

Central School

Strategic Plan 2023-2024

Simsbury Public Schools
Simsbury, Connecticut



Table of Contents

I.	Introduction and Purpose of our School Strategic Plan	p. 3
II.	Information about Central School	p. 4
III.	Simsbury Public Schools Vision of the Graduate	p. 5
IV.	Simsbury Public Schools Goals, 2019-2024	p. 6
V.	Central School Strategic Plan	
	• Goal 1: Student Growth and Success	p. 7
	• Goal 2: Compassionate & Connected School Culture	p. 8



Introduction and Purpose of our School Strategic Plan

The Simsbury Public Schools join the nation in determining how to calibrate public education after all that has been experienced since March of 2020. We know that a simple return to past practices is short-sighted and uninformed by the lessons learned. Social-emotional learning shares prominence with our academics as never before. Therefore, it is important to assess our students' current understanding and skills as starting points from which to teach and actualize student growth.

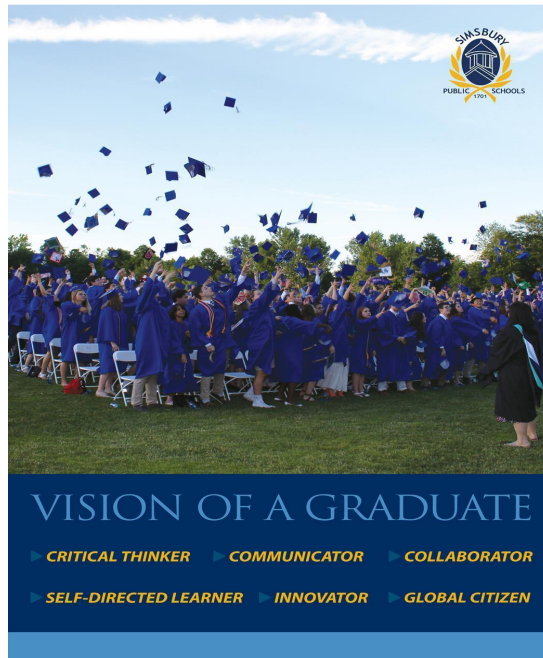
This document presents Central School's Strategic Plan - an action plan inclusive of Simsbury Public Schools' strategic goals (2019-2024), Vision of a Graduate, information about Central School, and school improvement indicators for the 2023-2024 school year. The goals and benchmarks set forth in this school's strategic plan were established following a cautious analysis of state and district student performance data collected during an unprecedented year, as well as staff and school community input. In addition, the goals are aligned with the [Simsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan](#). Throughout the year, teachers will work in collaborative teams to assess student achievement with multiple indicators, monitor student progress, and adjust/refine instructional practices accordingly. Professional development will be ongoing at the district and building levels to further support our improvement. In the Summer of 2024, a concluding analysis of our progress toward these goals will be documented in the Annual Report.

Warm regards,
Beth Hennessy Principal, Central School
Simsbury, Connecticut

Information about Central School

Central School is a mid-sized, community-based school. Built in 1913 and enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places, Central is the oldest school in Simsbury. Renovation and new construction took place in 1997. We concluded the year-long 100th Anniversary of Central School in June, 2013 with many events that recognized the deep history of the school and community. Our shared memories will carry us through for the next 100 years at Central School. The theme at Central School, announced at the school's entrance, is Learning the Ropes for the Voyage of Life – reflecting our belief in meeting the needs of the whole child. The faculty is committed to a rigorous instructional program that fosters and enhances the development of a community of learners within which students learn to set and achieve high standards. As stated in the Vision Statement, the staff and parent community believe in the “whole child” and reinforce the six Themes of Character displayed in the front lobby on a daily basis, as well as through the “Central Sails” Character Education Program. Central School is a close and connected neighborhood school. It has a reputation for being a caring community with a focus on the whole child. Success and effort are celebrated at Central School as each one of our 378 children work to meet standards and gain proficiency in areas outlined in the benchmarks for literacy, mathematics, and in content areas. The bumper sticker (below) was developed as a kick-off to raise money for our new playground equipment, which was installed in August of 2007. The bumper sticker is particularly meaningful because Central School is located in the center (heart) of town, and the school and parent community has a lot of heart! Additionally, our strong home/school partnership has always been a cornerstone for the success of our learners, highlighting one of Simsbury's Core Beliefs: “We believe that family and community partnerships enhance and enrich the learning experiences for all students and staff.” Our school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and our many community volunteers exemplify this core belief and are invaluable to our school's strong culture and ongoing student achievement. Central School embraces a diverse population both culturally and socio-economically. For over forty years, Central School has augmented its student population through the Open Choice program which allows urban students from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Both local and urban students have benefited from this association through the formation of friendships and through their exchange of ideas in class. We look forward to the continued enrichment of cultural and intellectual exchange this coming year. As a result of the cooperative efforts and collective talents of a dedicated faculty and staff, involved parents and families, and students, Central School is an accomplished school that provides a caring and supportive climate that nurtures the whole child.

Simsbury Public Schools ~ Vision of the Graduate



Critical Thinker

- Engage in problem solving, inquiry, and reflective thinking
- Develop compelling questions
- Analyze information to consider varied perspectives
- Evaluate information to reason and solve problems



Communicator

- Listen actively
- Lift conversations by asking and responding to questions
- Deliver clear, concise, accurate ideas through spoken and written language
- Demonstrate an awareness of audience by adjusting purposefully



Collaborator

- Perform a variety of roles and responsibilities
- Function interdependently and flexibly with others
- Seek and contribute feedback
- Embrace contradictions and divergent ideas to accomplish a common goal



Self-Directed Learner

- Take initiative and responsibility for learning and productivity
- Use “experts” and other resources to pursue goals
- Demonstrate resilience, optimism, and perseverance
- Accomplish tasks through self-advocacy, self-confidence, and a growth mindset



Innovator

- Empower creativity and develop skills
- Use a variety of techniques as part of a process to enhance outcomes
- View failure as an opportunity to learn, persevere, and show flexibility
- Challenge the status quo, push boundaries, and achieve growth



Global Citizen

- Exemplify empathy, compassion, and respect in interactions with others
- Consider diverse perspectives and cultures
- Act responsibly and ethically
- Recognize impact of actions and civic decisions

Simsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan Goals 2019-2024

Student Growth and Success: Simsbury Public Schools will engage all students in rigorous, dynamic, and relevant learning experiences, in alignment to the Simsbury Vision of the Graduate, in order to ensure student growth and achievement.

Compassionate and Connected School Culture: Simsbury Public Schools will engage our students and adults in an inclusive, responsive, and safe environment that fosters the development of empathetic, ethical, and resilient community members.

Premier Workforce: Simsbury Public Schools will hire, invest in, and retain passionate and exceptional staff who will contribute to a challenging, innovative, and collaborative culture defined by continuous improvement.

Sustainable and Strategic Investments: Simsbury Public Schools will identify and advocate for the needs of our school communities in innovative ways to support the success and growth of all students, ensure fiscal responsibility, and the long-term stability of the district.

***Board of Education
Adopted June 11, 2019***

“If you go to work on your goals, your goals will go to work on you. If you go to work on your plan, your plan will go to work on you. Whatever good things we build end up building us.”

~ Jim Rohn

Goal 1: Student Growth and Success
<i>Simsbury Public Schools will engage all students in rigorous, dynamic, and relevant learning experiences, in alignment to the Simsbury Vision of the Graduate, in order to ensure student growth and achievement.</i>
Central School’s Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Professional Learning Community meetings to identify students' response to instruction and to monitor growth and achievement relative to grade level standards. • Accelerate student performance in reading and math by analyzing data to inform instruction and interventions • Utilize coaches to deliver professional development, provide student centered coaching, and monitor growth and achievement across all tiers of instruction. • Implement a building schedule that provides longer instructional blocks for content area teaching, supports Social Emotional Learning instruction, and coordinates specialized instruction and intervention. • Increase professional learning around tiered instruction and refine instructional practices and collaboration to improve student achievement.
Performance Indicators (As measured by...)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smarter Balanced Assessment Math and ELA grades 3-6 aggregate performance • Next Generation Science Assessment (Grade 5)

SMART Goals: (Specific/Measurable/Aggressive yet Achievable/Relevant/Time-Bound)

Mathematics Expectations by June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June of 2024, 80% of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA Math benchmark.
ELA Expectations by June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June of 2024, 83 % of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA ELA benchmark.
NGSS Expectations by June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June of 2024, 80 % of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the Next Generation Science benchmark.

Goal 2: Compassionate & Connected School Culture
<i>Simsbury Public Schools will engage our students and adults in an inclusive, responsive, and safe environment that fosters the development of empathetic, ethical, and resilient community members.</i>
Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reinforce and celebrate themes of good character through the <i>Central Sails</i> Character Education program. ● Implement Social/Emotional competencies, resources and lessons ● Implement behavioral strategies to support students and teachers ● Utilize the Character Education and Leadership Team to identify professional development opportunities for staff and programming/celebrations for students. ● Continue leadership practices to engage the school community and increase a sense of belonging
Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey results - Parent and student ● Completion of action steps and outcomes as noted in the strategic plan ● Positive behavioral recognition and Better Choice Slips

SMART Goals: (Specific/Measurable/Aggressive yet Achievable/Relevant/Time-Bound)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By July 2024, analyze performance indicator data for trends, celebrations, concerns and next steps ● Greater than 90% of students will receive school-based positive behavioral recognition ● Fewer than 10% of students at the elementary level will not have required a Tier 2* behavior intervention

*Tier 2 behavior intervention at the elementary level is defined by either an action/consequence taken by administrator and/or referral to the SIT process for behavior.