toward a 4-year apprenticeship. The class did several projects but most notably, they built the stage for Westhill's annual spring play and the chicken coop for the Agscience program housed at Westhill High school. Such collaboration between arts, science and career pathway programs is preparing all students for career and life after school.

In 2022-2023 the Early College Studies (ECS) program located at Stamford High School entered its 6th year and served 130 students. In partnership with Norwalk Community College, students in this program earn college credit towards an associate's degree in a Computer Science related field. In addition, students take a series of Workplace Learning classes at SHS that follow a skill development framework for

career and life success. In 2023-2024, the ECS program will see its largest incoming class ever with over 60 enrolled 9th grade students.

2022-2023 also saw the introduction of the Google Data Analytics Certificate Program in Stamford Public Schools. Students enrolled in this online certificate program complete a series of eight courses in order to obtain the Google Data Analytics credential useful for obtaining employment in this high-wage and in-demand field. To date, 6 students have completed the industry recognized credential and 42 more are continuing to make progress through the next school year.

Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 school year, we are looking forward to partnerships with the Connecticut State Community College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to build a robust and cutting edge Manufacturing pathway, with over 100 students already enrolled. We will also introduce our pilot cohort for our Public Safety Pathway at Westhill High school. Students will study a curriculum that addresses Police, Fire and EMT content.

**HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES IN STAMFORD**

**The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering**

**Stamford High**

- Early College Studies
- HS of Business
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

**Westhill High**

- Academy of Finance
- Agriscience Program
- Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)
- The Computer Science Academy

**University of Connecticut**

- Early College Experience

*Adult Education*

Stamford Adult Education offers FREE mandated education programs and services to the greater Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Westport, and Norwalk communities. During the 2022-2023 school year, recipients received certifications in the following area: Bookkeeping, Carpentry CDL, CNA, MOS, OSHA, Paraprofessional, Pharmacy Tech, Plumbing, Retail, Security, and ServSafe. In addition, SPS Adult Education graduated 22 ESL students, 20 high school credit diploma students, 5 National External Diploma Program students, and 5 GED students. All students received their credentials along with a certification in an employable area.



TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**AITE was recently recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School.**

The recognition celebrates districts and schools committed to helping students own their education by increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. This recognition means AITE's Project Lead the Way Teachers are empowering students to thrive in an evolving world and achieving exemplary results from our PLTW programs.



**The Academy of Finance at Westhill High School is now an intradistrict magnet program.**

Starting this spring, students from all Stamford middle schools, including those districted to Stamford High, will have the option to apply for the Academy of Finance at Westhill High School. Any 8th grade student who is currently districted for Stamford High School will now also have the option to apply for the Academy of Finance and begin high school as a 9th grader at Westhill High School. A member program of the National Academy Foundation, the program offers career-relevant curricula and work-based learning experiences, including internships.

**Stamford High School has been selected as the first high school in the State of Connecticut to offer the High School of Business™ (HSB) program beginning in Fall 2023.**

Created by MBAREsearch, the High School of Business program prepares students to

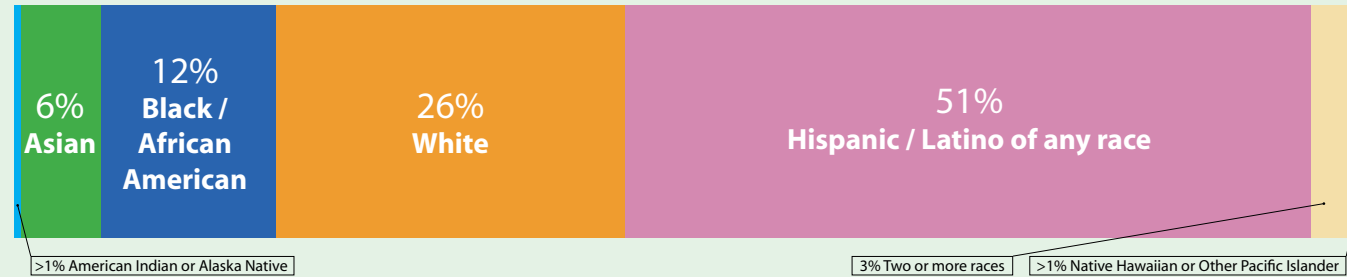


excel in college-level business administration programs through an accelerated, project-based curriculum delivered in the context of solving real world business problems.

# Student Demographics - 2022-2023

## Enrollment -16,202 students

(5th largest district in CT)



### 50.3%

Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals



### 16.6%

English Language Learners



### 15.9%

Students are Identified with Disabilities (Special Education)

## 70+ Languages spoken in student home

- |                |            |               |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| English        | Bengali    | Arabic        |
| Spanish        | Polish     | Tamil         |
| Ukrainian      | Russian    | and many more |
| Creole-Haitian | Portuguese |               |

### 4-YEAR HS GRADUATION RATE



## 85.4%

Graduation Rate (all students)

## 97.7%

(Non high-needs\* students)

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

CLOCKWISE: ID 114159363 © ANGELINA ZINOVIEVA | DREAMSTIME.COM; ID 19659241 © WENDY VOTE | DREAMSTIME.COM; ID 7816494 © ADAM BORKOWSKI | DREAMSTIME.COM; ID 1571556 © EWA WALICKA | DREAMSTIME.COM

Stamford High students won 1st place at the GLOBE Science Research Symposium at the University of Texas for their research based on nanotechnology. The SHS team of seniors, Molly Forker, Paige Hochadel, Lucia Kempton, and Ryan Shoztic won Best Use of the Research Process for their project entitled, "The Efficacy of Graphene in Preventing Gamma Radiation on Cancer Cells." The team also won the Peer Review Prize, an honor awarded to the team that received the most votes from their competitor peer reviewers. The team now has the opportunity to have their research published on the NASA and GLOBE websites. The team's experiment was also selected to be launched from a NASA facility in the summer of 2023. The team also won second place out of 240 teams at the University of Bridgeport RISE Student Research Symposium.



Congratulations to our Northeast 5th graders for an amazing and successful Fifth Grade Business Fair! Students demonstrated their creative talents and entrepreneurship skills during this one day sale and successfully made a profit to help support special fifth grade activities planned for this year. The Business Fair was a tremendous success due to the hard work and participation of all students as a grade level team. Bravo!



Students from Julia A. Stark Elementary School enjoyed bonding and exploring Nature's Classroom in Lakeside, CT. For three days and two nights, they enjoyed night-time hikes, ate wonderful nutritious meals, and participated in science and team-building activities.

## STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We are proud of the numerous SPS sophomores and juniors who have been selected as College Board National Recognition Program awardees. To be awarded academic honors, these students must have at least a 3.5 GPA or higher and have taken the PSAT in Fall 2021. They must also have eligible PSAT scores and identify in one of the four recognition categories, which recognize underrepresented students.

200+ of our students earned the Seal of Biliteracy in 15 different languages, a designation that they can read, write, speak and understand a language in addition to English. The Seal of Biliteracy is a national initiative that acknowledges the importance of citizens being biliterate in a global society. SPS students earned the award in 13 languages including Albanian, Arabic, French, Greek, Haitian Creole, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil and Ukrainian!



Eleven AITE students will study abroad through the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE). Students will be traveling to ten destinations. During the program, the students go to classes in the morning for 4 hours and in the afternoon they apply the language to the cultural component of the program. Since 2016, 60 AITE students have traveled to 49 countries and are proud scholarship recipients of \$222,000.

Stamford High School's theater club, the Strawberry Hill Players brought home four Stephen Sondheim trophies, the most wins out of all participating schools! The Sondheim Awards are presented by Black Rock Theater in association with the Shubert Theatre. Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards, the Sondheim Awards recognize excellence in high school musical theater in Connecticut. ▼



Thirty-two Stamford Public Schools (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.

Henry Woods, a student in Melinda Kinder's 3rd Grade Class at Strawberry Hill, won an award for an inspiring essay he wrote about his great-grandfather! Students attending an Ellis Island play were encouraged to share their families' stories of immigrating to the United States in an essay contest sponsored by Union Savings Bank and The Ridgefield Playhouse. The contest was held in conjunction with performances of "Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream" — a one-hour musical chronicling the journey of immigrants through Ellis Island in the late 1800s. To write the essay, students interviewed their families to learn about their own history and immigration journey. Henry wrote about his great-grandfather who immigrated to America through Ellis Island from Ireland. ►



**Mentoring and Academic Support**

SPS partners with community organizations to support the needs and interests of our students from PreK through graduation. An example of this is our ongoing collaboration with the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF). From July 2022 through June 2023, over 1500 students in SPS participated in SPEF programming. SPEF's 2022 Summer Start program enrolled 122 students representing 12 elementary schools, with 78.69% of students scoring higher on their post-assessment than their pre-assessment. SPEF's Stamford Mentoring Program provided hundreds of students with academic and social-emotional support with resources and guidance to be successful. This included service-learning opportunities for 200 elementary school students (and mentor opportunities for over 50 high school students), and mentoring services for over 60 middle school students.

**Continuum of Enrichment**

SPS partners with community organizations to support the needs and interests of our students from PreK through graduation. Offering a Continuum of Enrichment - PreK-12, students interact with community partners at every grade level, including:

- Pre-K - Children's Learning Centers
- Kindergarten - Stamford Historical Society / Ferguson Library
- 1st grade - Sound Waters / Ferguson Library
- 2nd grade - Bartlett Arboretum / Ferguson Library / Orchestra Lumos
- 3rd grade - Mill River Collaborative

/ 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

**COMMUNITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



In Spring 2023, 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.

School buildings across the district feature courtyards, gardens and green spaces. Many are pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds.



APPLES earned recognition as a National School of Excellence from Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. This is the second time APPLES has won this honor. This distinction is earned by each of our families working with us to ensure we support the growth of each and every child. There are only 242 schools in the entire country that receive this distinction. APPLES was 1 of 3 schools in the entire State of CT and the only preschool to receive this honor.

Stamford High School surpassed \$100,000 in donations during the 10th year of their annual Pink Out! Each year the SHS community comes together for a week of events and activities to raise funds for the Bennet Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital. SHS will continue to: "Supporting the fighters. Admiring the survivors. Honoring the taken. And never, ever giving up hope."



Shout out to Westhill Senior, Kayla Williamson for encouraging us all to GO GREEN! Thanks to Kayla's determination and commitment Westhill High School's kitchen has started composting their food waste from preparation & service. With help from Stamford's Department of Recycling and Sanitation, Kayla was able to set up a weekly compost pickup through the company Curbside Composting. She plans on using this pilot program to audit the school's food waste outputs and gauge our operational needs to expand the program and possibly even get a composter onsite! Kayla is truly committed to making our community a cleaner, greener place! Huge thanks to SPS Facilities, Chartwells, Westhill's Custodial Team, Dan Collelouri of Recycling & Sanitation, Principal Mike Rinaldi, and Science Teacher Carley Grant for the support to make this all possible!

**CULTURE OF INCLUSION**

Our school communities celebrate our diversity and teach critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and effective communications. Research has shown that a positive school culture correlates to higher attendance rates, test scores, promotion rates, and graduation rates. When everyone feels welcome, safe, and valued in school, it positively impacts both teaching and learning.



**2022-2023 was about 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

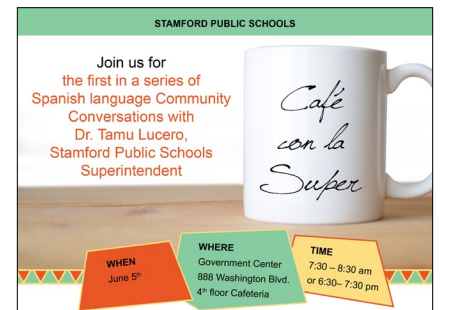
**CULTURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



Unified Sports partners students with disabilities and those without disabilities to compete in team sports. The Westhill Unified Sports Basketball Team competes against local schools such as Stamford High, New Canaan and in the Fairfield Ludlowe Tournament. These coaches go above and beyond to create memorable and exciting experiences for their students.



Together with administration, teachers, staff, PTO, students and our Stamford Community Hart Magnet School celebrated many cultures around the world. Students and staff learned about cultural dances, ate authentic food, wore native clothing and listened to ethnological music celebrated by our community!



In June, SPS launched our monthly Spanish Language Community Conversations. Hosted regularly at the Government Center, these sessions are offered in Spanish and feature a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer period.

Albertus Magnus College  
 Alfred State College  
 American University  
 Anna Maria College  
 Arizona State University-Tempe  
 Barnard College  
 Bentley University  
 Binghamton University  
 Boston Conservatory at Berklee  
 Boston University  
 Bowdoin College  
 Brandeis University  
 Brigham Young University  
 Brown University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Catholic University of America  
 Central Connecticut State University  
 Clemson University  
 College of Charleston  
 College of Mount Saint Vincent  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 CUNY John Jay College  
 of Criminal Justice  
 CUNY LaGuardia Community College  
 Dean College  
 Delaware State University  
 Dominican University New York  
 Duke University  
 Elizabeth City State University  
 Elon University  
 Fordham University  
 Franklin and Marshall College  
 Gateway Community College  
 George Washington University  
 Goodwin University  
 Gulf Coast State College  
 High Point University  
 Hillsborough Community College  
 Indiana University-Bloomington  
 Iona University  
 Ithaca College  
 Johnson & Wales University-Providence  
 Kean University  
 Lasell University  
 Lehigh University  
 Lincoln Technical Institute-East Windsor  
 Manhattan College  
 McGill University  
 Mercy College  
 Miami University  
 Michigan State University  
 Morehouse College  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Norwalk Community College  
 Ohio State University  
 Pace University, New York City Campus  
 Pennsylvania State University-Penn  
 State Main Campus  
 Porterville College  
 Post University  
 Purdue University-Main Campus  
 Queen's University  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Sacred Heart University  
 Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus  
 Salve Regina University  
 Santa Clara University  
 Savannah College  
 Southern Connecticut State University  
 Southern Methodist University  
 Stony Brook University  
 SUNY Oneonta  
 SUNY Westchester Community College  
 Temple University  
 The George Washington University  
 The University of North Carolina at  
 Chapel Hill  
 Tufts University  
 Universal Technical Institute  
 University of Arizona  
 University of Bridgeport  
 University of Charleston  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Florida  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Maryland-College Park  
 University of Massachusetts  
 University of Michigan  
 University of New England  
 University of New Haven  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of Rochester  
 University of Saint Andrews  
 University of Scranton  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Vassar College  
 Villanova University  
 Virginia State University  
 Virginia Tech  
 Wells College  
 Wesleyan University  
 Western Connecticut State University  
 Western New England University



**Stamford Public Schools**

SPS has challenged, inspired and prepared our seniors to become contributing members of our society. We wish all Stamford Public School graduates success in their next adventure!



Celebrating over 1000 graduates at AITE, SHS, WHS, Anchor and Adult Education



Learning will continue in programs across the US, Canada and Europe



Graduates are headed to institutions of higher education, the military and careers



Beyond academics, our graduates excel in athletics, the arts, research and more

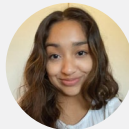


90+% enrolled in College-and-Career-Readiness (CCR) courses during high school



160+ SPS Seniors have earned a Seal of Biliteracy in 15 languages

## WE ARE THE SPS CLASS OF 2023



### Naomi Alvarez - AITE Class of 2023

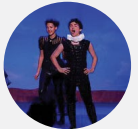
*Vanderbilt University*

Naomi is a student leader, serving on the Executive Board of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) and as President of the AITE Spanish Honor Society. During the Summer of 2021, she studied in Madrid Spain on a full scholarship through the Council International Education Exchange (CIEE). Naomi is a first-generation college student and plans to study Special Education and Medicine.

### Max Guttman - SHS Class of 2023

*Boston Conservatory at Berklee*

Max is a standout on stage in school and regional productions. Earlier this month Max was awarded the Best Leading Actor in a Musical by the Seven Angels Theatre High School Halo Awards for his performance in the Strawberry Hill Player's production of The Prom. Max will be pursuing a degree in Musical Theater!



### Oden Landers - Norwalk Community College Class of 2023 / SHS Class of 2023

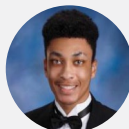
*Rochester Institute of Technology*

Oden participated in the Computer Science career pathway, while a student at Stamford High School. In addition to his HS diploma, Oden is receiving an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts, Math & Science from Norwalk Community College. Oden will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Cybersecurity.

### Samantha Yap - SHS Class of 2023

*Sacred Heart University*

A trailblazer at SHS and across the state, Samantha is the first female wrestler to win a Connecticut State Championship. She will continue her pursuits as a Division 1 athlete.



### Alex Midy - WHS Class of 2023

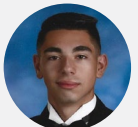
*University of Connecticut - Storrs*

An all around team player, Alex was a four year member of the WHS Track and Field team, a member of all-FCIAC and the recipient of the Coaches award and Ruden Report "Player of the Week" for track. Alex plans to study finance.

### Steven Quattrocchi - WHS Class of 2023

*Carpenters Registered Apprenticeship Program*

Steven completed the Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship program at WHS. He will be continuing his training with the North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund where he will complete the Carpenters Registered Apprenticeship Program. Steven's career goals are to work in property management and development.



Learn more about SPS  
[www.stamfordpublicschools.org](http://www.stamfordpublicschools.org)