

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2007-08**Seymour School District**

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Seymour,
Connecticut

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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: New Haven | Per Capita Income in 2000: \$24,056 |
| Town Population in 2000: 15,454 | Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: 15.3% |
| 1990-2000 Population Growth: 8.2% | Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: 1.5% |
| Number of Public Schools: 5 | District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: 93.3% |

*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): F DRG is a classification of districts whose students' families are similar in education, income, occupation, and need, and that have roughly similar enrollment. The Connecticut State Board of Education approved DRG classification for purposes of reporting data other than student performance.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment on October 1, 2007 2,603
5-Year Enrollment Change -9.6%

DISTRICT GRADE RANGE

Grade Range PK-12

INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

| Need Indicator | Number in District | Percent | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|------|-------|
| | | District | DRG | State |
| Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals | 373 | 14.3 | 20.0 | 28.7 |
| K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English | 41 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 5.4 |
| Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented* | 102 | 3.9 | 2.5 | 4.0 |
| PK-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services in District | 186 | 7.1 | 11.2 | 11.4 |
| Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart | 145 | 85.8 | 78.3 | 79.2 |
| Homeless | 2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Juniors and Seniors Working 16 or More Hours Per Week | 65 | 14.6 | 22.7 | 20.2 |

*78.4% of the identified gifted and/or talented students received services.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY

| Student Race/Ethnicity | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Race/Ethnicity | Number | Percent |
| American Indian | 12 | 0.5 |
| Asian American | 73 | 2.8 |
| Black | 94 | 3.6 |
| Hispanic | 160 | 6.1 |
| White | 2,264 | 87.0 |
| Total Minority | 339 | 13.0 |

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 0.9%

Non-English Home Language: 6.7% of this district's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is not the primary language. The number of non-English home languages is 28.

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.

Although the Seymour Public Schools is not diverse, this learning community works diligently in their efforts to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. Our mission is to educate and inspire all students, to enrich their experiences, and to prepare them to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. In pursuit of our mission, we believe that all students can learn and that they have individual interests and talents that need to be nurtured in a physically and emotionally safe environment. We also value creativity, inquiry and self-direction in the learning process. Through curriculum, enrichment activities, school-based clubs and inter-district sister school grants, the Seymour Public Schools continue to educate our students in cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Each school in the district has school based clubs and activities that benefit the less fortunate throughout the year. School organizations range from the well organized high school HOPE (Helping Other People and the Environment) Club to individual class projects that benefit the less fortunate. These clubs and individuals contribute food, clothing, holiday presents and financial assistance for various individuals and causes throughout the school year.

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 | 55.0 | 52.0 | 41.7 |
| Writing | 69.5 | 63.4 | 44.2 |
| Mathematics | 80.5 | 60.0 | 83.4 |
| Grade 4 Reading | 58.4 | 55.9 | 42.4 |
| Writing | 72.3 | 62.9 | 57.2 |
| Mathematics | 70.3 | 60.3 | 57.2 |
| Grade 5 Reading | 69.0 | 62.2 | 43.8 |
| Writing | 67.6 | 64.5 | 36.4 |
| Mathematics | 80.9 | 65.9 | 71.6 |
| Science | 51.6 | 54.9 | 27.2 |
| Grade 6 Reading | 72.5 | 66.3 | 44.0 |
| Writing | 70.8 | 61.9 | 59.5 |
| Mathematics | 75.0 | 66.4 | 51.8 |
| Grade 7 Reading | 70.4 | 71.1 | 29.7 |
| Writing | 54.8 | 62.0 | 23.9 |
| Mathematics | 59.6 | 63.0 | 28.4 |
| Grade 8 Reading | 66.2 | 64.8 | 36.5 |
| Writing | 64.9 | 63.4 | 39.0 |
| Mathematics | 59.2 | 60.8 | 30.8 |
| Science | 61.2 | 58.6 | 35.8 |

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 | 44.0 | 45.5 | 39.2 |
| Writing Across the Disciplines | 57.4 | 57.9 | 34.6 |
| Mathematics | 44.9 | 50.1 | 29.2 |
| Science | 38.6 | 46.3 | 30.8 |

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 |
|--|----------|-------|---|
| | 40.9 | 36.1 | 61.5 |

| SAT® I: Reasoning Test Class of 2007 | | District | State | % of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Scores |
|---|------------------|----------|-------|--|
| % of Graduates Tested | | 79.9 | 77.6 | |
| Average Score | Mathematics | 467 | 504 | 19.2 |
| | Critical Reading | 494 | 502 | 33.8 |
| | Writing | 492 | 503 | 33.1 |

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 | 92.3 | 92.6 | 25.4 |
| Cumulative Four-Year Dropout Rate for Class of 2007 | 6.9 | 6.2 | 20.3 |
| 2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Grade 9 through 12 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 29.6 |

| Activities of Graduates | District | State |
|--|----------|-------|
| % Pursuing Higher Education (Degree and Non-Degree Programs) | 80.4 | 83.4 |
| % Employed (Civilian Employment and in Armed Services) | 6.7 | 12.3 |

RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT STAFF

| Full-Time Equivalent Count of District Staff | |
|---|--------|
| General Education | |
| Teachers and Instructors | 162.00 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | 12.00 |
| Special Education | |
| Teachers and Instructors | 23.00 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | 22.00 |
| Library/Media Specialists and Assistants | 4.85 |
| Staff Devoted to Adult Education | 0.00 |
| Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs | |
| District Central Office | 5.00 |
| School Level | 9.00 |
| Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists) | 0.00 |
| Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists | 15.00 |
| School Nurses | 5.00 |
| Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support | 121.83 |

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 | 11.7 | 13.5 | 13.6 |
| % with Master's Degree or Above | 61.3 | 71.0 | 75.6 |

| Average Class Size | District | DRG | State |
|--------------------|----------|------|-------|
| Grade K | 14.5 | 16.0 | 18.1 |
| Grade 2 | 17.1 | 17.8 | 19.3 |
| Grade 5 | 21.3 | 19.7 | 20.9 |
| Grade 7 | 20.6 | 19.7 | 20.5 |
| High School | 20.8 | 18.8 | 18.6 |

| Hours of Instruction Per Year* | Dist | DRG | State |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Elementary School | 1,015 | 996 | 987 |
| Middle School | 1,029 | 1,025 | 1,017 |
| High School | 983 | 1,004 | 1,006 |

*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* | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.4 |
| Middle School | 1.3 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| High School | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 |

*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 | PK-12 Districts | DRG | State |
| Instructional Staff and Services | \$15,448 | \$5,644 | \$7,153 | \$6,567 | \$7,159 |
| Instructional Supplies and Equipment | \$705 | \$257 | \$262 | \$282 | \$266 |
| Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services | \$642 | \$235 | \$443 | \$246 | \$429 |
| Student Support Services | \$1,890 | \$691 | \$764 | \$662 | \$761 |
| Administration and Support Services | \$3,914 | \$1,430 | \$1,256 | \$1,231 | \$1,271 |
| Plant Operation and Maintenance | \$3,216 | \$1,175 | \$1,329 | \$1,282 | \$1,322 |
| Transportation | \$1,240 | \$464 | \$605 | \$632 | \$601 |
| Costs for Students Tuitioned Out | \$739 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other | \$400 | \$146 | \$147 | \$166 | \$145 |
| Total | \$28,195 | \$10,153 | \$12,203 | \$11,296 | \$12,151 |
| Additional Expenditures | | | | | |
| Land, Buildings, and Debt Service | \$2,229 | \$814 | \$1,875 | \$2,587 | \$1,882 |

| Special Education Expenditures | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Expenditures | \$4,890,135 |
| Percent of Total PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education | 17.3% |

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 | 56.5 | 32.7 | 2.4 | 8.4 |
| Excluding School Construction | 55.9 | 32.5 | 2.6 | 9.0 |

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.

The Seymour Public School budgeting process has become completely transparent to all community stakeholders. The annual budgeting process begins in November of each school year. The Central Office staff begins by working with each individual building principal to assess their needs as related to their school improvement plans as well as the District Strategic Plan. Throughout December and January, Central Office develops a Superintendent's recommended budget that is then brought to the Finance sub-committee of the Board of Education. This budgeting process has been expanded to include participation by a representative of the Board of Finance in the development of the Board of Education plans for programs, equipment, technology and facilities. In addition, solicitation of input from the parent community is obtained through a series of scheduled "community conversations", whereby budget direction and various initiatives are discussed prior to formal budget preparation. The conversations take place in the context of long term goals and initiatives, with an emphasis on the linkage to the district strategic goals and the impact on student learning.

Upon completion of the needs identified, information is presented to various stakeholders at formal meetings during the annual budget process. Once the formal budget is completed and filed at the town hall; the entire budget is posted on the district website for the public to view and provide feedback. The budget process concludes with the passage of the education budget referendum.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible | 168 |
| Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities | 6.7% |

| 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 | 18 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Learning Disability | 51 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Intellectual Disability | 10 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Emotional Disturbance | 11 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| Speech Impairment | 35 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Other Health Impairment* | 24 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Other Disabilities** | 19 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Total | 168 | 6.7 | 11.2 | 11.5 |

*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 | 63.6 | 77.2 |
| 2006-07 Annual Dropout Rate for Students Aged 14 to 21 | 3.7 | 2.8 |

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 | 10.5 | 20.4 | 65.1 | 62.1 |
| | Writing | 11.7 | 19.3 | 66.4 | 63.0 |
| | Mathematics | 20.5 | 22.6 | 70.6 | 62.7 |
| | Science | 12.5 | 22.2 | 56.5 | 56.8 |
| CAPT | Reading Across the Disciplines | N/A | N/A | 44.0 | 45.5 |
| | Writing Across the Disciplines | N/A | N/A | 57.4 | 57.9 |
| | Mathematics | N/A | N/A | 44.9 | 50.1 |
| | Science | N/A | N/A | 38.6 | 46.3 |

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 | 23.5 |
| | % With Accommodations | 76.5 |
| CAPT | % Without Accommodations | 53.8 |
| | % With Accommodations | 46.2 |
| % Assessed Using Skills Checklist | | 7.1 |

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 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Private Schools or Other Settings | 14 | 8.3 |

| 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 | 137 | 81.5 | 70.9 | 71.6 |
| 40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time | 13 | 7.7 | 18.2 | 16.6 |
| 0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time | 18 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 11.8 |

SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this district.

The Seymour School District has completed year four of the five year Strategic Plan which consists of three goals. Goal One is the development and implementation of a well articulated Pre-K through grade twelve curriculum that identifies knowledge and skills along with appropriate instruction and assessment strategies. To this end the District has created and funded the position of Director of Instruction K-8 as well as the addition of content area department chairs/coordinators at the secondary level. Presently, curriculum is accessible to district staff through an electronic format. The completed curriculums are scheduled to be put on-line for parental/community access during the 2008-2009 school year. Story Town, an anthology series, has been implemented in grades K through 5 and the faculty continues to receive professional development in the use of this series. Parents and students have access to Storytown's ThinkCentral.com, a website with resource material that may be accessed at home. Voyages, a math program, which is based on the State of Connecticut Mathematics Frameworks continues to be used in the three elementary schools in grades K-5. Foss Science kits are used in grades K through 8. A standard based report card for grades K-5 was successfully implemented this year. Teachers received training in electronic grade books as well as Edline, a product that will give parents and students access to their grades in real time being September 29, 2008. Seymour Middle School redesigned their schedule to include a 90 minute Language Arts block as well as a Spanish I course that will be taken during 7th and 8th grade thus giving students the ability to take Spanish II upon entering 9th grade.

Seymour High School continues to add to their list of AP courses with the approval of AP Environmental Science, AP Comparative Government and AP Chemistry.

In addition to on going professional learning in Differentiated Instruction and Reciprocal Teaching; the district has begun an extensive job-embedded professional learning initiative that focuses on student learning through the development of common formative assessments. Common formative assessments are periodic assessments that inform teachers' instruction. In March each school began the process of developing a plan unique to their schools that focuses on student achievement. Data teams are being created and trained to forward our goal of continuous improvement and student achievement. This model will provide the district with a laser like focus on teaching and learning for school improvement district wide.

Goal Two of the Strategic Plan is the redefining and recreating of the learning environment (instructional approaches, technologies, and resources) in ways that incorporate emerging understanding of how students learn and how technology is changing the way our students engage with the world. The district has in place a fiber network and a replacement plan for hardware and software. The professional development needed to fully make this shift is on going. An additional Library Media Specialist was hired for the 2008-2009 school year along with the purchase of laptop computer carts so that the newly created information technology curriculum can be delivered in the classroom.

Goal Three of the Strategic Plan is to improve internal and external communication in order to unite parents, educators, students and the community in working collaboratively to achieve our mission and goals for learning. In order to facilitate communication with the parent population as well as the community, Seymour has a District webpage and additionally each teacher is required to have their own webpage. This year teachers were trained on a new product called Edline which provides two benefits; a more user friendly website as well as parental and student access to real time grades. School staffs are also able to communicate with parents through the email system. Each teacher in Seymour Middle School and Seymour High School has access to a phone in their classroom. This year each elementary school classroom received a phone to give teachers the same the ability as our secondary schools to communicate more readily with parents. The Central Office has published a district newsletter for the first time in a number of years for parents and the community. The Superintendent held nine community conversations for parents and the community and will continue to do so in the future.
