

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2009-10

Elementary School K-6 Edition

Aiken School**West Hartford School District**

KATHY ROTCHFORD-MCKAY, Principal
Telephone: (860) 233-6994

Location: 212 King Philip Drive
West Hartford,
Connecticut

Website: www.whps.org/school/aiken/homepage.htm

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 or testing services. Profiles and additional education data, including longitudinal data, are available on the internet at www.sde.ct.gov.

TYPE OF SCHOOL

School Type: Traditional/Regular Education
School Grade Range: PK - 5

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment on October 1, 2009: 459
5-Year Enrollment Change: 10.9%

INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

Need Indicator	Number in School	Percent in School	Elementary Schools	
			% in District	% in State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	27	5.9	15.9	36.7
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	45	10.5	9.5	7.4
Students with Disabilities	45	9.8	10.4	10.9
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented	36	7.8	5.2	2.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	72	96.0	89.6	80.5
Students in Grades Above School's Entry Grade Who Attended Same School the Previous Year	344	96.9	93.7	91.6

PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTION

Instructional Time	School	State Elementary Schools
Total Days per Year	183	181
Total Hours per Year	983	992

State law requires that at least 180 days of school be offered to students in kindergarten through Grade 12, 900 hours of instruction to Grades 1-12 and full-day kindergarten, and 450 hours to half-day kindergarten students.

Type of Kindergarten: This school offers full-day kindergarten.

Average Class Size	School	District	State
Kindergarten	18.8	19.8	18.5
Grade 2	23.0	20.3	19.7
Grade 5	25.7	21.0	21.1

Required Hours of Instruction Per Year in Selected Subject Areas		
Grade 5	School	State
Art	36	31
Computer Education	0	18
English Language Arts	422	422
Family and Consumer Science	0	1
Health	32	22
Library Media Skills	18	19
Mathematics	200	199
Music	36	33
Physical Education	54	41
Science	75	97
Social Studies	74	88
Technology Education	0	2
World Languages	36	14

World Language

Formal instruction (at least 1 hour per week) in Spanish starts in Grade K in this school. Statewide, 6.2% of elementary and middle schools that serve Grade K start world language instruction by this grade.

Lunch

An average of 30 minutes is provided for lunch during full school days.

Special Programs	School	Elementary Schools	
		District	State
% of K-12 Students in Bilingual Education Program or Receiving English as a Second Language Services	10.2	9.5	7.4
% of Identified Gifted and/or Talented Students Who Received Services	100.0	100.0	76.7
% of Special Education Students Attending This School Who Spent Over 79% of Their Time with Their Non-Disabled Peers	91.1	75.7	80.9

LIBRARY AND COMPUTERS

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

Instructional Computers and Library Materials	School	Elementary Schools	
		District	State
# of Students Per Computer	3.6	2.9	3.2
% of Computers with Internet Access	100.0	100.0	99.1
% of Computers that are High or Moderate Power	100.0	98.6	89.9
# of Print Volumes Per Student*	43.1	35.7	28.9
# of Print Periodical Subscriptions	20	22	12

*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.

SCHOOL STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of School Staff	
General Education: Teachers and Instructors	28.80
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	2.50
Special Education: Teachers and Instructors	3.30
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	6.00
Library/Media Specialists and/or Assistants	1.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	1.00
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	1.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	1.40
School Nurses	1.00
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	8.00

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

Teachers and Instructors	School	Elementary Schools	
		District	State
Average Number of Years of Experience in Education	12.0	12.0	13.6
% with Master's Degree or Above	74.4	80.1	79.9
Attendance, 2008-09: Average # of Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	7.3	7.1	8.2
% Assigned to Same School the Previous Year	74.4	82.8	86.9

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Teacher E-Mail Addresses: All teachers at this school have been issued e-mail addresses.

Online Homework Information: A portion of the school website is devoted to homepages.

The following narrative about how this school promotes and supports parental involvement was submitted by this school.

Aiken Elementary School values and promotes family involvement in the education of our students. During our Open House and Curriculum Night presentations, parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the Aiken community, including participation in the PTO and volunteering in classrooms. A volunteer orientation is held in September to orient new parents to the volunteering process. During this past year, our volunteers were recognized through a special recognition breakfast in the spring. Teachers communicate regularly with families regarding students' progress within the curriculum, through newsletters, e-mails, notes and phone calls. In addition, teachers meet with parents in conferences to review progress in report cards in November and March. Teachers provide detailed information regarding homework, school curriculum themes, projects and events that occur at each grade level. This information is also highlighted on our school website. Our school newsletter is also available for families on the website and a PTO webpage has been created so that PTO and school information can be shared. During the next school year we will continue to develop techniques for making our website more user friendly. A presentation on CMT results occurs in the fall for parents of students in third, fourth and fifth grades. In February, an overview of the CMT is provided for parents of third graders. During the 2009-2010 school year, parents, teachers and students continued to beautify the Aiken Nature Trail and plant gardens for Aiken Acres, our school outdoor educational environment. A concert to celebrate our gardens was held in June for Aiken families. Parents and community volunteers also serve as mentors and tutors at Aiken School. Aiken has significantly increased the number of people who are serving as mentors to students during this past year. This year, our PTO supported presenters from the Hartford Stage Company for fourth grade and a musical artist in residence to support the study of Mexico in kindergarten.

SCHOOL DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	3	0.7
Asian American	97	21.1
Black	38	8.3
Hispanic	23	5.0
White	298	64.9
Total Minority	161	35.1

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 4.3%

Non-English Home Language :

22.6% of this school's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is not the primary language. The number of non-English home languages is 18.

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.

Aiken School has continued to initiate a number of community service projects and school-based activities during this school year as a way of reaching out to other members of the Aiken, West Hartford and international communities. In October, as part of a Make a Difference Day initiative, students collected non-perishable food items to support the West Hartford Food Pantry, Foodshare and Jewish Family Services. In December, a coat and toy drive was conducted to benefit the Burgdoff Adult and Pediatric Center in Hartford. In January, our school hosted guest teachers from the Shandong Province of China. The teachers visited classrooms and spoke with students. One of our Aiken parents and a fifth grade student served as translators during the visit. Aiken students had the opportunity to learn about the school programs in China and share some of the programs happening at Aiken School. During two weeks in February, Aiken School teamed with Webster Hill and Norfeldt Schools to raise money for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The fund drive, entitled "Hearts Across West Hartford for Haiti," raised over \$10,000 for the earthquake victims. Aiken students focused on reading and collected pledges for each page of reading that was completed. Students graphed the pages read and the money collected. The fundraiser culminated with a program at the Town Hall. In April our Student Council conducted a can and plastic bottle drive to encourage conservation and to raise money to beautify our Aiken Acres gardens. The second annual Aiken International Night was held in February as a way of celebrating the rich diversity of the Aiken community. This multi-cultural family-oriented event focused on learning about customs, heritage and cultures through the sharing of informational displays, ethnic foods and music and dance performances.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOR

Physical Fitness: % Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests*	School	District	State	% of Schools in State with Equal or Lower Percent Reaching Standard
Grade 4	85.0	65.6	50.3	96.9
Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Includes tests for flexibility, abdominal strength and endurance, upper-body strength and aerobic endurance.

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	School	District	State	% of Schools in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Grade 3 Reading	78.3	70.9	57.0	87.1
Writing	76.1	71.4	58.3	82.5
Mathematics	75.7	75.4	62.4	71.0
Grade 4 Reading	71.7	68.6	59.9	68.3
Writing	82.0	74.7	63.6	84.0
Mathematics	93.3	77.6	67.0	95.8
Grade 5 Reading	82.2	76.0	61.8	85.9
Writing	85.7	80.2	68.2	84.2
Mathematics	86.3	85.4	72.4	76.2
Science	76.6	70.7	59.4	77.3
Grade 6 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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.

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

Student Attendance	School	District Elementary Sch.	State Elementary Sch.
% Present on October 1	98.9	97.8	96.5

Disciplinary Offenses

Disciplinary offenses committed by students include all serious offenses, offenses involving drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, and all incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion. In the 2008-09 school year, 3 students were responsible for these incidents. These students represent 0.7% of the estimated number of students who attended this school at some point during the 2008-09 school year.

Number of Incidents by Disciplinary Offense Category, 2008-09		
Offense Category	Location of Incident	
	School	Other Location
Violent Crimes Against Persons	0	0
Sexually Related Behavior	0	0
Personally Threatening Behavior	1	0
Theft	0	0
Physical/Verbal Confrontation	0	0
Fighting/Battery	5	0
Property Damage	0	0
Weapons	0	0
Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco	0	0
School Policy Violations	2	0
Total	8	0

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this school.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Aiken teachers and staff have worked on implementing Scientifically Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) with the goal of increasing student mastery of curriculum objectives in reading and decreasing referrals to special education. Teachers developed consistent, effective Tier One interventions at each grade level, with a focus on kindergarten and first grade students. Specific programs were utilized to build early literacy skills (Zoo Phonics and Foundations). Individual student intervention plans were designed to set short term learning objectives and carefully monitor student progress. One teacher at each grade level piloted Universal Assessments to screen students and monitor progress throughout the year. Our classroom teachers, reading specialist, early intervention teacher and special education teacher regularly collaborated on students of concern and provided intensive individual intervention to ensure mastery of objectives. Teachers have worked collaboratively in their grade level teams to review student assessment data, design units of instruction, create common formative assessments and analyze student work to inform daily instruction. As a result, students have made significant progress over the school year on district assessments and in the development of literacy skills. This will continue to be an area of focus for next year as we generalize Universal Assessments with all teachers and design more focused Professional Team Planning at each grade level. Parent involvement and collaboration continues to be an integral component to the success of Aiken School community. Parents volunteer at all grade levels and in a variety of activities to support the larger Aiken community. Parents are encouraged to share their ideas and feedback on school programs and initiatives as we explore the development of a Parent/Teacher Council in the next school year.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

The space below was optionally used by this school to describe aspects of the school not presented elsewhere in the profile.

During this year Aiken School has continued to emphasize the qualities of caring, respect and responsibility through developing the leadership competencies of our students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through our Safety Patrol and Student Council, our older students have been able to serve as role models and mentors for younger students. Our Student Council members in grades two through five sponsor spirit days and fund raisers to help give back to West Hartford and adjacent communities. Students have assisted in classrooms and created a safe and orderly dismissal routine at the close of each school day. Utilization of the Second Step Program and Steps to Respect has assisted in addressing and decreasing incidents of bullying at school. Students are recognized for exemplary achievement in academic and social character traits through weekly Principal Sharing presentations and in having their names placed on a central bulletin board that recognizes students' acts of kindness. During this past year, our students worked with teachers to continue recycling and implement energy saving strategies. Aiken students demonstrate outreach to the larger community through collections for the local food pantry, fund raising for victims of the Haitian earthquake and participating in a book drive for a sister school in an urban community. This year, students also developed in-school service projects called "bucket filling" as a way to assist staff members and build a greater sense of community and responsibility. The Aiken Gardens and Nature Trail continue to flourish under the direction of dedicated teachers, parents and students who have spent time weeding, planting, raking and watering throughout the school year and into the summer. Our gardens are meaningfully linked to the study of curriculum units in science and social studies. A fall and spring clean-up and concert are scheduled each year to celebrate the work of our volunteers. In addition, the Aiken community celebrates and recognizes the work of our volunteers through an annual volunteer breakfast.
