

*News from the Stamford Public Schools*

November 25, 2008

For immediate release

Contact: Sarah Arnold, Public Affairs Officer (203) 977-4095

**Stamford Public Schools Publishes First-Ever Annual Report and Report to the Community**

At a time when corporations, non-profit organizations, and school districts across the country are being called upon to be more accountable to stakeholders, Superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr has announced the privately-funded publication of Stamford Public Schools' (SPS) first-ever Annual Report and Report to the Community.

“These reports are a great opportunity to communicate to the citizens of Stamford the efforts our teachers, support staff, and administrators are making to improve student achievement,” said Dr. Starr. “We have set very high standards for our children and it is important to measure the significant progress we are making toward our goals.”

The Annual Report is a 47-page document that outlines the SPS Strategic Plan objectives as well as the status of their implementation. It provides a comprehensive look at measurable student achievement outcomes, including Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) results. It 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 2007-2008. The Annual Report reviews curriculum and instruction improvements, grant funding pursued and received, operational and fiscal improvements, and achievements in collaboration. Finally, it contains information on new analysis tools SPS is using, known as the CMT vertical scales in math and reading. The vertical scales allow educators to look at the achievement of individual and groups of students over time, rather than compare student performance at grade level from year to year (e.g., grade 3 student performance in 2007 compared to grade 3 student performance in 2008). SPS and the State are moving toward improved analysis of student growth in the future.

The Report to the Community is a summary of the data in the Annual Report and highlights SPS student academic achievements. It will be mailed to every SPS family, as well as distributed widely throughout Stamford. Both the Annual Report (in English) and the Report to the Community (in English and Spanish) will be available on the SPS website, [www.stamfordpublicschools.org](http://www.stamfordpublicschools.org), so that information can be readily accessed by the public.

Both reports also recognize the challenges that SPS faces in the immediate future: the need for middle school reform, improved and expanded instructional technology, and a revamped world

languages program. Such high priority areas will be difficult to fund in a struggling economy; however, SPS hopes to expand current and new partnerships with community businesses and organizations to increase services and opportunities for all students.

The Annual Report and Report to the Community were published with the generous support of the GE Foundation. The GE Foundation's Developing Futures™ in Education Program is infusing \$15.3 million into Stamford Public Schools to improve math and science instruction and achievement and increase college readiness among all students.

# # #