

Simsbury High School

Annual Report 2023-2024

Simsbury Public Schools
Simsbury, Connecticut



*Teaching students to meet the challenges of today
and tomorrow with confidence and integrity*

Preparation - Passion - Personal Growth

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Introduction and Purpose of our School Annual Report

Simsbury Public Schools is committed to continuous improvement. Each fall, Simsbury High School creates a strategic plan that aligns with the district's Strategic Goals (2019-2024) and Vision of a Graduate. This plan includes key information about the school and outlines improvement indicators for the year ahead. The goals and benchmarks are set after a careful review of state and district student performance data, along with input from staff and the school community. Throughout the year, teachers collaborate in teams to evaluate student achievement using multiple measures, monitor progress, and refine instructional practices as needed. Professional development supports targeted growth in these areas. Reflecting on the 2023-2024 school year, we are proud of the significant achievements of our students and staff. Their combined efforts have advanced our progress on key performance indicators, continuing Simsbury High School's tradition of excellence within Connecticut and nationally.

SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL



CORE VALUES & BELIEFS



PREPARATION

We provide a rich and rigorous academic foundation for all students,

- teaching both **critical thinking** and creativity to engage students in **self-directed learning** and inquiry.
- ensuring that students of all abilities are included, challenged, and given appropriate instruction in preparation for college and careers.

PASSION

We offer diverse learning experiences that encourage students to find their sense of belonging and discover their unique interests and talents,

- providing a program of studies characterized by wide variety and high quality.
- giving students opportunities for choice and leadership--in the classroom and throughout extracurricular pursuits.

PERSONAL GROWTH

We partner with families to promote the Vision of a Graduate in our students as they develop into ethical and compassionate adults,

- demonstrating the tenets of the Trojan Code: respect, honor, and responsibility.
- providing students opportunities to **work collaboratively** and to grow as **innovators, effective communicators,** and **global citizens.**



Teaching students to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow with integrity and perseverance

VISION OF A GRADUATE

CRITICAL THINKER 🏆 COMMUNICATOR 🏆 COLLABORATOR 🏆 SELF-DIRECTED LEARNER 🏆 INNOVATOR 🏆 GLOBAL CITIZEN

Part II – Information about Simsbury High School

Simsbury High School has the distinction of being one of the highest-performing high schools in Connecticut. The tireless pursuit of excellence continues to yield positive results both in our classrooms and on the field. The accomplishments of our students can be attributed to the hard work of our faculty, who benefit greatly from the support of parents and community members. Together, we are able to promote the growth of the exceptional students who call our school home.

The Core Values and Beliefs of Simsbury High School are based on three tenets: preparation, passion, and personal growth. This foundational document outlines the shared commitments we have with our students and the greater community, serving as a compass for our educational planning and decision-making. The Simsbury High School learning community is dedicated to preparing students for success by first identifying their passions and then fostering their personal growth through authentic learning experiences. It is this combination of support, challenge, and the shared pursuit of excellence that sets our school apart and makes it an invigorating place for learning.

As you review the information in this document, you will find a record of accomplishments that serve as tangible markers of our success, along with notes that highlight areas of focus for the future. This process of data collection and reflection sets the stage for our cycle of continuous improvement moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. However, to fully appreciate the work at Simsbury High School, I encourage you to visit us. Once you experience one of our plays, hear the written word of our students, see their excitement as they solve problems creatively, and observe the sportsmanship of our athletes, you will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of what makes this school so special.

Simsbury High School is a place unlike any other, and I am honored to serve its students, staff, and community as their principal.

Sincerely,



Maggie Seidel

Simsbury Public Schools ~ Vision of a 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



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



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



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



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



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 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
Simsbury Public Schools will engage all students in rigorous, dynamic, and relevant learning experiences, in alignment to the Simsbury Vision of the Graduate (VoG), in order to ensure student growth and achievement.
Simsbury High School’s Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain systems for the Capstone experience that fulfills VOG and graduation requirements. ● Identify struggling learners and develop targeted growth plans to address missed standards, using data to monitor progress and track improvement. ● Build staff capacity in the use of the VOG rubrics for assessing attributes within each of the six competencies. ● Build staff capacity on classroom engagement strategies. ● Provide social-emotional learning strategies to teachers for lesson incorporation.
Performance Indicators (As measured by...)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vision of A Graduate - Capstone competency ● SAT School Day - Grade 11 ● Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) - Grade 11 (Level 3 or better) ● Advanced Placement results ● Grade Point Average (GPA) - Grade 12 ● College enrollment and graduation

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

SAT School Day Expectations
<p>By June 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 70% of students receiving 530 or better in math. ● 86% of students receiving 480 or better in critical reading and writing. ● 80% of students earning 1010 or better as a composite score.
SAT School Day Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 60% of students received a 530 or better in math. ● 86% of students received a 480 or better in critical reading and writing. ● 76% of students received a 1010 or better as a composite score.
SAT School Day Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSAT on October 9th will be given and an evaluation of the performance will be assessed for grades 9, 10, and 11. ● Meeting with Department Supervisors to review data and create action plans for

<p>addressing specific areas of growth related to the subscores in both math and reading/writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer SAT Prep class for students through the College Planning Partnership. • Provide professional development for teachers through the College Planning Partnership. • Host an evening session for students and families to introduce the SAT prep resources available through College Board. • Increase knowledge and skill for all teachers around high leverage strategies to promote active learning. • Incorporate similar question styles into the curriculum to enhance familiarity and awareness of different question types.
<p>Science Expectations</p>
<p>By June 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% will score at/above the proficiency standard (Level 3) on the Next Generation Science Standards test.
<p>Science Results</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87% scored at or above goal on the NGSS testing (2nd in the State of CT and 1st in the district reference group).
<p>Science Next Steps</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department Supervisor will review performance data of AP scores with teachers to improve instructional strategies. • Facilitate peer observations within or across departments, guided by the teacher team and their department supervisor, to focus on areas of growth such as assessment, instructional strategies, and curriculum development. • Review NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) data for freshmen students to determine a baseline, including areas of strength and weakness.
<p>Advanced Placement (AP) Expectations</p>
<p>By June 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of seniors successfully completing at least one AP course before graduation. • 87% AP students scoring 3 or higher on at least one exam.
<p>Advanced Placement (AP) Results</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63% of seniors completed at least one AP course before graduation. • 83% of students in grades 10-12 took an AP Test and scored a 3 or higher (794 scored a 3 or higher out of a total of 957 exams taken).
<p>Advanced Placement (AP) Next Steps</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer opportunities for students and families to learn about AP courses. • Engage in one-on-one conversations with students to motivate them to push their limits and take on new challenges. • Department Supervisors will review performance data of AP scores with teachers to improve instructional strategies and promote access to AP courses with their students.

Goal 2: Compassionate & 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.
Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensure all staff are provided ongoing training in the areas of cultural diversity and competency, safety and mental health needs.● Continue to provide the SHS community and students with educational experiences around race and diversity.● Identify, create, and refine structures in order to increase a sense of belonging, value and contribution to a positive school community (SHS Connect, Trojan Code, etc.).● Enact, evaluate and refine identified safety protocols consistently across the school.● Require all staff to develop a goal to enhance home-school communication.● Re-establish norms for student behavior and expectations.● Provide Social-Emotional Instructional Strategies to staff.● Continue mindfulness practices and hospitality events.
Performance Indicators (as measured by...)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vision of a Graduate rubrics● Stakeholder survey results● Attendance, intervention and discipline data● Safety and security survey● Capstone achievement● <i>Say Something</i> submissions

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

Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) Expectations
<p>By June 2024:</p> <p>Student Favorable Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive climate >50% ● Safety >70% <p>Family Favorable Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive climate > 60% ● Safety > 70% ● School support for my child > 70%
Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) Results
<p>Student Favorable Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 65% of students reported favorable results (Strongly agree / Agree) to feeling a sense of belonging at school. ● 78% of students reported favorable results (Strongly agree / Agree) to feeling safe at school. ● 60% of students reported favorable results (Strongly agree / Agree) to feelings that all students are supported by school staff. ● 64% of students reported favorable results (Strongly agree / Agree) to being able to ask an adult for help if they have a problem.
Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase opportunities for students to participate in school spirit activities. ● Determine the cultural group celebrations that students and families want to be celebrated within the school community. ● Get to know the stories of our students to build relationships and improve school safety. ● Monitor bathroom behaviors for cleanliness and safe behavior.

Goal 3: 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.
Strategic Action Steps
Premier Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Achieve and preserve a culture of quality, equity, support and responsiveness for all SPS employees.● Promote professional development opportunities for all employees that are meaningful and relevant in moving the school forward.● Participate in PLCs/Professional Development/Peer Visits.● Ensure teachers meet or exceed the Simsbury Public School’s teaching standards.● Provide opportunities for teachers to reflect on their teaching practices.● Collaborate with Human Resources in recruiting teachers, surveying staff, and planning for professional development.
Performance Indicators (as measured by...)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Professional development feedback forms● Professional Learning Communities (PLC) survey data results (even school years)● Employee survey data● Employee retention data

Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) by June 2024 Expectations
<p>By June 2024:</p> <p>Staff & Teachers Favorable Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-Being > 70% • Belonging > 70%
Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% of staff responded favorably to feelings of engagement with department colleagues. • 77% of staff responded favorably to feelings of connection to the school community. • 77% of staff responded favorably to feelings that the school community respects them. • 80% of staff responded favorably to feelings that the school is a good fit for them as an individual.
Climate Survey (Panorama or similar measure) Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve clarity on expectations and accountability for all staff members as part of the greater school community. • Improved visibility by administration throughout the day to support teachers. • Refocus professional learning on the analysis of student work and common assessments.

Outstanding Accomplishments

2023-2024

US News & World Report Rankings: SHS ranked 7th among Connecticut schools and 533rd nationally.

Science: SHS ranked 2nd in the State of Connecticut on the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment.

Project Lead the Way: SHS was named a PLTW Distinguished School for 2023–2024.

AP Scholars:

- 69 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award
- 31 students qualified for the AP Scholar of Distinction
- 8 students earned the Capstone Diploma

Athletics/Competitions:

- 5 division championships (Girls Golf, Boys Golf, Boys Soccer, Boys Hockey, and Wrestling)
- 3 Conference Championships (Girls Soccer, Boys Hockey, and Boys Volleyball)
- 2 Top 4 finishes in the State Tournament (Boys Hockey and Boys Lacrosse)
- 1 State Championship Runner Up (Girls Lacrosse)
- 4 State Championships (Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball, Girls Rugby, and Boys Volleyball)
- 11 different teams won division, conference, or state championships

National Merit Scholars: 3 students earned the recognition of being named a National Merit Semifinalist.

National Honor Society: 89 students inducted into the Massaco Chapter.

Technology & Engineering:

- Architecture students won 1st and 3rd in the 75th Connecticut Home and Remodeling Show's Student Home Design Competition.
- Culinary Arts Students competed for the first time in the 2024 CT. ProStart Invitational in Hartford and placed 3rd & 4th.
- 21 DECA Students competed in the DECA state conference in CT, placing 1st in Financial Literacy & Business Administration; 2nd in School Store Sales, and 3rd in Integrated Marketing Campaign and Sports Marketing, qualifying for Nationals.

Math Competition: 1st place for the second year in a row in the New England Math League.

Music & Performing Arts:

- 21 Students in Northern Regionals
- 11 students in All-State
- 2nd place in the Hartford Symphony Young Artists' Competition
- 2 students selected for the CMEA Composition and Songwriting Gallery
- Gospel Choir sang and presented at the ACDA Eastern Division Conference in Providence
- 2024 Best Communities for Music Education distinction by NAMM
- 2 Halo Awards for Peter and the *Starcatcher*: Best Contemporary Play and Best Actress in an Ensemble Production

Art:

- 1 State Congressional Art Awards winner; whose piece is currently being exhibited in the office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
- 13 State Awards received at the Connecticut Scholastic Art Competition
- 1 National Award winner at the Scholastic Art Competition in the category of Film & Animation

World Language:

- 3 state medalists in the CT Colt Poetry recitation
- 27 students graduate with the Seal of Biliteracy distinction
- 31 Award winners in the National Latin Exam Recipients
- Silver medalist in Latin 1 for the CT State Colt Poetry Contest
- French, Chinese, Latin, and Spanish National Honor Society
- 51 Students inducted into the National Honor Society; Chinese (8); French (8); Spanish (35)

Capstone: 302 students successfully presented Capstone projects.