State of the District:
Virtual Town Hall for HPS Families

Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez
May 31, 2022
Agenda

- Progress Towards Our Major Goals
- Health & Safety Update
- Looking Ahead to Next School Year
- Audience Q&A
Q&A Instructions

Questions submitted prior to the meeting will be answered throughout the presentation.

QUESTIONS IN YOUTUBE CHAT

Please use the link to our YouTube stream at hartfordschools.org/TownHall to ask questions in our YouTube Chat window.
Our 2024 Major Goals

1. At least 48% of Grade 3 students meeting Reading Proficiency
2. Increase English Language Arts Average Percentage of Target Achieved to 73% or higher
3. At least 27% of Grade 8 students meeting Mathematics Proficiency
4. Increase Math Average Percentage of Target Achieved to 75% or higher
5. Increase Average 4 year Cohort Graduation Rate to 83% or higher
6. Reduce chronic absenteeism to 12% or lower
We’ve invested $8 million in academic programming to address interrupted learning caused by COVID-19.

We’re **getting students back on-track** through **High School Credit Recovery, Intersession** programming focused on Math and Literacy, & **High Dosage Tutoring**.

We’re **supporting new and different needs** through **Evening School, Saturday Academy, & Extended School Year Programs** for our special education students.

We’re **targeting critical developmental and transition periods** for students through **K-5 Early Start, Summer Bridge, & Middle School** summer programming.
COVID-19 continues to impact students’ ability to show up & participate in their learning

**2021-22 Average Daily Attendance (ADA) & Chronic Absenteeism (CA) by Month**

**Bright Spots**
- 3,998 Home Visits
- **Individualized/Tiered** Support Plans
- Incentives & School-wide Campaigns

**Attendance Challenges**
- Illness
- Sense of Connectedness and Belonging
- Calendar and Schedule Structures

**2022 First Day of School: 8/29**
District-Wide Approach to Reducing Chronic Absenteeism

- Strong **Data Systems & Structures** for Identifying Root Causes
- Focus on Whole-School **Wellness & Enrichment Supports**
- Organize **Incentives & Campaigns**
- Build City-Wide **Awareness & Partnerships**
- Consistent, Informative **Communications**

School-Level Tools & Supports For Re-Engaging Students

- **Programming** to meet student interests
  - *Expanded Athletics*
  - *Extracurriculars & Community-Based Organizations*
  - *Formal & Informal Mentorship*
  - *Student Incentives & Recognition*
- **Family Learning Sessions & Regular Communications**
- **Individualized Wellness & Behavior Support Plans**
- **Social-Emotional Support Training for Educators**

We’ve expanded wellness supports and enrichment opportunities to better engage students in their learning.
HPS has increased the graduation rate by 3.7% since 2020.

Cohort Graduation Rate Trends for Connecticut and Hartford Public Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>HPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2017</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2018</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2019</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2020</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2021</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10% more Multilingual Learners are graduating within 4 years.

Change in Graduation Rates by Student Group from 2017 - 2021
Health & Safety | Data Review

We remain committed to providing a safe environment for students & staff through our mitigation strategies.

**Mask Distribution**
- **124,000 masks** for PK-6 students
- **73,920 N95 masks** for Grade 7-12 students

**Test Kit Distribution**
- **9,259** test kits distributed since Jan. 1

**Vaccine Clinics**
- **28** on-site and **6** off-site student vaccination clinics
- **8** staff vaccination clinics

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**Monthly COVID–19 Cases**

![Graph showing monthly COVID-19 cases for students and staff from December 2021 to May 2022. The graph displays a decrease in reported cases from December 2021 to February 2022, followed by an increase in March 2022, and another decrease in April 2022. In May 2022, the number of reported cases remains low. The blue line represents students, and the red line represents staff.](image-url)
Hartford Public Schools Emergency Response

- Hartford Public Schools (HPS) submits an Emergency Response Manual to the State of Connecticut every year. This is an approximately 116-page manual that is updated and submitted yearly to the State. In summary, this manual includes the overall district safety plan. Additionally, each of our school buildings maintain a “red book” which is the school-level version of the District’s overall safety plan.

- HPS requires our schools to conduct full lockdown “code red” drills to fulfill our crisis drill requirement.

- Ongoing consultation with the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

- HPS is in compliance with the state submission requirements and has been in compliance on a yearly basis as confirmed by William Turley, Region 3 Coordinator, School Safety Program Lead, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Any questions concerning the Hartford Public Schools compliance with these requirements can be directed to him at email william.turley@ct.gov.

- Say Something Anonymous Reporting System launched in grades 6-12.
We are looking forward to safely gathering and meeting to celebrate our students.

Health & Safety | Visitor Protocol

Come See Your Student’s School!

Visitors must have an appointment or reason for their visit (event, assembly, showcase, etc)

1. Complete Health Screen Questionnaire before your visit or upon entry

2. Go to the Main Entrance & Complete the RAPTOR Safety Screening

3. While in the building, follow all health & safety protocols
School-based resources

Examples: Targeted group size reductions, Equity Innovation grants, school-based coaches, Community School services, recruitment & retention bonuses

Shared resources

Examples: Summer school, Evening school, MTSS data systems/training, re-engagement supports, school leader coaching/supports

Centralized resources

Examples: Central office capacity to implement initiatives (particularly in OTM and Finance) and to engage in continuous improvement cycles on planned investments
Work with local and state government to prioritize the needs of our students and schools as it related to our biggest expense areas: Teachers, Special Education, & Choice (magnet, out-of-district) Programs.

**Use State & Federal recovery funds to improve current and future conditions for students by:**

- Improving education & behavior supports for all students
- Scaling in-district programming for students with special needs
- Designing schools’ and programs to meet student interests
- Piloting new school-based roles and supports that provide immediate relief to schools and teachers

Provide school leaders with **flexible funding**, like the Equity Innovation Grant, to design and accelerate initiatives rooted in their community’s unique needs and focused on student recovery.
The District is ~90% staffed across all teacher & staff positions.
We’ve invested over $5 million in retention & recruitment initiatives

Passed six new contracts through collaboration with Union leaders to ensure all staff have fair, livable wages and safe working conditions.

End of Year Appreciation Bonuses ($2.25 million) & Returning Bonus ($2 million) for all employees in honor of their commitment to our students.

Increased Stipends for Mentor Teachers ($1 million) to develop first year and student teachers into high-quality educators.

More training and learning opportunities for teachers and administrators so they can expand upon their skillset and levels of expertise.

Reimagine new teacher and staff onboarding so they feel proud to work for Hartford Public Schools.

Increased Employee Referral Bonuses for certified and non-certified staff.

Learning Space Personalization ($450,000) to provide the materials to help students thrive in every classroom.
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1. High Quality Teaching and Learning

Implement and monitor Instructional Vision in service of the Portrait of a Graduate
Provide an academic system of support to ensure instruction, interventions, and enrichments meet the needs of all students (MTSS)
Increase high school and post-secondary transition supports.

2. Welcoming Culture and Nurturing Climate

Provide a social/emotional system of support, including interventions and enrichments, to meet the social, emotional, and physical needs of all students.
Increase the accessibility to, and effective use of, technology to enhance both teaching and learning.

3. Engaging Family & Community Partnerships

Expand and Improve ways to engage, communicate, and partner with families and the community
Develop real-world, authentic opportunities to extend learning.

4. Skillful Staff and Effective Operations

Improve employee recruitment, onboarding, development, leadership, and recognition
Enhance collaboration and teamwork to support innovation, collective inquiry, and continuous improvement
Ensure facilities are equitably safe, secure, well-maintained, and appealing to students, families and staff
Financial practices complement and fortify the strategic initiatives in alignment with the strategic plan
1. High Quality Teaching and Learning

Ensure all students access rigorous, culturally-responsive curriculum and instruction that is aligned to our Portrait of the Graduate.

Increase and improve systems of support for all students.

Prepare students to be on-track for high school, college, career, and life.

2. Welcoming Culture and Nurturing Climate

Develop robust systems and supports to promote student engagement within the community.

3. Engaging Family & Community Partnerships

Develop and strengthen partnerships with families and community agencies to support academic success and healthy development.

4. Skillful Staff and Effective Operations

Continually attract, hire, support, and retain the best educators, leaders, and staff.

Ensure long-term financial sustainability of HPS with resources aligned to priorities and strategies.
Get in Touch

We need your participation & collaboration to ensure all HPS students thrive!

General Inquiries and Support
Visit or call our Welcome Center, 860-695-8400
M-F: 8:00-4:00

Health Services Hotline, 860-695-8760

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Questions?

Thank You!