

News from the Stamford Public Schools

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For immediate release

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Stamford Public Schools Publishes Second Annual Report to the Community

Superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr has announced the publication of Stamford Public Schools' (SPS) second annual Report to the Community for the 2008-09 school year. The report includes several analyses of student achievement outcomes, including Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test results. Measures of growth—analyzing the progress made by the same students over time—based on the Connecticut Mastery Test vertical scale scores in math and reading—highlight the impressive gains made by nearly all No Child Left Behind categories of SPS students. The report also details the percent of graduates who enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, took four years of math and science, and participated in the SATs in the Class of 2009. Improvements in curriculum and instruction, along with grant funding pursued and received and operational and fiscal improvements are also reviewed.

“It feels great to be able to share a variety of information about our progress with our entire community, particularly the vertical scale score analyses, which are additional tools we can use to understand and celebrate student growth,” said Starr. “Thanks to the incredible work of our teachers, school leaders and staff, we are really beginning to see improvements in student outcomes as a result of our intensive work in curriculum & instruction, professional development and overall higher standards for all students.”

The report also highlights the new SPS Strategic District Improvement Plan, which is the latest iteration of the multi-year strategic plan and prioritizes the district work into four areas: curriculum, instruction & assessment; de-tracking/instructional grouping; Professional Learning Communities/Data Teams; and school culture. Last year, SPS also published a longer Annual Report for the 2007-08 school year, based on the content of the strategic plan from January 2007. “Our new Strategic District Improvement Plan narrows the scope of work to allow us to focus on high-leverage reforms in more meaningful ways,” explained Starr.

To save costs, the Report to the Community will not be mailed to every SPS family this year. Instead, all SPS families and community partners will receive a postcard with the web address where they can read the Report in English and in Spanish, www.stamfordpublicschools.org/SDIP.

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