

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2005-06

Elementary School K-6 Edition

Aiken School
West Hartford School District

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This profile was produced by the Connecticut State Department of Education in accordance with CT General Statutes 10-220(c).

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Total Enrollment: 413

5-Year Enrollment Change: 3.0%*

*Between 2000 and 2005, was redistricted

**TYPE OF SCHOOL**

School Type: Traditional/Regular

School Grade Range: K- 5

SCHOOL NEED

Current and Past School Need	Year	School	District K-6 Schools	State K-6 Schools
% of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	2005-06	7.5	13.5	27.6
	2002-03	3.6	13.0	28.8
% of K-12 Students with Non-English Home Language	2005-06	20.3	17.5	13.3
	2000-01	14.5	15.3	13.8
% of Students above Entry Grade who Attended this School the Previous Year	2005-06	94.3	89.5	86.8
	2000-01	92.8	89.8	86.3
	Year	School	District	State
% of Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	2005-06	95.1	84.0	79.2
	2000-01	93.9	88.5	74.7

Enrollment in Special Programs	Students in School	Percent in School	% in District K-6 Schools	% in State K-6 Schools
Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language Services (K-12)	38	9.2	9.5	6.7
Compensatory Education	25	6.1	12.2	24.1
Full or Extended Day Kindergarten	61	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gifted and Talented Program	14	3.4	3.9	1.9
Special Education	37	9.0	11.0	11.2
Prekindergarten	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	6	1.5
Asian American	69	16.7
Black	37	9.0
Hispanic	19	4.6
White	282	68.3

Total Minority 2005-06 31.7%

Total Minority 2000-01 20.0%



EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

Connecticut law requires that school districts provide educational opportunities for their students to interact with students and teachers from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. This may occur through programs with other schools, distance learning, or other experiences. Below is the description submitted by this school of how it provides such experiences.

The Aiken community has provided outreach to the larger community through a number of initiatives during this past year. Food drives were held to support the local food pantry. Toy and clothing drives were also conducted to support the children's hospital and families in need. Students collected money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, raising over \$1,500 for this initiative. In addition, students sponsored walkers and participated in two walk-a-thons to support cancer research. A lemonade stand was coordinated by our first graders to support this effort in the fall. In addition, during June at the Fun Fair, students, parents and staff manned a booth to raise money for cancer.

During this past year diversity was explored through professional development led by our English as a Second Language coordinator, ESOL teachers and Spanish teacher. Staff discussed the nuances of different cultural backgrounds that exist in the Aiken community to raise awareness and understanding of our students and families. In addition, monthly assemblies celebrated our rich, diverse backgrounds. Students researched their native countries and created projects to present to their classmates with a focus on native customs, clothing and food. Several parents joined students to help create a special food selection from their country and students were able to sample these wonderful dishes.

Through a West Hartford Foundation grant, students were able to recognize and understand diversity through presenting puppet skits. The skits were written and performed by fourth and fifth grade students. They focused on understanding differences and being tolerant, handling problems with friends and demonstrating responsible behavior. The skits were performed in primary classrooms and at a school wide assembly.

The social studies curriculum also helps students to be more aware of diversity through the study of other countries around the world and their cultures. Students learn about the geography, educational systems, customs and celebrations that make each country unique. During this past year our Cultural Council provided presentations highlighting music and dance from other cultures.

SCHOOL RESOURCES

Instructional Time*	School	District K-6	State K-6
Total Hours of Instruction Per Year	991	991	988

*State law requires at least 900 hours for grades 1 through 12 and full-day kindergarten, and 450 hours for half-day kindergarten.

TECHNOLOGY



% of Classrooms, Libraries, and Laboratories Wired for:	School	District K-6	State K-6
Video	100.0	100.0	63.0
Voice	100.0	100.0	72.3
Internet Access	100.0	100.0	96.5
Multi-Room Network (LAN)	100.0	100.0	77.3

Computers	School	Dist K-6	State K-6
# of Students Per Academic Computer	4.8	4.1	3.9
% of Computers that are High or Moderate Power	100.0	95.0	80.8
% of Computers with Internet Access, All Speeds	100.0	100.0	96.5
% of Computers with High Speed Internet Access	100.0	100.0	95.4
% of Internet Computers with Filtering Software	100.0	100.0	97.6

This school does not have a functional satellite link.

LIBRARY MATERIALS

Free on-line access to periodicals, newspapers, and other resources is available to all Connecticut schools through the Connecticut Digital Library.

Print and Non-Print Materials	School	Dist K-6	State K-6
# of Print Volumes Per Student*	34.7	32.4	27.2
% of Print Volumes Purchased in the Last Three Years	20.9	11.5	13.6
# of Print Periodical Subscriptions	13	21.5	15.1
# of Non-Print Materials	69	247.7	408.8

*Because a certain number of volumes are needed for a library of adequate breadth and depth, a small school may need a higher number of volumes per student.

STAFFING RESOURCES



Average Class Size		School	District	State
Gr. K	2005-06	20.3	20.2	18.3
	2000-01	22.0	19.3	18.1
Gr. 2	2005-06	22.3	19.5	19.7
	2000-01	19.0	19.7	19.5
Gr. 5	2005-06	24.7	22.4	21.2
	2000-01	21.0	20.8	21.7

School Staff Count Full-Time Equivalent	2005-06	2004-05
# of Certified Staff		
Teachers	27.9	26.9
Administrators	1.0	1.0
Department Chairs	0.0	0.0
Library/Media Staff	1.0	1.0
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	0.3	0.7
Other Professionals	1.5	1.5
# of Non-Certified Instructional	3.0	3.0

Professional Staff Race/Ethnicity	2005-06	2004-05	2000-01
% Minority	2.7	2.8	2.6
Professional Staff Experience and Training	School	District K-6	State K-6
Average Number of Years Experience in Connecticut	9.7	10.9	12.8
% with Master's Degree or Above	56.8	70.1	80.5
% Trained as Mentors, Assessors, or Cooperating Teachers	32.4	34.4	30.4

SCHOOL PROCESSES

Selected Subject Areas, Grade 5	Estimated Hours of Instruction Per Year			Computer/ Technology Supported
	School	District	State	
Art	36	36	32	No
Computer Education	0	2	17	N/A
English Language Arts*	433	420	425	Yes
Family and Consumer Science	0	0	1	N/A
Health	31	30	23	No
Library Media Skills	18	18	19	Yes
Mathematics*	202	200	192	Yes
Music	36	36	34	Yes
Physical Education	54	54	41	No
Science*	75	79	96	Yes
Social Studies*	70	73	96	No
Technology Education	0	0	1	N/A
World Languages	36	41	11	No

*Interdisciplinary Approach

World Language

Formal instruction (at least 1 hour per week) in a world language starts in grade 4 in this school. In Connecticut, 13.4% of K-6 schools have started world language instruction at this grade or earlier.

Types of Remedial Instructional Services Provided to Students Lacking Basic Skills	Available in Mathematics	Available in Language Arts
Pull-Out Instruction	No	Yes
In-Class Tutorial	No	No
After School Program	No	No
Summer School (2005)	Yes	Yes
Other	No	No



Interactive Distance Learning

This school does not utilize interactive distance learning. Interactive distance learning ranges from on-line courses with student-instructor interaction via the internet to live classroom interaction through two-way audio and video transmissions.

Student and Teacher Statistics	School	District K-6	State K-6
% of Students Retained in Grade after 2004-05 School Year	0.2	0.3	1.7
Teacher Attendance, 2004-05: Average # of Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	7.5	6.7	8.4
% Certified Staff Assigned to Same School the Previous Year	83.8	80.1	84.5


STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % Meeting State Goal: The state goal was established with the advice and assistance of a cross section of Connecticut educators. 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.

Connecticut Mastery Test % Meeting State Goal in:	School	District	State	Of All Schools in State	
				Lowest %	Highest %
Grade 3 Reading	71.4	60.5	54.4	2.0	94.3
Writing	75.0	68.4	61.0	2.4	100.0
Mathematics	68.8	66.8	56.3	4.1	100.0
Grade 4 Reading	78.7	71.5	57.8	2.8	96.4
Writing	77.0	68.6	62.8	2.8	96.1
Mathematics	67.2	68.9	58.8	3.4	96.4
Grade 5 Reading	82.7	75.9	60.9	0.0	97.1
Writing	85.1	76.1	65.0	5.6	98.3
Mathematics	82.7	73.2	60.7	0.0	100.0
Grade 6 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



The figures above were calculated differently than those reported in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Report Cards. Unlike NCLB figures, 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.

Physical Fitness % Passing All 4 Tests	School	District	State
 Grade 4	71.9	37.3	33.6
Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A

Student Attendance	School	District K-6	State K-6
% on October 1, 2005	97.8	98.0	96.5

EVIDENCE OF SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is a summary, submitted by this school, of the major trends in student performance and accomplishments that indicate sustained improvement over time. Also, areas of need are identified and plans to address these needs are presented.

Improvements in Student Performance and Achievement

Fourth grade student performance on the Connecticut Mastery Test was above goal in reading (78.7%) when compared with the district at 71.5%. This increase is attributed to the intense focus in reading comprehension and writing in kindergarten through fifth grade during this past year. The same was true in writing (77%) when compared with the district average of 68.6%. Math performance (67.2%) was slightly below the district average of 69%. This was the first year that students were assessed through the Connecticut Mastery Test at third and fifth grades. At third grade, students were above goal in reading (71.4%) as compared with the district goal of 60.5%. Writing scores were at 75% mastery compared with the district average of 68.4%. Math scores were at 68.8% mastery compared to the district average of 66.8%. At fifth grade, students were significantly above the district average in all areas. Reading was at 82.7% compared with the district average of 75.9%; writing was at 85.1% compared with the district average of 76.1%; and math was at 82.7% compared with the district average of 73.2%. Fourth and fifth grade students continue to be actively involved in the Arts programs offered at Aiken. Over 90% of students participate in band, orchestra and/ or chorus. Many students also participated in Inter Elementary band and orchestra, designated for the most accomplished musicians and singers. Students continue to demonstrate a high level of leadership through their work in Student Council, Safety Patrol and volunteering as student mentors in classrooms.

Needs and Improvement Plans

In reviewing current assessment data, math will be an area of focus at all grade levels, as the Trailblazers program is implemented through grade 5. Specific goals and objectives will address areas of need and action plans will design the methods and resources necessary for implementation. Staff development training, bi-weekly grade level seminars and evaluation of instructional strategies will be utilized in concert with ongoing assessment to chart student progress.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

The space below was optionally used by this school to describe aspects of the school not presented elsewhere in the profile. For instance, character education or programs designed to improve school climate may be described.

This year Aiken School continued to emphasize the principles of empathy, respect and responsibility through a continuation of the Second Step Program in kindergarten through grade five. Students illustrated kindness, friendship and celebration of differences through presentations of puppet skits by fourth and fifth grade students in the primary grades. In addition, monthly assemblies were held to recognize students' accomplishments in demonstrating caring and respectful behavior toward each other. Safety Patrollers in fifth grade have taken a leadership role in assisting our younger students during arrival and dismissal times.

The Trailblazers math program was extended into the fourth grade and extensive professional development occurred to provide staff with training in curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation. Fifth grade teachers were provided with professional development opportunities focused in math and science curriculum areas, which will prepare them for the Trailblazers program in the upcoming year and the Connecticut Mastery Test. Several primary level teachers presented district level staff development workshops on developing writing skills. Staff has also met in collegial teams to plan units of instruction focused in writing and social studies.

Parents continue to be actively involved in the Aiken community through participation in PTO initiatives, volunteering in grade level and special area classrooms, initiating fund raisers, and sponsoring cultural events. This year they coordinated our school talent show, hosted monthly birthday celebrations, assisted in the flag raising and closing ceremony and provided support to classroom teachers with activities in numerous units of study. At the beginning of the year, parents helped students and teachers plant bulbs around the school to beautify the Aiken property, resulting in lovely spring flowers.

Strategic School Profiles may be viewed on the internet at www.state.ct.us/sde. A more detailed, searchable SSP database, data tables, and additional CT education facts are also available at this site.
For the school/district website, see www.whps.org/school/aiken/homepage.htm

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