

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2007-08**Trailblazers Academy District**

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Location: 1 Bridge Street
Stamford,
Connecticut

This profile was produced by the Connecticut State Department of Education in accordance with CT General Statutes 10-220(c) using data and narratives provided by the school district, testing services, or the US Census. Profiles and additional education data, including longitudinal data, are available on the internet at www.sde.ct.gov.

COMMUNITY DATA

County: Fairfield	Per Capita Income in 2000: N/A
Town Population in 2000: N/A	Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: N/A
1990-2000 Population Growth: N/A	Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: N/A
Number of Public Schools: 1	District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: N/A

*To view the Adult Education Program Profiles online, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on Adult Education, then Reports.

District Reference Group (DRG): N/A

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment on October 1, 2007	150
5-Year Enrollment Change	30.4%

DISTRICT GRADE RANGE

Grade Range	6- 8
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INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

Need Indicator	Number in District	Percent		
		District	DRG	State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	93	62.0	N/A	28.7
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	0	0.0	N/A	5.4
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented	0	0.0	N/A	4.0
PK-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services in District	36	24.0	N/A	11.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Homeless	0	0.0	N/A	0.2
Juniors and Seniors Working 16 or More Hours Per Week	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	0	0.0
Asian American	0	0.0
Black	102	68.0
Hispanic	43	28.7
White	5	3.3
Total Minority	145	96.7

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 0.0%

Non-English Home Language: All of this district's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is the primary language.

EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

Below is the description submitted by this school of how it provides educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

Trailblazers Academy is committed to providing students with opportunities to learn about and appreciate the diversity of individuals and cultures. In addition, the school makes concerted efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation through its partnerships with corporations, private foundations, community-service organizations, and other educational institutions.

Trailblazers Academy is located in Stamford, Connecticut, and serves primarily inner-city minority families of low economic means. 98% of students are black or Latino. 70% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Many of our efforts towards reducing isolation and increasing awareness and appreciation of diversity begin with helping students articulate and understand their own cultures. The school organizes educational programs around African-American, Hispanic-American, and Women's history months. These programs include our "school-wide projects," where students are grouped across classes and grade levels and assigned a particular topic for which they design and perform a presentation for the entire school.

In an effort to reach out to other communities and other cultures, as well as our own, Trailblazers Academy has committed to certain community service programs with far-reaching effects. The school partnered for the third year in a row with Tauck Tours to participate in a trip down the California coast.

Closer to home, Trailblazers Academy has partnered with other local schools of varying racial, ethnic, and economic make-up for activities such as community service days, athletic contests, and club activities. Finally, the directors of Trailblazers Academy visit all Stamford elementary schools each year to recruit applicants from across geographic, racial, ethnic, and economic boundaries.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % Meeting State Goal. The Goal level is more demanding than the Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards.

Grade and CMT Subject Area	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Grade 3 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 4 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 5 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 6 Reading	17.0	66.3	0.6
Writing	21.7	61.9	0.6
Mathematics	19.1	66.4	1.2
Grade 7 Reading	29.2	71.1	1.3
Writing	22.9	62.0	1.9
Mathematics	22.9	63.0	1.3
Grade 8 Reading	28.0	64.8	2.5
Writing	16.0	63.4	0.6
Mathematics	12.0	60.8	0.6
Science	16	58.6	1.9

These results reflect the performance of students with scoreable tests who were enrolled in the district at the time of testing, regardless of the length of time they were enrolled in the district. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

For more detailed CMT results, go to www.ctreports.com.

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Connecticut Academic Performance Test, Third Generation, % Meeting State Goal. The CAPT is administered to Grade 10 students. The Goal level is more demanding than the state Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards. The following results reflect the performance of students with scoreable tests who were enrolled in the school at the time of testing, regardless of the length of time they were enrolled in the school. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

CAPT Subject Area	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Reading Across the Disciplines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing Across the Disciplines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science	N/A	N/A	N/A

For more detailed CAPT results, go to www.ctreports.com.

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Physical Fitness. The assessment includes tests for flexibility, abdominal strength and endurance, upper-body strength and aerobic endurance.

Physical Fitness: % of Students Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Reaching Standard
	14.6	36.1	4.8

SAT® I: Reasoning Test Class of 2007		District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Scores
% of Graduates Tested		N/A	N/A	
Average Score	Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Critical Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAT® I. The lowest possible score on each SAT® I subtest is 200; the highest possible score is 800.

Graduation and Dropout Rates	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Less Desirable Rates
Graduation Rate, Class of 2007	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cumulative Four-Year Dropout Rate for Class of 2007	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Grade 9 through 12	N/A	N/A	N/A

Activities of Graduates	District	State
% Pursuing Higher Education (Degree and Non-Degree Programs)	N/A	N/A
% Employed (Civilian Employment and in Armed Services)	N/A	N/A

RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of District Staff	
General Education	
Teachers and Instructors	13.40
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	4.00
Special Education	
Teachers and Instructors	0.00
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	0.00
Library/Media Specialists and Assistants	0.00
Staff Devoted to Adult Education	0.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	
District Central Office	
School Level	0.60
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	0.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	0.00
School Nurses	0.00
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	7.25

In the full-time equivalent (FTE) count, staff members working part-time in the school district are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in the district contributes 0.50 to the district's staff count.

Teachers and Instructors	District	DRG	State
Average Years of Experience in Education	5.1	N/A	13.6
% with Master's Degree or Above	50.0	N/A	75.6

Average Class Size	District	DRG	State
Grade K	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 7	12.5	N/A	20.5
High School	N/A	N/A	N/A

Hours of Instruction Per Year*	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School	N/A	N/A	N/A
Middle School	1,185	N/A	1,017
High School	N/A	N/A	N/A

*State law requires that at least 900 hours of instruction be offered to students in grade 1-12 and full-day kindergarten, and 450 hours to half-day kindergarten students.

Students Per Academic Computer	Dist	DRG	State
Elementary School*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Middle School	3.9	N/A	2.7
High School	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Excludes schools with no grades above kindergarten.

DISTRICT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES, 2006-07

Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources. DRG and state figures will not be comparable to the district if the school district does not teach both elementary and secondary students.

Expenditures All figures are unaudited.	Total (in 1000s)	Expenditures Per Pupil			
		District	Elementary Districts	DRG	State
Instructional Staff and Services	\$1,280	\$8,534	\$7,141	N/A	\$7,159
Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$13	\$88	\$314	N/A	\$266
Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services	\$0	\$0	\$219	N/A	\$429
Student Support Services	\$393	\$2,622	\$732	N/A	\$761
Administration and Support Services	\$829	\$5,526	\$1,370	N/A	\$1,271
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$88	\$589	\$1,146	N/A	\$1,322
Transportation	\$12	N/A	\$575	N/A	\$601
Costs for Students Tuitioned Out	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	\$120	\$797	\$62	N/A	\$145
Total	\$2,736	\$18,239	\$12,187	N/A	\$12,151
Additional Expenditures					
Land, Buildings, and Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$1,737	N/A	\$1,882

Special Education Expenditures	
Total Expenditures	N/A
Percent of Total PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education	N/A

Revenue Sources, % of Expenditures from Source. Revenue sources do not include state funded Teachers' Retirement Board contributions, vocational-technical school operations, SDE budgeted costs for salaries and leadership activities and other state-funded school districts (e.g., Dept. of Children and Families and Dept. of Corrections).

District Expenditures	Local Revenue	State Revenue	Federal Revenue	Tuition & Other
Including School Construction	1.4	44.4	3.9	50.2
Excluding School Construction	1.4	44.4	3.9	50.2

EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AMONG DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Below is the description submitted by this district of how it allocates resources to insure equity and address needs.

N/A

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible	N/A
Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities	N/A

Of All K-12 Students for Whom District is Financially Responsible, Number and Percentage with Disabilities				
Disability	Count	District Percent	DRG Percent	State Percent
Autism	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Learning Disability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Intellectual Disability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emotional Disturbance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Speech Impairment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Health Impairment*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Disabilities**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Includes chronic health problems such as attention deficit disorders and epilepsy

**Includes hearing, visual, and orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and developmental delay

Graduation and Dropout Rates of Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible	District	State
% Who Graduated in 2006-07 with a Standard Diploma	N/A	N/A
2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Students Aged 14 to 21	N/A	N/A

STATE ASSESSMENTS

Percent of Students with Disabilities Meeting State Goal. The Goal level is more demanding than the Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards. These results are for students attending district schools who participated in the standard assessment with or without accommodations for their disabilities. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

- **Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), Fourth Generation.** The CMT reading, writing and mathematics tests are administered to students in Grades 3 through 8, and the CMT science test to students in Grades 5 and 8.
- **Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), Third Generation.** The CAPT is administered to Grade 10 students.

State Assessment		Students with Disabilities		All Students	
		District	State	District	State
CMT	Reading	3.1	20.4	24.8	62.1
	Writing	0.0	19.3	20.1	63.0
	Mathematics	0.0	22.6	17.9	62.7
	Science	N/A	N/A	16.0	56.8
CAPT	Reading Across the Disciplines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Writing Across the Disciplines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Science	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

For more detailed CMT or CAPT results, go to www.ctreports.com. To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on “No Child Left Behind.”

Participation in State Assessments of Students with Disabilities Attending District Schools		
CMT	% Without Accommodations	N/A
	% With Accommodations	N/A
CAPT	% Without Accommodations	N/A
	% With Accommodations	N/A
% Assessed Using Skills Checklist		N/A

Accommodations for a student’s disability may be made to allow him or her to participate in testing. Students whose disabilities prevent them from taking the test even with accommodations are assessed by means of a list of skills aligned to the same content and grade level standards as the CMT and CAPT.

Federal law requires that students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers as much as is appropriate. Placement in separate educational facilities tends to reduce the chances of students with disabilities interacting with non-disabled peers, and of receiving the same education.

K-12 Students with Disabilities Placed in Educational Settings Other Than This District’s Schools		
Placement	Count	Percent
Public Schools in Other Districts	N/A	N/A
Private Schools or Other Settings	N/A	N/A

Number and Percentage of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible by the Percentage of Time They Spent with Their Non-Disabled Peers				
Time Spent with Non-Disabled Peers	Count of Students	Percent of Students		
		District	DRG	State
79.1 to 100 Percent of Time	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this district.

Reading continues to be the greatest struggle for our incoming students. As a result, Trailblazers Academy continues to build its reading program by expanding its use of Scholastic's "Read 180" reading-intervention program and by hiring a fourth reading specialist for our students.

Trailblazers Academy students continue to rank low relative to grade-level peers statewide, despite the CMT growth mentioned above. The school will continue to use block scheduling, providing almost twice as much reading and math instruction as traditional public schools. Trailblazers Academy will also continue to offer its "Summer Institute" to all returning 6th and 7th graders for four weeks over the summer. The program focuses on reinforcing basic skills and preparing students for the CMT.
