

Curriculum and Library Materials

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A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red border, set against a green background. The spiral binding is at the top, consisting of ten black rings. The text is centered on the page.

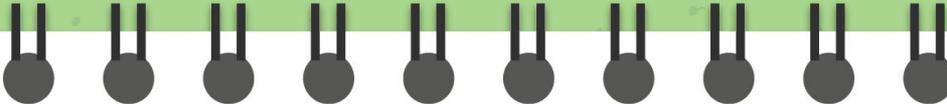
Agenda

Background

CSDE Connections

Policies

Questions



01

BACKGROUND

Review and explain connections
to the guiding principles of
the district.

Mission Statement

BOE Policy 0000 - Mission/Philosophy of Education

The mission of the Stafford Public Schools is to prepare our students to assume productive, meaningful, and responsible roles in an increasingly competitive global society.



Philosophy of Education

It is our obligation to support and challenge **all students and staff** to meet or exceed established standards of performance in a safe and secure environment.

- Assessment of all programs and instructional decisions will be based on research and data.
- An appreciation of self, work ethic, community, diversity, and citizenship is fundamental to the learning process.
- Creativity, joy in learning, and personal expression are essential to the development of a successful learner.
- Staff, families, and the **entire** community must work together to be accountable for the present and future success of the students in Stafford Public Schools.

Portrait of the Graduate



[Link for more information regarding the Portrait of the Graduate](#)

Communicator

Use interpersonal skills to learn and work with individuals from diverse backgrounds

Collaborator

Respect and accept diverse perspectives

Contributor

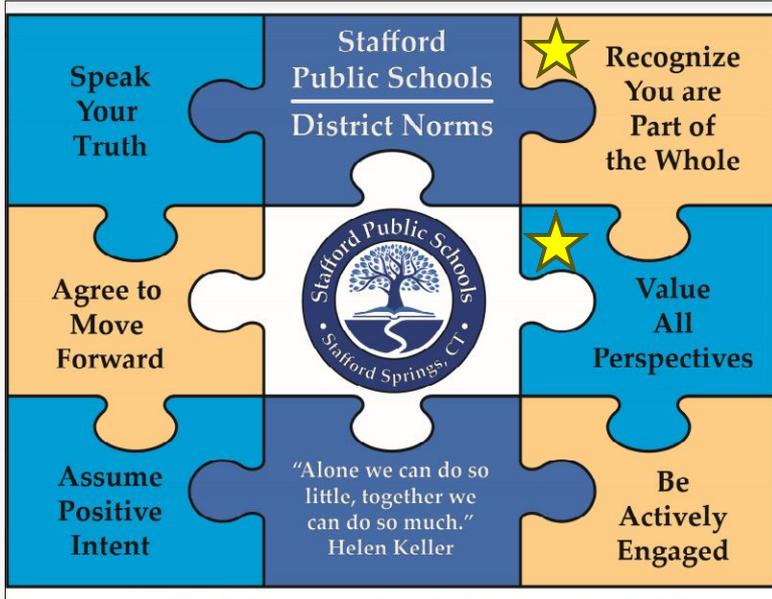
Work effectively with people from a range of social and cultural backgrounds

Creative Innovator

Apply knowledge to new contexts and across disciplines

Critical Thinker

Synthesize information from multiple viewpoints



Student Demographics 2021-2022

Asian	1.0% (14)
Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	8.4% (117)
Two or More Races	3.9% (54)
White	86.0% (1,192)
English Learners:	0.8% (11)
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible:	29.8% (410)
Students with Disabilities:	16.7% (235)



District Profile Report for 2020-21

Equity & Inclusion Committee

Steps Taken

Background and Roles of Coalition

- Review short-term action plan and goals
- Equity focused book reads

Forming the Core Beliefs

- Defining the values and beliefs of SPS for equity

Determining a District Equity Statement

- Defining the values and beliefs of SPS for promoting equity

Next Step

Completing an Initial Action Plan

Equity Statement

Stafford Public Schools embraces ***diversity*** as an asset. We recognize that everyone has different backgrounds, experiences, and interests and we forge an environment that promotes a sense of ***belonging***.

We cultivate ***inclusive*** opportunities for community members to share their ***identity*** and perspective in a safe, supportive environment.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a red border. The spiral binding is at the top, with ten black rings. The page contains a green circular arrow icon with the number '02' inside it, and the text 'CSDE CONNECTIONS' in red below it.

02

**CSDE
CONNECTIONS**

CSDE Connections

CSDE Link -

[CSDE Cultural Responsiveness Belief Statement](#)

School District Expectations (PreK-12)

- “Developing and implementing policies, procedures and curricula that assist teachers and administrators in creating learning environments of Culturally Responsive Education that affirm the students’ identity and their sense of belonging, and provide them access to learning and the opportunity to grow” (p.2).
- “Recognizing, respecting and upholding the dignity and worth of students as individual human beings, and therefore treating students justly and considerately” (p.2).



- “Nurturing in students lifelong respect and compassion for themselves and others regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender, social class, ability, religion, or sexual orientation” (p.2).
- “Providing safe and effective learning environments to discuss cultural identities, such as race, religion and national origin at all grade levels” (p.2).



CSDE Connections



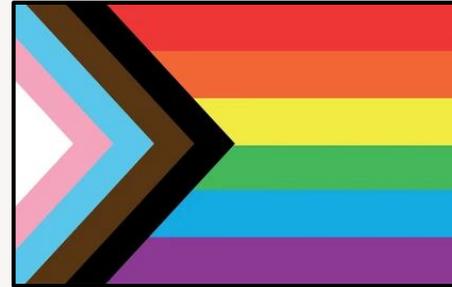
CSDE Link -

[Safe and Supportive Environments](#)



Per CSDE Guidelines for Connecticut Schools (p.5)

- “There is evidence that a school’s failure to recognize and support a child’s gender identity or expression **can result in significant harm to the child.**
- That harm has been the basis of several successful and pending lawsuits against schools and school districts across the country” (5 Doe v. Yunits, 2000 WL 33162199 (Mass. Super. Ct. 2000).
- “It is imperative that the school system, along with family and education professionals, **be supportive role models and strong advocates** for the safety and well-being of such children including ensuring full respect for the expression of the student’s gender identity”.



What Is the Progress Pride Flag?

- Red = Life
- Orange = Healing
- Yellow = New ideas
- Green = Prosperity
- Blue = Serenity
- Violet = Spirit
- Black/Brown = People of Color
- White/Blue/Pink = Trans community

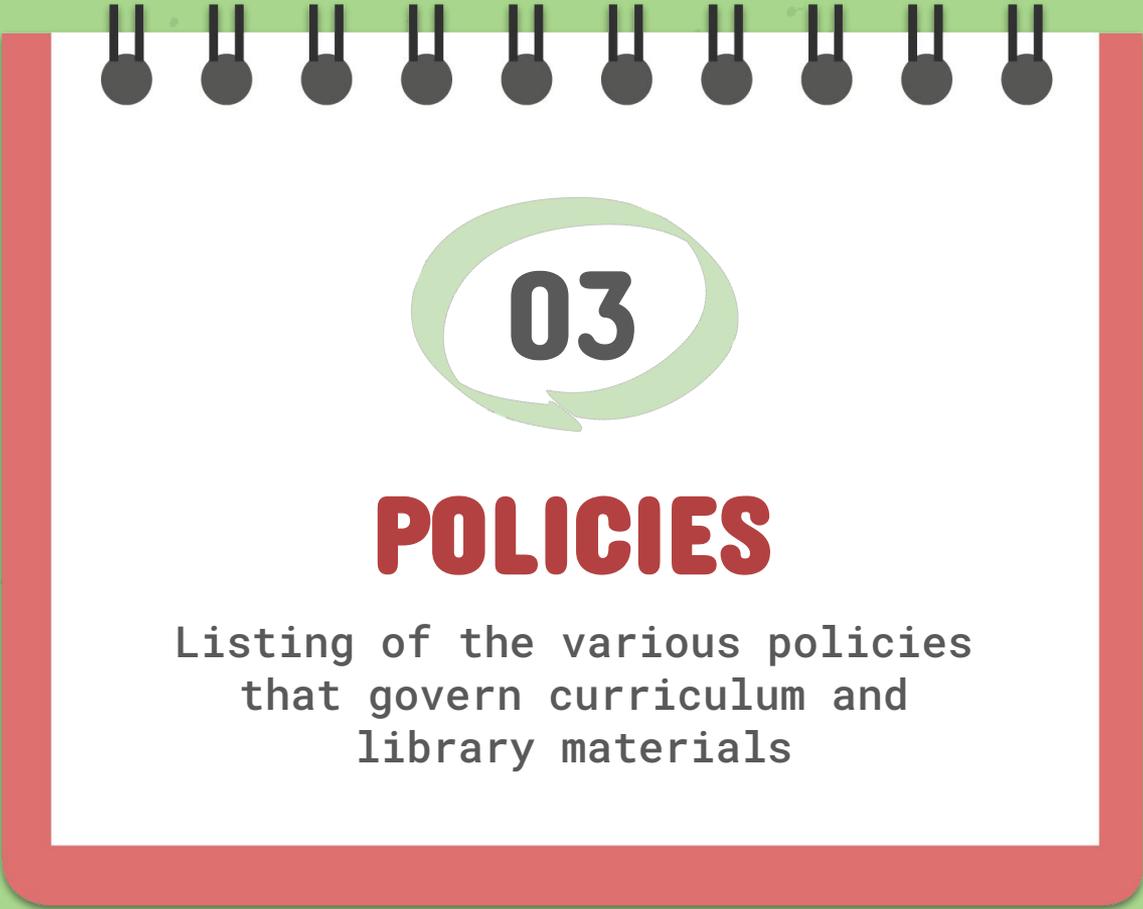
“We are trying to construct a more inclusive society. We are going to make a country in which no one is left out.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt
1882-1945

Agencies and Organizations for Support

- Anti-Defamation League
- Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO)
- The Office of the Child Advocate

Link - [SMS Tour](#)

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03

POLICIES

Listing of the various policies
that govern curriculum and
library materials

Policy 5145.4

Non-Discrimination

“It is the policy of the Board of Education that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited.”

Helpful Links

- [Policy 5145.4](#)
- [Administrative Regulations](#)
- [Discrimination / Harassment Form](#)



Policy 6144 Curricular Exceptions

Permits exemptions for instruction in the following areas:

- Dissection;
- Family Life Education;
- HIV/AIDS;
- Sexual Abuse and Assault and Prevention Program; or
- Firearms Safety Programs

Form to be submitted to building administration prior to the start of the unit of instruction so that an alternative assignment can be provided.

Helpful Links

- [Policy 6144](#)
- [Curricular Exemption Form](#)

Policy 6160 Educational Resources and Materials

- To provide a wide range of instructional materials and resources on varied levels of difficulty and appeal, to present different points of view and to provide procedures for reviewing instructional materials
- To provide complete education, materials presenting differing values, attitudes, and positions on issues should be made available to students in the schools.
- The availability of particular materials in the schools does not imply their approval for all students.

Link - [Policy 6160](#)

Policy 6160.1 **Parental Access to Instructional Materials**

- Parents or guardians shall be permitted access to instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
- "Instructional material" does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Link - [Policy 6160.1](#)

Policy 6161 **Criteria for Selection of Materials and Resources**

- Provide differing views of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.
- Be free of bias in terms of gender, race, religion, age, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.
- Complaint procedures included.
- Procedures for Review Committee included.

Link - [Policy 6161](#)

Policy 6163.1 Material Selection Process for School Libraries

- Materials will be selected without bias toward ethnicity, point of view, religion, or political affiliation/viewpoint.
- The collection will provide a balanced collection aligned with curriculum standards.
- Criterion for weeding library media is *The CREW Method; Expanded Guidelines for Collection, Evaluation, and Weeding for Small and Medium-Sized Libraries*.
- Library Media Center does not advocate particular beliefs or views. Selections are based on the mission of the library and will provide different viewpoints.



“Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while.”

Malorie Blackman

[Link](#)
[Policy 6163.1](#)



Thanks!

Questions?



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