

Magnet Schools in Stamford:
Programs and Admission Procedures

Parent Meeting of Wednesday,
December 14, 2011



Judith Singer, Ph.D., Director of Research

Purpose of Magnet Schools for SPS



- To manage enrollment and the district's integration policy through educational choice.



History of Magnet Schools in Stamford



- In 1972, there was a unanimous BOE vote to institute a desegregation plan for the Stamford Public Schools.
- The goal was to assure that in each school the percentages of Minority/Majority students would be +/-10 % of the district average.
- In June 2007, the US Supreme Court struck down school integration plans based solely on race. Stamford like other districts considered how to maintain diverse schools in recognition of this decision.
- In November 2007, Stamford's BOE adopted a new integration standard based on educational need (Policy #5117.2). Students are considered educationally disadvantaged or educationally advantaged.

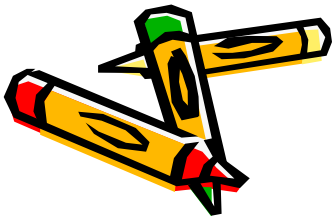


Educationally Disadvantaged/Educationally Advantaged: A Definition



	Educationally Disadvantaged	Educationally Advantaged
1. Qualify for free/reduced lunch status according to federal guidelines or	Yes	No
2. Enrolled in an ELL Program or	Yes	No
3. Reside in income restricted housing	Yes	No

As of October 1, 2011, 54% of students district-wide are educationally disadvantaged. Schools are expected to include between 44% and 64% educationally disadvantaged students to maintain the required +/-10% integration standard.



Instructional Programs in Stamford's Elementary Schools



- All instructional programs are guided by Connecticut standards.
- Expectations for student performance are standards based and instruction is geared to rigorously meeting these standards.
- Students are expected to perform at grade level or above in class work and assessments, and learn skills for college readiness.
- Class sizes range between 20 and 25, with most classes at 21.
- Teachers are highly qualified; 83% hold a Master's Degree or higher.
- Thematic approaches characterize the instructional program.

<u>Magnet</u>	<u>Home</u>
<u>Schools (4)</u>	<u>Schools (8)</u>
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✗



Core Themes in Stamford's Magnet Elementary Schools



- **Hart**
 - Math, Science, Technology, since 1993; 2008-09 planning year to modify and enhance Hart program
- **Rogers**
 - International Baccalaureate, IB, achieved authorization level, Spring 2006; extended to middle school, beginning with grade 6 in 2009-10
- **Toquam**
 - Social Studies, Bank Street/core curriculum, since 1970
- **Westover**
 - Mastery Learning, Arts and Problem Solving (M.A.P.S.), since 1979



Core Themes in Stamford's Magnet Middle and High Schools



- **Rogers, grades 6, 7, and 8**
 - International Baccalaureate, IB, begun with grade 6 in 2009-10, extended to grade 7 in 2010-11 and to grade 8 in 2011-12; awaiting middle school authorization.
- **Scotfield, grades 6, 7, and 8**
 - Math, Science, Technology since 1991
- **Academy of Information, Technology and Engineering, grades 9-12**
 - Interregional magnet high school, since 2000



How Does the SPS Lottery Work?

- Stamford does not have a “pure” lottery system.
- Stamford’s lottery is “controlled” to achieve the integration policy of the Board of Education.
- Stamford’s “controlled” lottery uses the following order for student selection:
 - Students residing in attendance area of magnet school
 - Students with siblings in magnet school at the same time
 - Students residing in preferred preference areas
 - All other students
- Two lists are generated from the lottery applications to achieve the purpose of the magnet schools - an educationally disadvantaged and an educationally non-disadvantaged list.

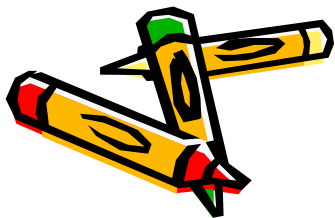


A Comparison of a "Pure" Lottery and a "Controlled" Lottery



- Stamford does not have a pure lottery. Stamford has a controlled lottery.

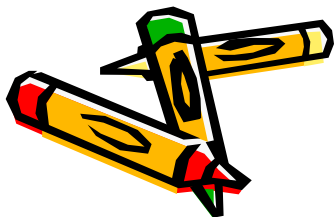
Random Lottery Number	Student	Student Group	Adjusted Pure Lottery	Controlled Lottery
1	A	All other lottery students	1	5
2	B	Attendance Area	2	1
3	C	Sibling	3	2
4	D	Sibling	4	3
5	E	Preferred Area	5	4



Admission Procedures for Kindergarten at Hart, Rogers, Toquam, and Westover



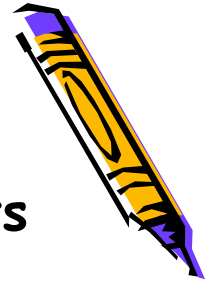
Hart 4 Classes	Rogers 4 Classes	Toquam 5 Classes	Westover 6 Classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings from Preference Area 1* • Students from Preference Area 1* • Siblings from Preference Area 2* • Students from Preference Area 2* • Siblings of students not from Preference Area 1 or 2 • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • All other students district-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Area • Siblings of students enrolled through lottery • School Choice seats reserved as required by NCLB • All other students district-wide



*Streets included in Preference Areas 1 and 2 are posted on the Stamford Public Schools website.



Hart
Kindergarten Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
Four Classrooms with 22 Students/Classroom, 88 Students
Approximate Numbers



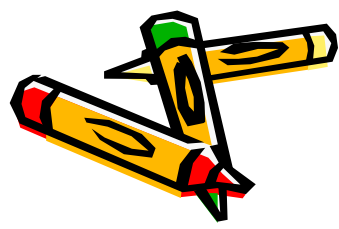
	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Attendance Area Students	19	42	61	69%
2. Lottery Students	19	8	27	30%
Total	38	50	88	57%



Rogers/EMS
Kindergarten Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
Four Classrooms with 22 Students/Classroom, 88 Students
Approximate Numbers



	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Attendance Area Students				
• Preference Area 1	19	37	56	66%
• Preference Area 2	1	5	6	83%
2. Lottery Students	-	-	-	-
3. Out of Town Students	21	5	26	19%
Total	41	47	88	53%



Toquam

Kindergarten Enrollment Plan for 2012-13

Five Classrooms with 22 Students/Classroom, 110 Students Approximate Numbers



	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Attendance Area Students	15	59	74	80%
2. Lottery Students	31	5	36	14%
Total	46	64	110	58%

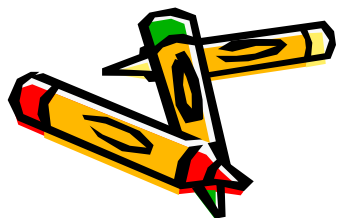


According to the September 2008 Redistricting Plan, students in Rogers' Attendance Areas are assigned to Toquam. These students have preference to attend Rogers, but must apply through the lottery.

Westover
Kindergarten Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
Six Classrooms with 22 Students/Classroom, 132 Students
Approximate Numbers



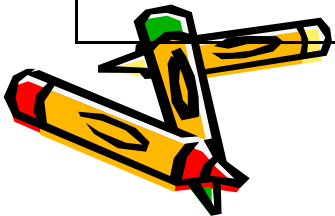
	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Attendance Area Students	10	44	54	81%
3. Lottery Students	50	28	78	36%
Total	60	72	132	55%



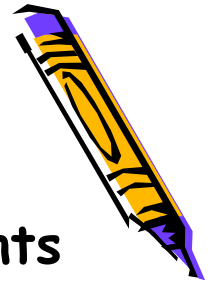
Rogers Middle School
Grade 6 Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
Four Classrooms with 25 Students/Classroom, 100 Students
Approximate Numbers



	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Attendance Area Students				
• Preference Area 1	25	25	50	50%
• Preference Area 2	2	3	5	60%
2. Lottery Students	5	12	17	71%
3. Out of Town Students	20	8	28	29%
Total	52	48	100	54%



**Scotfield Middle School
Grade 6 Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
Eight Classrooms with 25 Students/Classroom, 200 Students
Approximate Numbers**



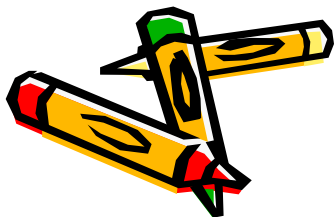
	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Lottery Students	92	108	200	54%
Total	92	108	200	54%



AITE High School
Grade 9 Enrollment Plan for 2012-13
185 Students
Approximate Numbers



	Advantaged	Disadvantaged	Total	% Disadvantaged
1. Lottery Students	42	91	133	68%
2. Out of Town Students	45	7	52	13%
Total	87	98	185	53%



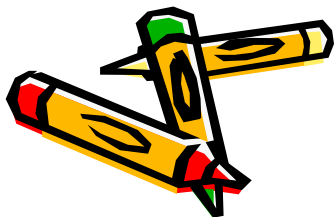
How Do I Apply to a Magnet School?



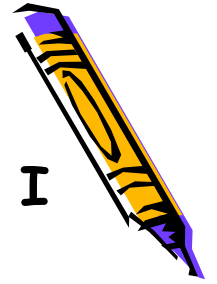
Application Procedures for the Magnet Schools



- Attend an orientation meeting at each magnet school of interest to your family. A schedule of orientation meetings has been mailed to families of four year old children. The orientation schedules for all magnet schools are posted on the Stamford Public Schools website: www.stamfordpublicschools.org.
- Complete and submit an application for each magnet school of interest.
- Applications for the elementary and middle school magnets are due to the magnet schools or Office of Research by 4:00 p.m. by Thursday, March 1, 2012.
- Applications for AITE are due to AITE or to the Office of Research by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2012.
- The lottery for AITE will be drawn on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Government Center, fifth floor. Parents will be invited by letter and will have three weeks to respond.
- The lottery for the elementary magnets will be drawn on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m., Government Center, fifth floor. The lottery for the middle schools will be drawn on Monday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m.



Questions and Answers about Magnet Schools



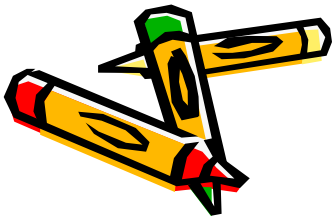
Q1: To how many elementary/middle magnet schools may I apply?

A1: You may apply to **all four elementary magnet schools and to the two magnet middle schools**, but your selections must be ranked on your applications.

Q2: How do I apply to magnet schools?

A2: You apply by attending orientation meeting(s) at the magnet schools and by completing magnet application(s) for these schools.

To complete registration, you will be required to submit a birth certificate, residency documents, a Home Language Survey and Free/Reduced Lunch application. Health documents will be required by September 1, 2012 in order for your child to enter Stamford Public Schools.



Q3: What is the deadline for applications?

A3: For AITE: Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2012 either at AITE or the Research Office, Government Center, third floor.

For Elementary/Middle Magnet Schools: Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2012 either at the magnet schools or the Research Office, Government Center, third floor.

Q4: When will the lottery be held?

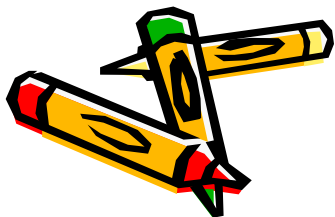
A4: For AITE: The lottery will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Government Center, Board Room, fifth floor.

For Elementary Magnet Schools: The lottery will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 9:30 a.m. in the Government Center, Board Room, fifth floor.

For Middle Magnet Schools: The lottery will be held on Monday, March 12, 2012, 9:30 a.m. in the Government Center, Board Room, fifth floor.

Q5: Do I have to be present at the lottery?

A5: No. You do not have to be present. Your lottery number will not be affected if you do not attend the drawing.





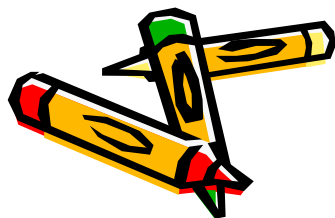
Q6: When will I hear about the lottery results?

- A6:
- If you attend the lottery drawing, you will have the results immediately.
 - If you do not attend the lottery drawing you can call the Research Office (977-4198), on the day following the lottery drawing, to obtain your lottery number(s).
 - Letters of invitation will be mailed to families of the first group of students selected by lottery for the available magnet seats two weeks following the lottery drawing.

Q7: What if I am invited to a magnet school that is not my first choice?

A7: You have a choice.

- If you accept, your child's name will be taken off all other magnet school lists to which you applied.
- If you decline, your child's name will remain on all other magnet school lists to which you applied.



Q8: How Can I Stay Informed?

A8:

- Magnet information is posted regularly on the Stamford Public Schools website, www.stamfordpublicschools.org
- The Office of Research and Development at 977-4198 or the Office of Family Engagement (977-4465 or 977-4529) will be available to answer parent questions.



Admission Procedures for Grades 1-5 at Hart, Rogers, Toquam, and Westover and Grades 7 and 8 at Rogers and Scofield



- At Hart, Rogers, Toquam, and Westover, seats in grades 1-5 will be filled in June 2012, based on availability, as informed by plans of current students to return in 2012-13.
- At Rogers and Scofield, seats in grades 7 and 8 will be filled in June 2012, based on availability, as informed by plans of current students to return in 2012-13.



School Choice

- If a school does NOT make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in Reading and/or Math for two consecutive years, the school becomes identified as "In Need of Improvement." Students in the identified schools are to be offered School Choice.
- For 2012-13, School Choice will probably not apply because all SPS elementary schools are "In Need of Improvement."



Targeted Admission to Elementary Magnet Schools and Restricted Enrollment*



- For the 2012-13 school year, there will not be targeted admission to the elementary magnet schools.
- For the 2012-13 school year, there will not be restricted enrollments from the districted elementary schools. The redistricting initiative should effectively balance the elementary schools.



*Use of Targeted Admission and Restricted Enrollment is decided annually.

Summary

- Stamford is proud of its diversity and realistic about the challenges of managing enrollment and balance.
- The purpose of the magnet schools in Stamford is to manage enrollment and integration through educational choice.



Thank You

- Thank you for your interest in the Stamford Public Schools and our magnet schools.
- Best wishes to you for the choices you make for your children's education.

