

Board of Education Regular Meeting 2023

Thursday, October 5, 2023 7:00 PM

New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT., 33 Route 37,
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

III.A. September 21, 2023 - Regular

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - *The Board welcomes public participation. Pursuant to our Board Policy, public participation is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker and a total of no more than thirty (30) minutes total for the entire meeting. Individuals who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related subcommittee meetings where most of the board's groundwork is done. We value your input, but due to these time limitations, we ask you to be concise and to observe the rules of common courtesy. [9320(a) of Board Bylaws]*

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

VI.A. Chairman's Report

VI.B. Superintendent's Report

VI.C. Student Representatives' Report

VI.D. Committee Reports

VI.D.1. Curriculum

VI.D.2. Policy

VI.D.3. New Fairfield High School Start and End Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee

VI.E. Liaison Reports - none

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

VII.A. New Fairfield High School/Consolidated School Building Project Update

VII.B. 2023 Standardized Testing Results

VII.C. 2024-25 FY Budget Calendar

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

VIII.A. Personnel Report

VIII.B. District/Superintendent Goals

VIII.C. Board of Education Policies - Suspension of the Rules [referring to Policy 1330]

VIII.C.1. Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities

VIII.D. Ratification of the Agreement between the New Fairfield Board of Education and the New Fairfield Administrators' Association July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
(To be voted on after Executive Session)

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - *The Board welcomes public participation. Pursuant to our Board Policy, public participation is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker and a total of no more than thirty (30) minutes total for the entire meeting. Individuals who wish to speak longer are encouraged to attend any and all related subcommittee meetings where most of the board's groundwork is done. We value your input, but due to these time limitations, we ask you to be concise and to observe the rules of common courtesy. [9320(a) of Board Bylaws]*

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NFAA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

The New Fairfield Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

MINUTES – September 21, 2023

PRESENT: Dominic Cipollone (Chairman), Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone, and Stephanie Strazza

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw, Pupil Personnel Director Maria Kennedy, High School Principal James D’Amico, High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder, New Fairfield Middle School Principal Karen Gruetzner, Elementary School Principal Allyson Story, Elementary School Assistant Principal Dr. Jennifer Hilderbrand, Elementary Special Education Supervisor Alexandra Lambert, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco,

Video Production Coordinator Quintin Flower explained the procedures for the virtual meeting and noted that this virtual meeting is available to everyone, including members of the public.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dominic Cipollone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 17, 2023 - Regular meeting - approved by consensus

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Information/Action Item “Discussion of Town Solar Project.” Ed Sbordone seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

VI. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chairman’s Report - Dominic Cipollone reported on the following:

- Spoke of the wonderful Open House at the high school and thanked everyone involved.
- There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the high school on Saturday, September 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Tours of the school will be given afterwards.

B. Superintendent’s Report - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw

- Thanked everyone involved in getting the school year off to a great start.
- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the high school will be held this Saturday, Sept. 23rd at 10:00.

C. Student Representative Reports

Senior Representative Brennan Hearty noted that:

- College visits are coming up soon for high school students
- The Homecoming football game will be held on Friday, September 22nd.
- The PSATs will be held on Thursday, October 12th.

- Seniors will be attending Rebel Kick Start on October 12th.

D. Committee Reports

1. Business Operations/Resource Management - Greg Flanagan noted that this subcommittee met on September 21st and reviewed the following:

- Monthly summary of Budget vs. Actual for the current year.
- Reviewed surplus for the previous year. There is a surplus of approximately \$20,000. The Director of Business and Operations will be requesting it from the BOF.
- It was noted that the STEAM Room at Consolidated becomes very hot on warm days. There was a discussion of the possibility of installing air conditioners.
- First Selectman Pat Del Monaco attended the meeting along with the CEO of Greenleaf Energy Solutions and gave a presentation of a possible Solar project.

2. Policy - This subcommittee met on August 23rd and reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement between the State Police and New Fairfield Board of Education for the School Resource Officers. The subcommittee also reviewed the policy for nonresident students and three policies related to code of conduct.

3. Field Fees - Ed Sbordone noted that this subcommittee met on September 19th and discussed the field conditions for Rebel Field. It was noted that the condition of Rebel Field is getting progressively worse. There was a discussion of getting estimates for replacing the turf. The Field Fees Committee voted to increase the Field Fees and will present this to the Parks and Rec Commission on Oct. 16th.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Board of Finance - Ed Sbordone noted that the BOF met on September 20th and discussed the following:

- First Selectman Pat Del Monaco gave an update on the ARPA projects including the Sewer system design and permits which include the schools.
- The BOF Medical subcommittee met on September 14th. They reviewed claims for July 2023 which were lower than projected. This subcommittee will meet again on October 19th.
- There will be a special BOF meeting on Wednesday, October 11th to vote on a replacement member for the BOF due to the resignation of Kim Hanson. The replacement will serve until the November 2023 election.
- The next regular meeting of the BOF will be held on Wednesday, October 18th.

2. Parks and Recreation Committee - Kim LaTourette noted that the Parks and Rec Commission met on September 11th and discussed the following:

- New Fairfield Day will be held on October 14th. This is rescheduled from September 9th that was rained out.
- Trick or Treat Fest will be held on October 27th.
- The Turkey Run will be held on November 19th.
- Santa's Workshop will be held on November 25th.
- Town Engineer Tony Iadarola gave a presentation about a proposed Beach House for the Town Beach that will be funded through ARPA funds.

VII. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

A. Discussion of Town Solar Project

Dr. Craw spoke of the presentation regarding a solar project that could benefit both the Town buildings and the schools.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco gave a presentation of this project and noted that it can be financed through tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act and municipal loans. She noted that these panels could generate enough electricity for all the town buildings and schools. She spoke of the cash

flow for the project and noted that some geotechnical work up would be necessary with a cost of approximately \$15,000.

There was a brief discussion among the Board members. Kimberly LaTourette encouraged everyone to watch the subcommittee meeting of September 20th to see the presentation. There was a question of whether payments are refundable in the event that the site is not feasible. It was decided to put this for a vote on the next regular meeting agenda after more information is received.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. New Fairfield High School Building Project Update

High School Principal James D'Amico noted that the new high school building opened and that everything looks great. He noted that the project was on time and on budget.

B. District Goals 2023-2024

Dr. Craw spoke of District Goals for 2023-2024 including the four key areas of Teaching and Learning, Healthy Learning Environment, Strategic Planning and Resources to Support Learning. These goals will be voted on at the next regular BOE meeting.

C. Establishing the Conditions for a Successful School Year

High School Assistant Principal Scott Rohwedder and Elementary School Assistant Principal Dr. Jennifer Hilderbrand gave a presentation of the Action Plan for Chronic Absenteeism. They thanked Rob Spino, Mark Ottusch, Cheryl Milo and Paul Gouveia for their help with this project. There was a discussion of ways to increase attendance. Scott Rohwedder noted that 18 days or more per year is considered chronic absenteeism. He spoke of absentee data and compared it to data from before the pandemic.

Dr. Hilderbrand spoke of Technical and Adaptive challenges for absentee rates. Technical updates include automated letters and information sent to families. The adaptive updates include looking at the reasons why students are absent and interventions to make sure students are comfortable at school. There was a discussion of the responsibility of the parents to make sure students are in school every day. There was a suggestion of prizes and contests in order to increase attendance rates.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

MOTION: Kathy Baker made a motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Personnel Report for September 14, 2023, as recommended by the administration. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

B. Paraprofessional Leave of Absence Request - Executive Session

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eileen Hacaj spoke of absentee rates and noted that attitudes regarding whether to send a student to school have changed since the pandemic with families being more reluctant to send a student to school sick. She further spoke of concerns regarding contests and prizes for attendance as it may cause hurt feelings towards students that may have chronic illnesses.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - The Board will discuss the solar project site review, increase in field fees and the policy for nonresident students at the next meeting.

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kathy Baker noted that the committee will start looking at the Healthier Start Times again soon. Greg Flanagan noted that the Convocation was great and expressed excitement for the new school year. Ed Sbordone noted that the Healthier Start Time subcommittee will meet on October 5th at 6 p.m.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PARAPROFESSIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a paraprofessional leave of absence request and to invite Dr. Craw into the Executive Session. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. Stephanie Strazza seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

MOTION: Kimberly LaTourette made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Education the approval of Pamela McNally's request for an unpaid leave of absence beginning on September 22, 2023, with a return to work on November 7, 2023. Greg Flanagan seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dominic Cipollone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Kathy Baker seconded the motion. **IN FAVOR:** Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone and Stephanie Strazza

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos



Standardized Testing Report 2022-23 School Year

October 5, 2023



Standardized Testing Measures

- Advanced Placement (High School)
- School Day SAT (Grade 11)
- Next Generation Science Standards (Grades 5, 8, 11)
- Smarter Balanced Assessments (Grades 3-8)

Assessment Participation Rate Summary

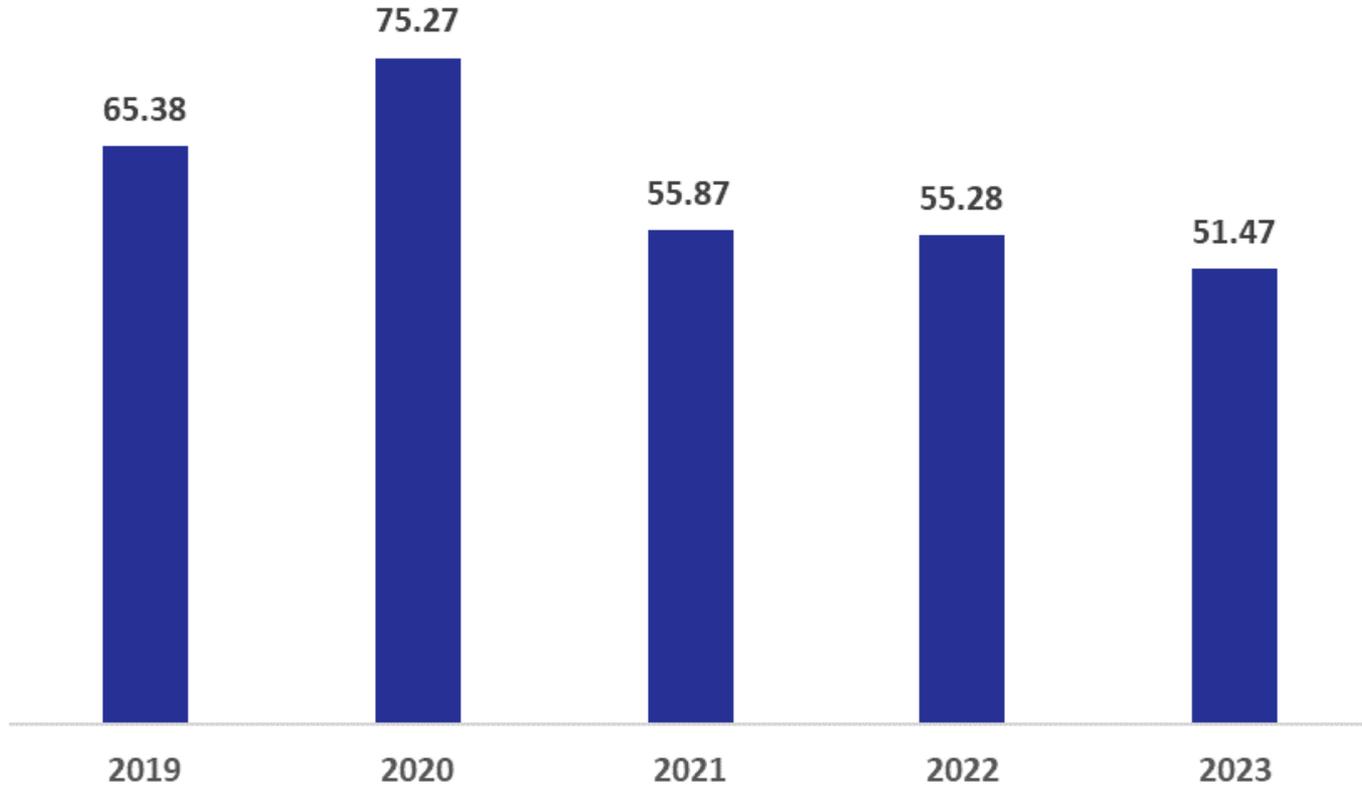
		2018		2019		2021		2022		2023	
		All Students	High Needs Students								
New Fairfield High School	CT SAT DAY			97.9%	92.9%	97.8%	91.9%	97.9%	95.1%	98.9%	96.1%
	NGSS (GR 11)			97.4%	88.1%	66.9%	67.6%	95.8%	88.1%	98.9%	98.0%
New Fairfield Middle School	SBAC-ELA	92.6%	86.7%	98.4%	96.8%	96.8%	98.4%	99.6%	99.3%	99.8%	99.4%
	SBAC-Math	91.3%	84.4%	98.0%	96.0%	96.4%	97.7%	99.4%	99.3%	99.8%	99.4%
	NGSS (GR 8)			98.1%	97.6%	97.2%	100%	97.8%	93.5%	99.4%	98.1%
Meeting House Hill School	SBAC-ELA	98.1%	95.5%	98.9%	97.6%	98.7%	98.7%	99.5%	99.4%	100.0%	100.0%
	SBAC-Math	98.3%	96.4%	98.7%	97.6%	98.5%	98.1%	99.5%	99.4%	99.3%	100.0%
	NGSS (GR 5)			98.8%	97.5%	99.4%	98.1%	98.7%	96.1%	98.8%	100.0%

Participation rate below 95%

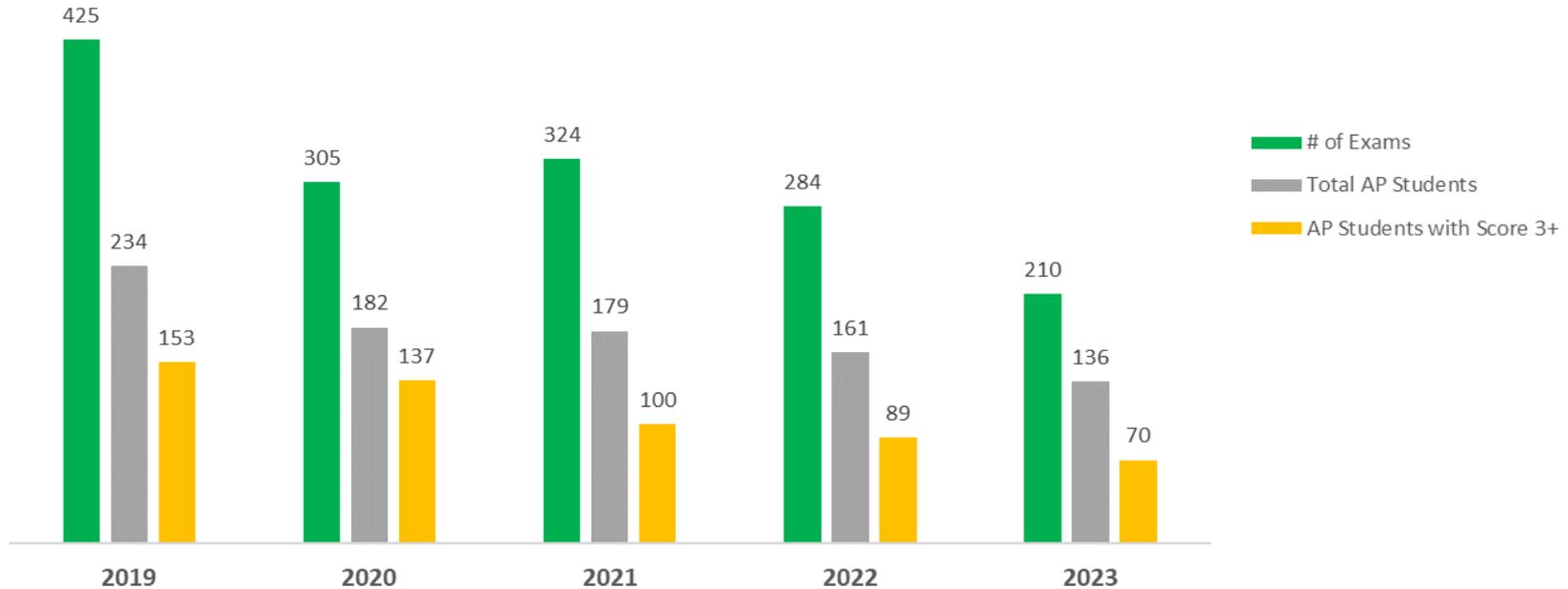


New Fairfield High School

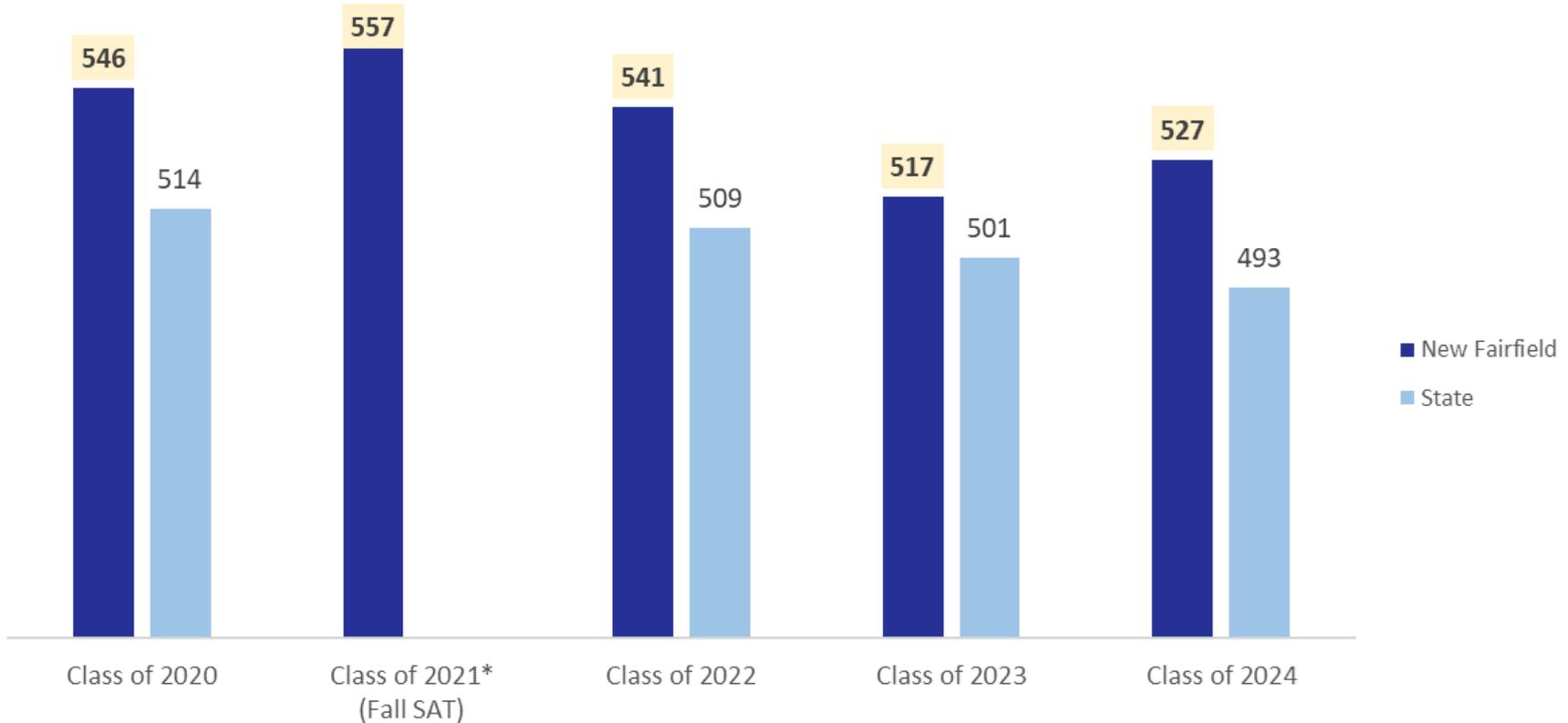
Percent of Total AP Students with Scores 3+



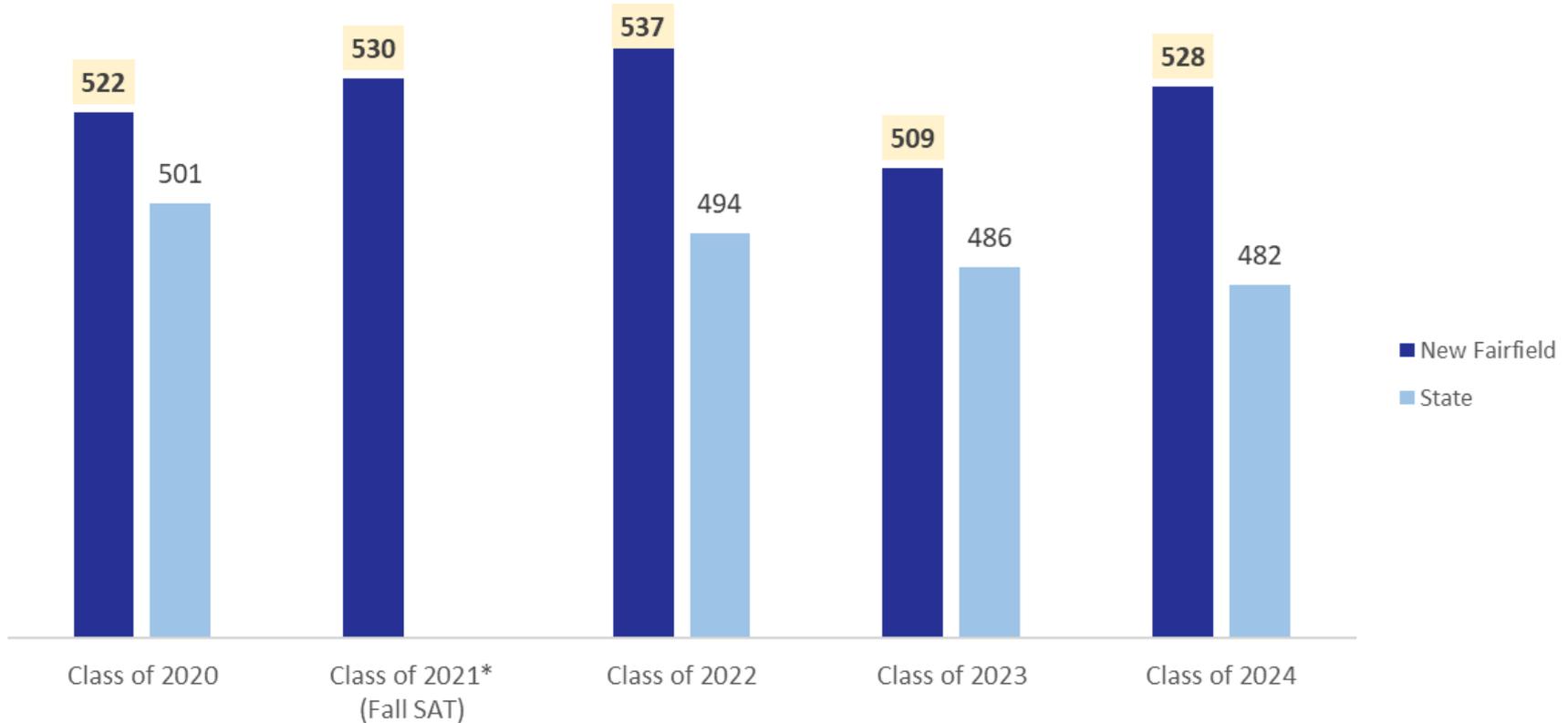
2018-2023 AP Exam Summary



ELA CT SAT School Day Average Score Trend

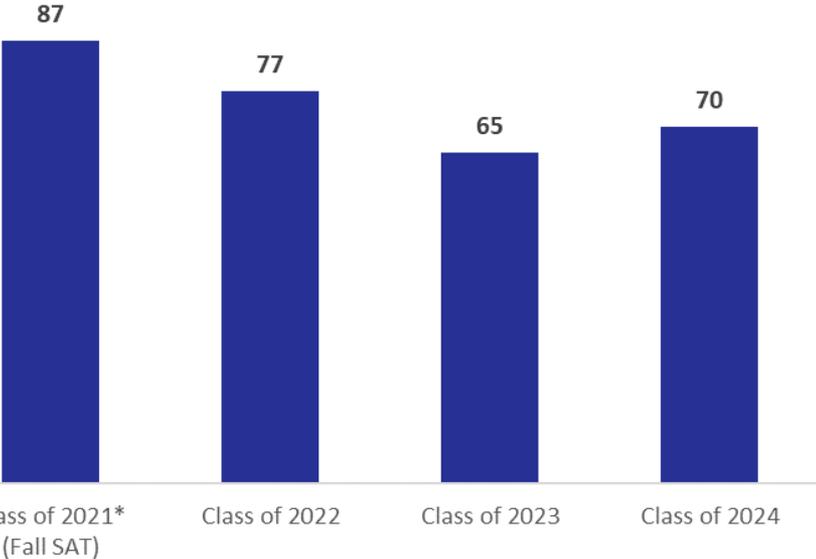


Math CT SAT School Day Average Score Trend

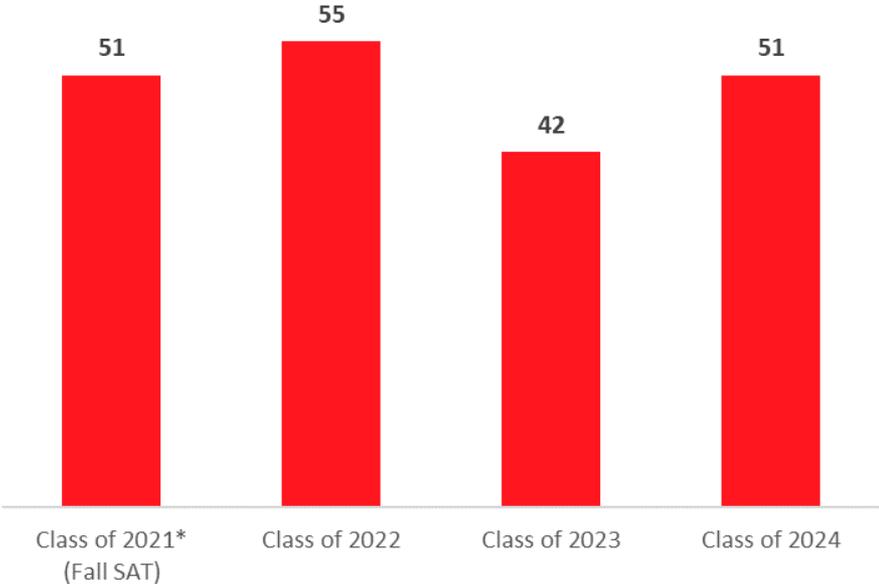


Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on CT SAT School Day

English Language Arts



Mathematics



District 2023 SAT School Day Performance Ranking in the State

New Fairfield Percent of Students at
or above Goal

Rank in the State

English Language Arts

70%

36/118

Mathematics

51%

32/120

New Fairfield Average Score

Rank in the State

English Language Arts

527

42/137

Mathematics

528

33/137

New SAT Overview

New Format

- Fully digital for all test takers
- 2 sections: Reading/Writing & Math
- More personalized college & career guidance
- Shorter testing time (~1 hour shorter)
- More direct and concise questions on both Math and Reading
- Adaptive testing- every test taker's exam can be different
- Score reports within days, not weeks
- Bluebook app- full-length, adaptive practice exams

Support for the New Format

- PSAT next week will be first experience with fully digital and adaptive test
- Coaches will utilize data from this PSAT to:
 - Identify strengths and areas for growth in curriculum and instruction
 - Utilize score report data in professional learning
- College & Career center will develop programming and student training on Bluebook app use

SAT Priorities / Action Plan

Combined Effort

- Focus on Juniors as top priority
- Use of Bluebook in classroom instruction
- Use REBEL Block time for interventions based on performance indicators
- Increase discrete review of test-taking strategies
- Home-grown “boot camp”

Reading & Writing

- Comprehension - Reading for College Readiness
- Words in Context
- Standard English Conventions
- Written Expression of Ideas

Math

- Laws of Exponents
- Curriculum gap identified
- Application of word problems
- Trigonometry

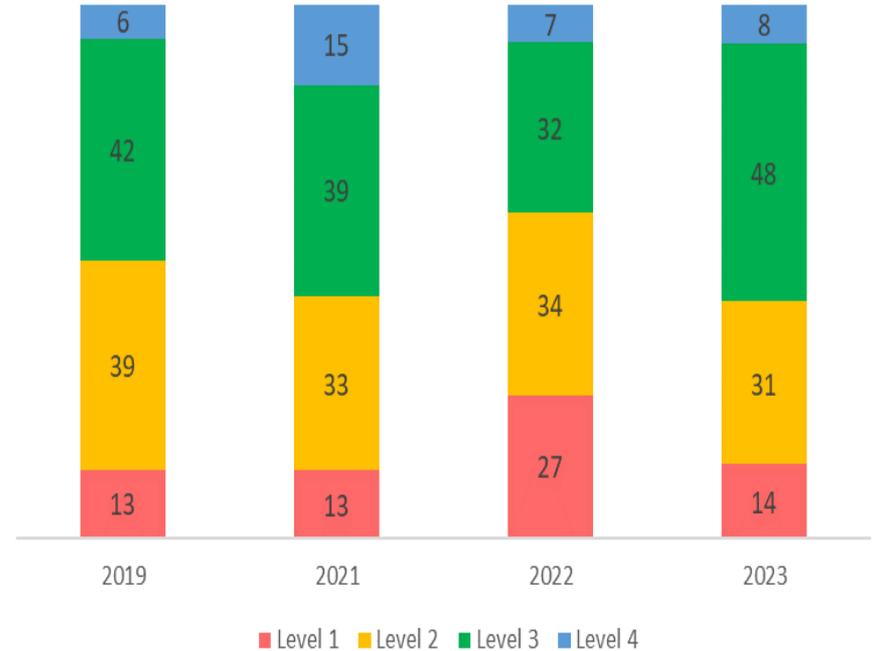
Science Grade 11 NGSS Summary

Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on NGSS

2019	2021	2022	2023
48	55	39	56

Rank in State by Percent Meeting or Exceeding

2019	2021	2022	2023
72/111	65/131	78/116	55/112



NGSS Priorities / Action Plan

SCIENCE

- **6-12 Science Coach developing action plan for NFMS & NFHS**
- **Complete writing a 6-12 NGSS-aligned and vertically articulated science curriculum.**
- **Improvement of assessment scores through the inclusion of common assessments throughout 6-12.**
- **Teachers will be supported through professional learning and classroom support.**
- **Expansion of experiential learning opportunities (lab work) for all students.**
- **Pilot of 9-11 use of InnerOrbit (October/November).**



New Fairfield Middle School
&
Meeting House Hill School

ELA - Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on SBA by Cohort

Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change from 2022 to 2023
3	76	73	63	N/A	55	52	61	
4	73	78	74	N/A	61	70	60	+8
5	76	76	79	N/A	59	74	73	+3
6	64	77	73	N/A	65	58	68	-6
7	73	77	77	N/A	75	70	56	-2
8	68	78	72	N/A	72	76	71	+1

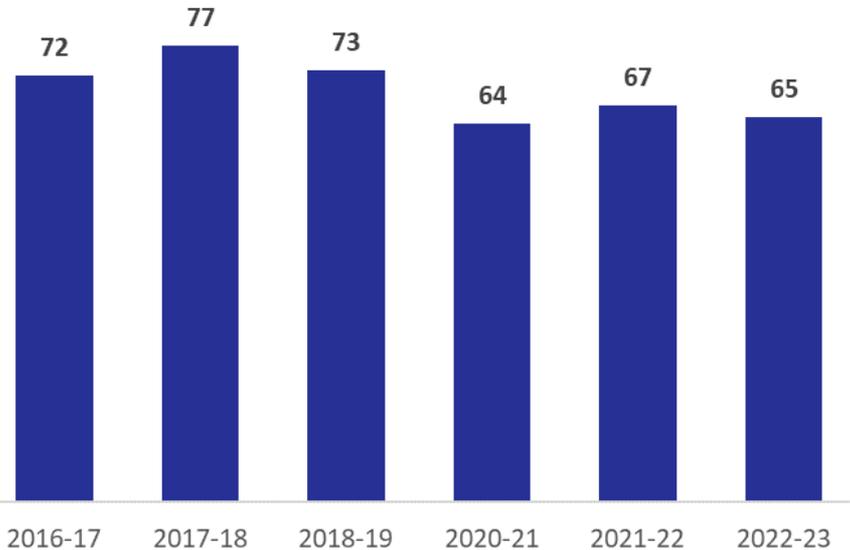
Math - Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on SBA by Cohort

Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change from 2022 to 2023
3	83	84	74	N/A	55	63	78	
4	70	75	69	N/A	58	66	73	+10
5	64	62	69	N/A	46	67	65	-1
6	59	69	66	N/A	54	57	66	-1
7	56	58	67	N/A	56	59	62	+5
8	56	71	59	N/A	47	67	60	+1

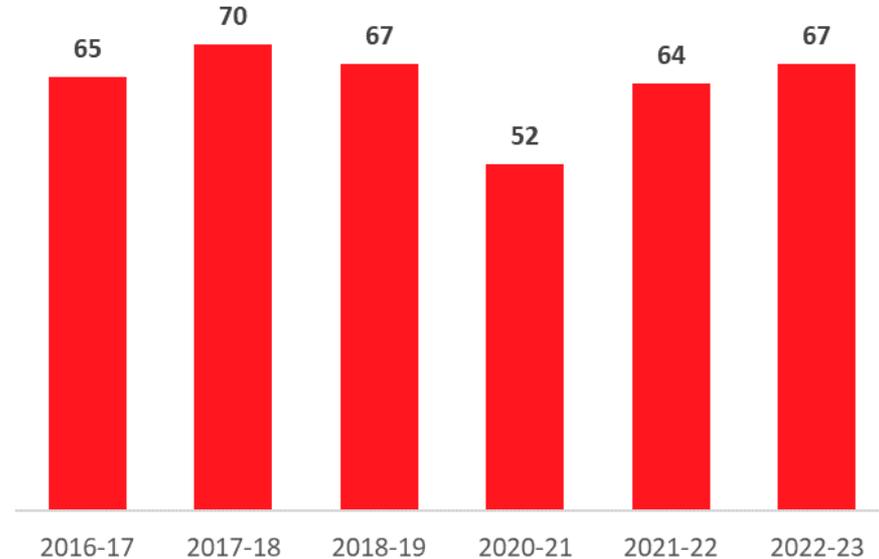
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on SBA Trend

Grade 3-8 Combined

English Language Arts



Mathematics



Rank in State by Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on SBA

English Language Arts

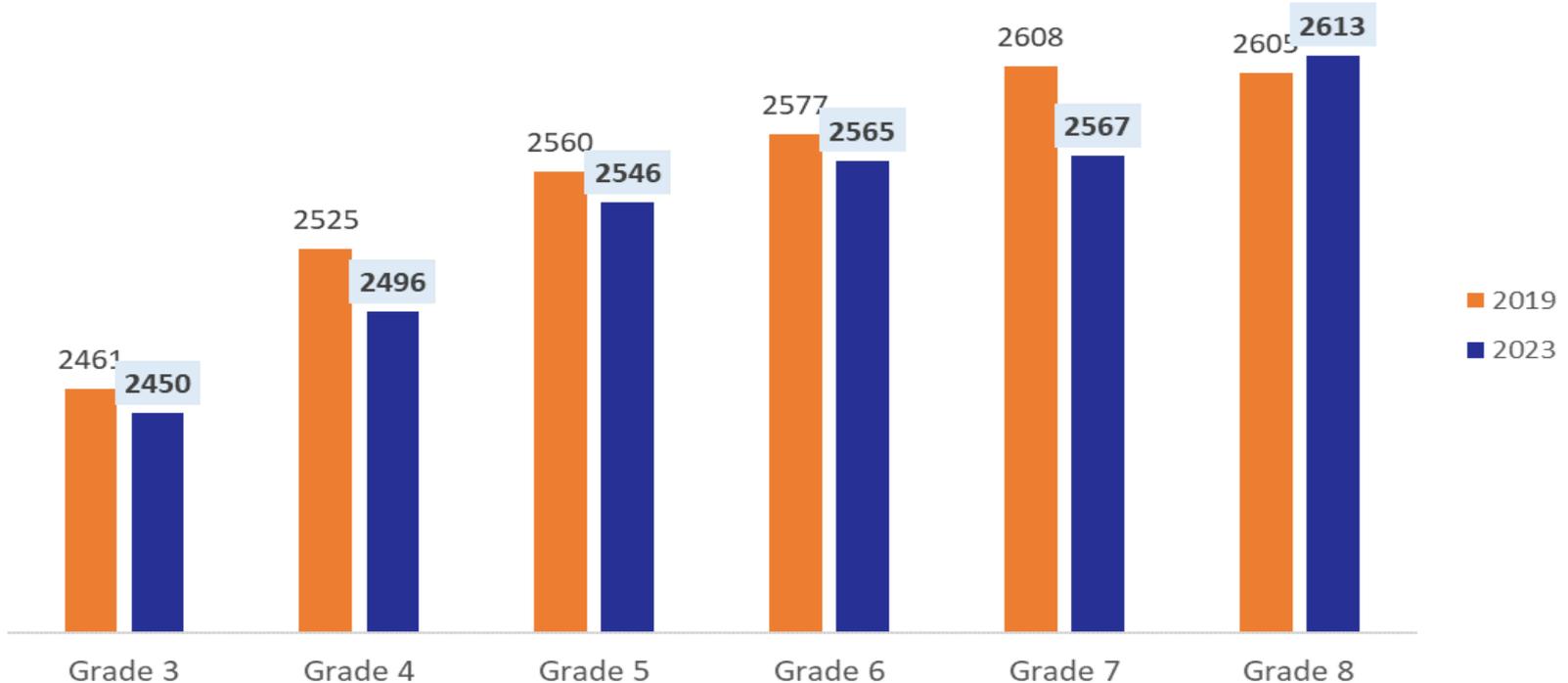
Grade	Rank in State
3	55/150
4	62/148
5	33/146
6	40/147
7	75/142
8	30/140
3-8 Combined	55/186

Mathematics

Grade	Rank in State
3	19/147
4	35/149
5	36/143
6	30/148
7	39/145
8	37/147
3-8 Combined	32/187

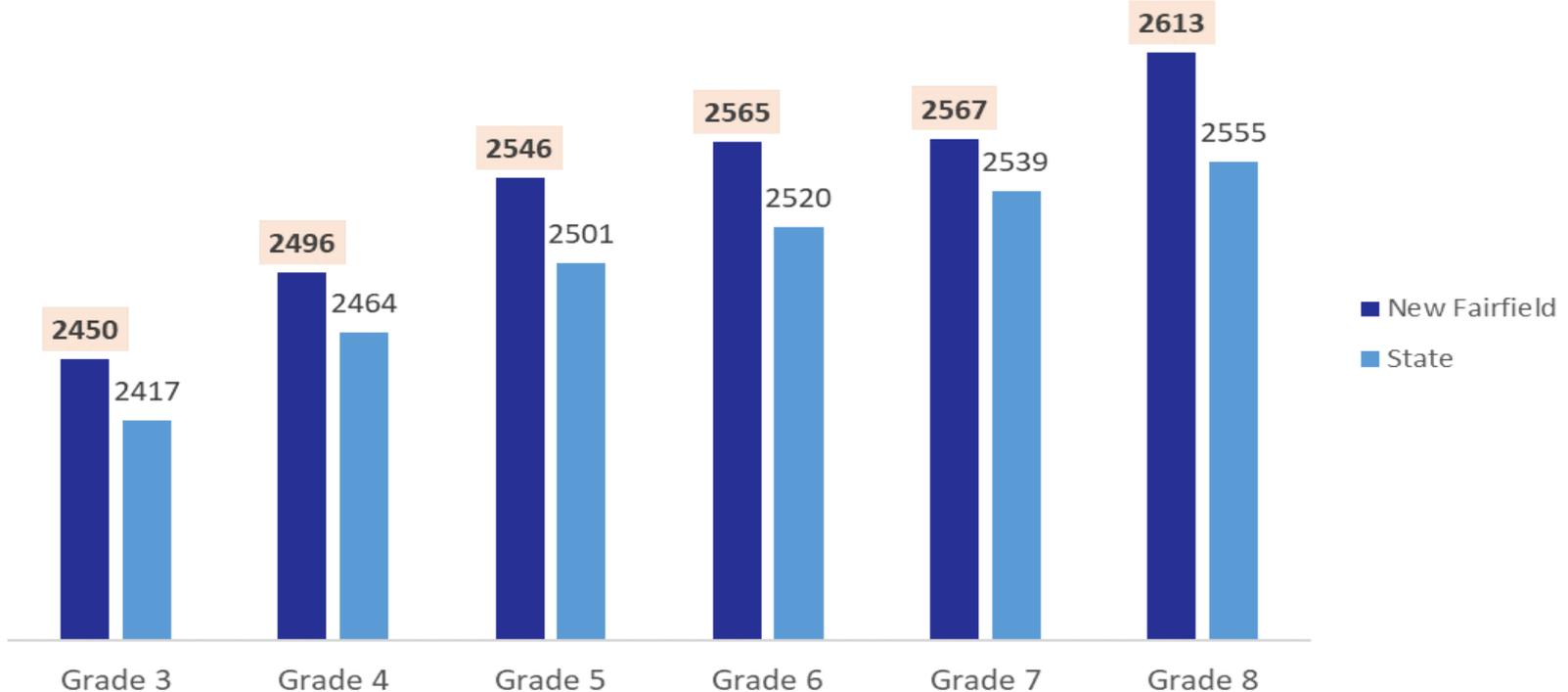
2023 SBA Average Scaled Score Compared to Pre-Pandemic

English Language Arts



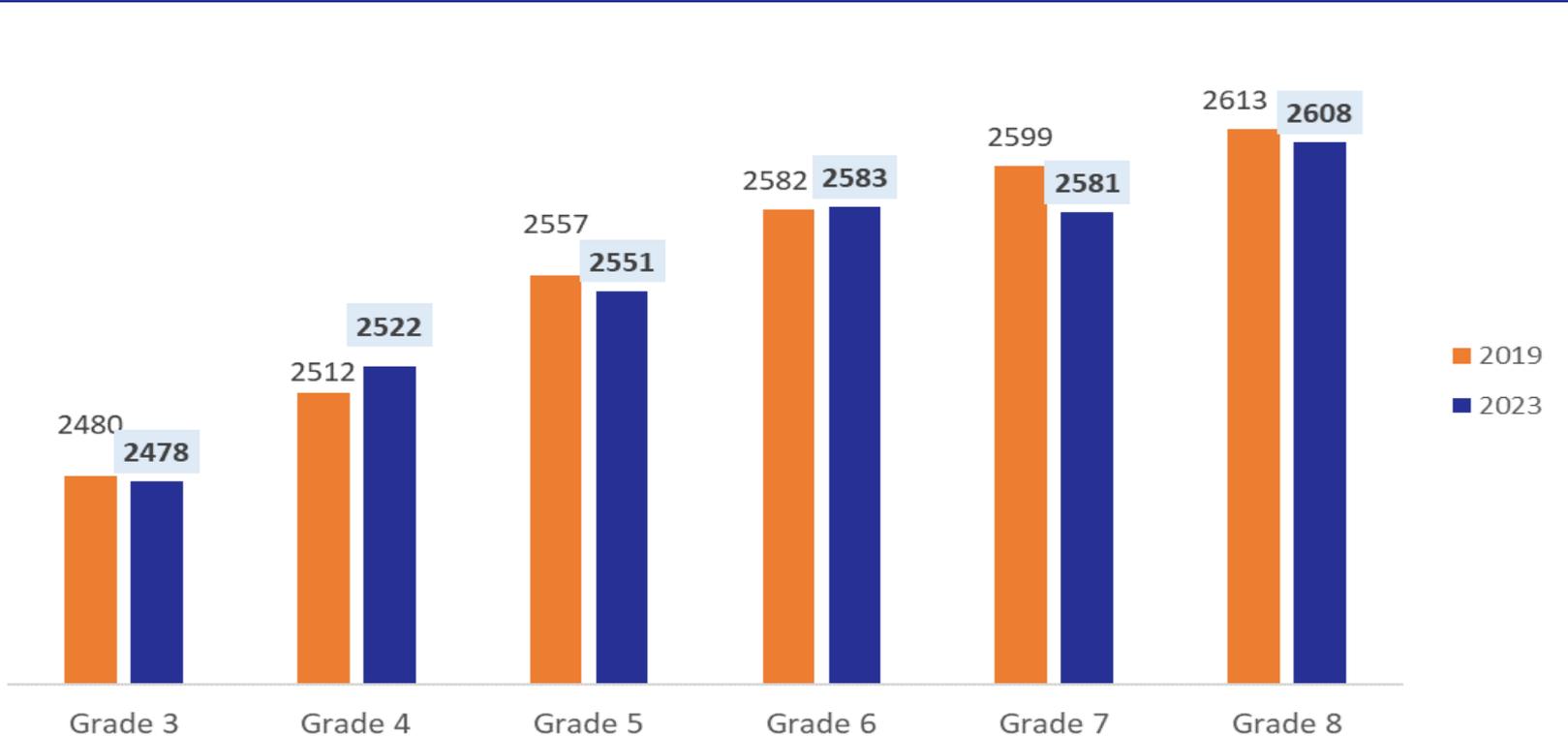
2023 SBA Average Scaled Score Compared to State Average

English Language Arts



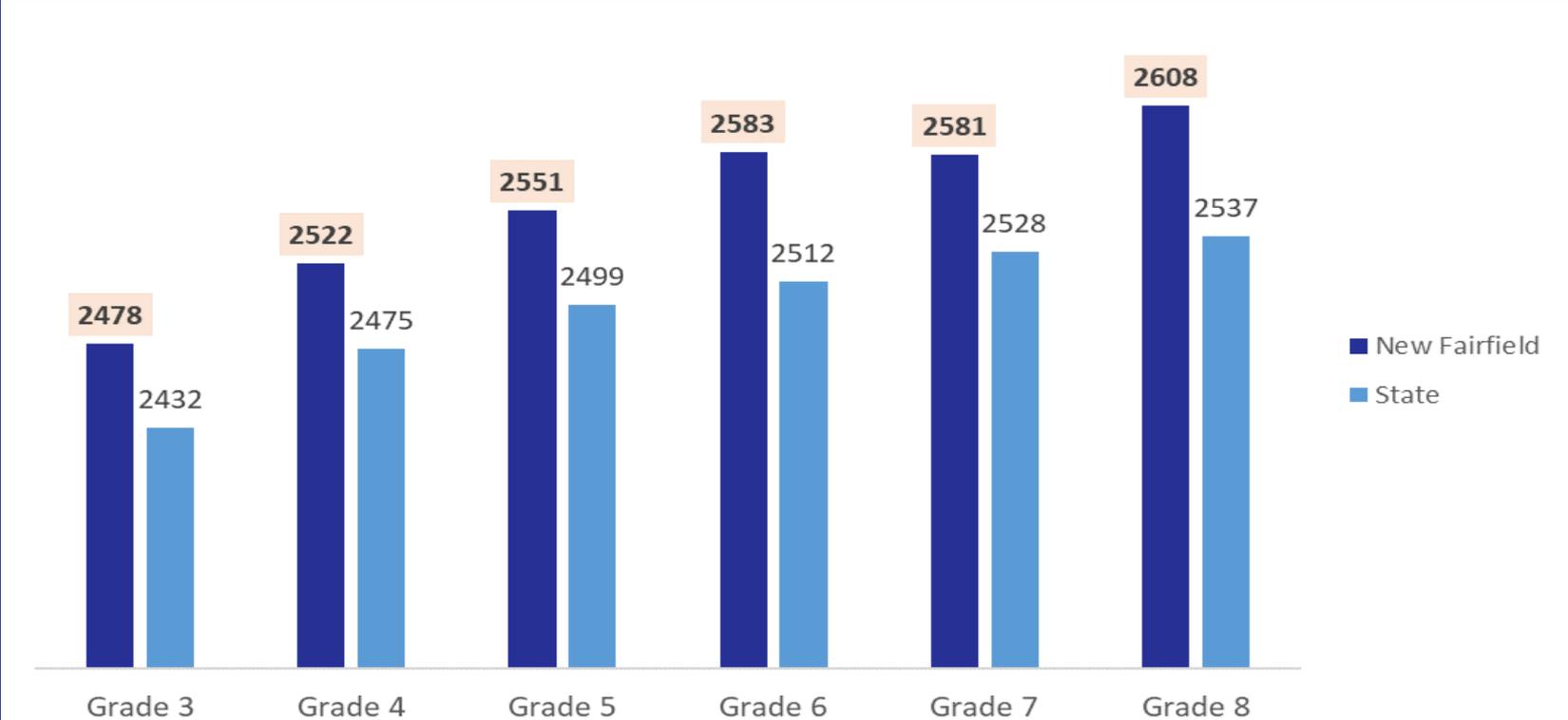
2023 SBA Average Scaled Score Compared to Pre-Pandemic

Mathematics



2023 SBA Average Scaled Score Compared to State Average

Mathematics



SBA Priorities / Action Plan

ELA

- Focusing on shifting teaching to the priority standards.
- Focusing on teaching the reading foundational skills in K-3
- Using the IABs to drive instruction in grades 3-8.
- Using iReady to identify deficit skills
- Targeted intervention focused on Foundational Skills
- Explicit coaching
- Continue to focus on HQI model with an emphasis on task design
- Continue to look at the impact of chronic absenteeism and advance our efforts to improve student attendance

MATH

- Continuing to implement Number Corner and Bridges K-5
- Introduction to Number Corner in ELC
- Targeted Intervention using Bridges Intervention
- Continuing to implement EdGems (Year 2)
- Follow newly revised curriculum with fidelity
- Using the IABs to drive instruction in grades 3-8.
- Using iReady to identify deficit skills
- Explicit coaching
- Continue to focus on HQI model with an emphasis on task design
- Continue to look at the impact of chronic absenteeism and advance our efforts to improve student attendance

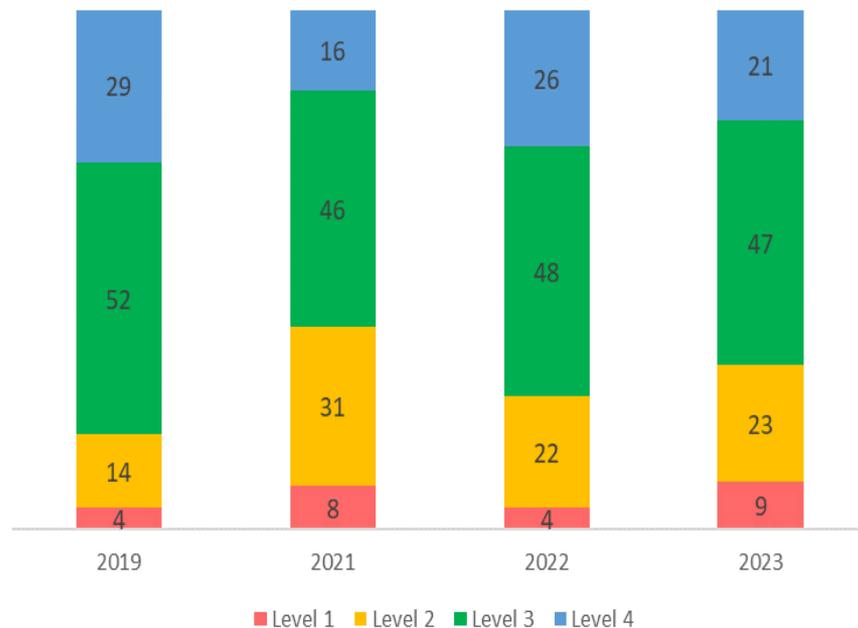
Science Grade 5 NGSS Summary

Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on NGSS

2019	2021	2022	2023
82	61	74	68

Rank in State by Percent Meeting or Exceeding

2019	2021	2022	2023
12/124	69/163	31/129	45/130



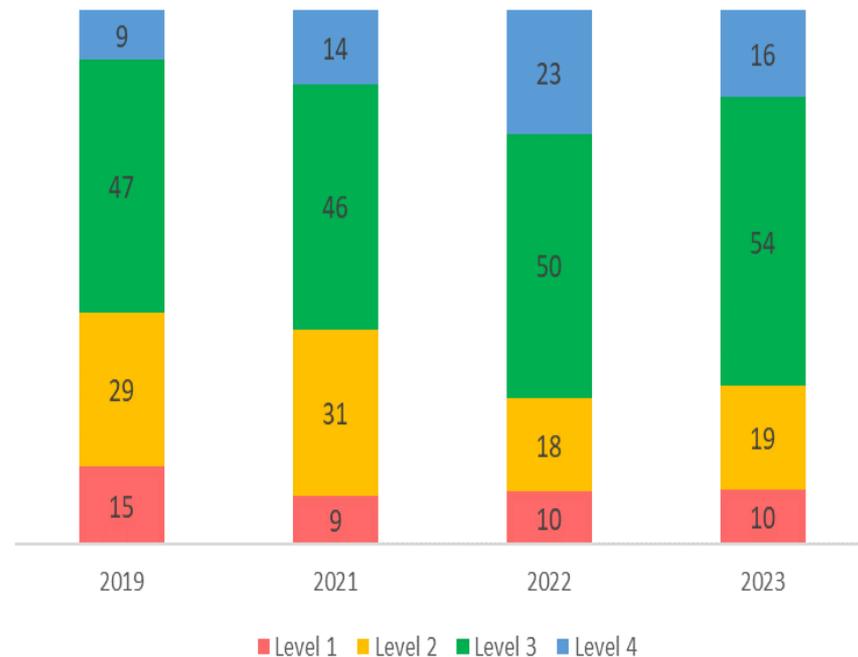
Science Grade 8 NGSS Summary

Percent Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark on NGSS

2019	2021	2022	2023
56	60	73	71

Rank in State by Percent Meeting or Exceeding

2019	2021	2022	2023
66/109	60/156	13/117	23/112



NGSS Priorities / Action Plan

SCIENCE

- The Curriculum Link Leader will work to bridge the gap between the elementary and middle school grades to support the writing, articulation and implementation of content specific curricula.
- Science Coach, Jean Gephart
- Incorporation of STEAM into curriculum
- Implementation of Mosa Mack (Library of NGSS-aligned, inquiry units 6–8)
- 6-8 use of InnerOrbit
- Plan to pilot new science program in grades 4-5.

Questions?



NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FY 2024-2025 -- Budget Calendar (TENTATIVE DATES)

Wednesday, October 4, 2023	Distribution of digital budget documents from Central Office
Monday, November 6, 2023	Building administrators to finalize electronic budget proposal on Google Drive by 9:30 a.m. for review prior to individual meetings
Wednesday, November 15, 2023	Central office administrators to finalize electronic budget proposal on Google Drive by 9:30 a.m. for review prior to individual meetings
Wednesday, November 8 to Friday, November 17, 2023	Building/District department meetings with Ken and Carrie Note: Meetings will be pre-scheduled by central office
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Admin Council meets to refine budget development at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 3, 2024	Admin Council meets to review total budget at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, January 11, 2024	Superintendent's Recommended FY 24 Budget Distributed to BOE.
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Presentation of Superintendent's Budget at 6:30 p.m. with BOE regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (in person)
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	BOE budget workshop (in person) at 7:00 p.m. with focus on Cons/MHHS; NFMS; NFHS; and, Athletics
Wednesday, January 24, 2024	BOE budget workshop (in person) at 7:00 p.m. with focus on Instructional Program; District-Wide; Central Office; and, Technology
Tuesday, January 30, 2024	BOE budget workshop (in person) at 7:00 p.m. with focus on Facilities; SPED; and, PPS
Thursday, February 1, 2024	BOE regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. to include finalizing and approving BOE budget for FY 25
Friday, February 16, 2024	Submission of BOE requested budget to Board of Finance
Saturday, March 2, 2024	Public Hearing and BOF review of BOE and BOS requested budgets BOE review at approximately 10:45 a.m.
<u>Tentative Dates:</u>	
Wednesday, March 6, 13, 27, 2024	Board of Finance budget discussions: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3, 2024	Final budget markup by Board of Finance
Thursday, April 18, 2024	Publish <u>Final Budget</u> in <i>Town Tribune</i>
Week of April 22-26, 2024	Annual Town Meeting & adjournment of BOF rec'd budget to referendum



**New Fairfield Public Schools
District Priorities
2023-24**

I. Teaching and Learning

Increase student growth and achievement by providing all students with high-quality instruction and curricula in an adaptive and flexible learning environment.

Instruction:

- Continue the district focus on [high-quality instruction](#) using a clear and consistent definition of HQI.
- Unify all district initiatives and efforts around the [Vision of the Graduate](#).
- Continue our work on task design through building capacity on lesson study.
- Continue to refine the instructional coaching model.
- Continue to develop tiered intervention systems K-12 to support student growth and achievement.
- Continue to provide training on best practices that support the science of reading to ensure timely and focused literacy instruction for all students.
- Continue to support the implementation of Bridges and Number Corner to ensure equity of content and numeracy instruction within K-5 classes.
- Support the implementation of new middle school resources for the math and science curriculum.
- Select a resource to support grades 4 & 5 science curriculum.

Curriculum:

- Continually update and revise district curriculum through a formal process and using a curriculum design template.
- Support the writing of curricula focused on mastery of discrete standards in each subject area.
- Identify and employ a curriculum mapping tool to support the vertical articulation of curriculum.

Special Education:

- Continue to develop and implement high-quality Individual Education Programs (IEPs) that result in academic and educational growth for students requiring special education services.
- Continue to provide support and training for consistent PPT facilitation across the district.

- Strengthen collaboration between regular and general leaders and educators regarding high-quality instruction to support all students.
- Continue to provide training for special education service providers on best practices in literacy instruction for students with identified reading disabilities, such as dyslexia.
- Continue to support the STRIDES program such that students requiring special education services after completing high school graduation requirements can receive those services in district.

II. Healthy Learning Environment

Promote a healthy learning environment that fosters physical and emotional safety, respect and a sense of belonging for all students.

School Culture & Climate

- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Responsive Classroom (K-8).
- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Restorative Practices (K-12).
- Continue to increase a sense of belonging for all students through work with district consultants (K-12).
- Ensure all staff, students, and families are familiar with our district-wide Code of Responsibility and Respect.
- Provide staff with ongoing professional learning on understanding the Code of Responsibility and Respect to support a shared understanding of expectations.

School Safety and Security

- Review and refine NFPS emergency response protocols and provide updated training to school staff.
- Establish safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedures at the newly configured MS/HS campus.
- Continue to enhance our partnership with the School Resource Officers through regular monthly meetings and ongoing communication.
- Define expectations and parameters for the School Resource Officer program.
- Develop, evaluate and refine new safety and security procedures at the high school.

Health and Wellness

- Develop district-wide expectations, protocols, and procedures to address attendance concerns.
- Hold a community forum in collaboration with the NF Prevention Council regarding the high school attitudes and behavior survey results leading to the development of assets for youth in the community.
- Utilize a multi-prong approach to reduce incidents of substance use.
- Evaluate current and anticipated needs for school-based counseling services and plan programming to support students' mental health needs, including tier 2 and 3 interventions.
- Continue the use of the Aperture universal social/emotional competence screener in grades K-12.

High School Start/End Times & Master Schedule:

- Reconvene the Healthier High School Start/End Time Task Force, which will report to the BOE Subcommittee with its recommendations.
- Consider modifications to the high school's start & end times for the 2024-25 school year to align with adolescent sleep research.
- Continue to review the current high school master schedule by piloting a new schedule in order to enhance educational opportunities.

IV. Strategic Planning

Initiate a strategic planning process with community involvement to set New Fairfield Public Schools' priorities.

- Develop a strategic plan that includes soliciting input from various stakeholders.
- Create a strategic plan with targeted goals, action steps, and timelines for completion, which will serve to guide the next level of work for the district, including future budgets.
- Conduct a curriculum analysis as part of the strategic planning in order to benchmark the district's progress in developing and implementing a standards-based curriculum.

V. Resources to Support Learning

Provide the necessary resources for learning--defined as finances, facilities, operational systems, and human resources. Adequate resources are a foundational component for New Fairfield to achieve its Vision of the Graduate.

Finance

- Develop and present a FY 25 Operational and Capital Budget request to the community that is transparent, fiscally responsible and ensures continuous improvement.
- Manage the FY 24 Operational and Capital Budget to provide resources as planned and to address unanticipated expenses.
- Seek out and apply for available grants to address budgetary needs.

Transportation

- Conduct an analysis of the financial requirements in moving from a three-tier bus transportation system to a two-tier system with the high school and middle school sharing bus runs.
- Prepare a bid proposal and solicit bids for a new five-year transportation contract beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Facilities

- Monitor the construction of the new high school to ensure an on-time opening for the 2023-24 school year and to ensure that the educational specifications have been met.
- Close out the Consolidated/Meeting House Hills Schools building project from a financial standpoint and ensure that the punch list has been completed according to the educational specifications and construction documents.
- Revise the 10-year capital improvement plan in anticipation of the budget process.

- Plan for a study of the middle school's facilities needs to be conducted during the 2024-25 school year.

Human Resources

- Attract and retain highly qualified staff to support continuous academic improvement; attend job fairs in the region.
- Attend area job fairs to attract high-quality candidates to apply to New Fairfield.

Technology

- Continue to curate, streamline and assimilate technology hardware (e.g., SmartBoards, document cameras) into classrooms to support the application of technology software throughout the district.
- Grow into our upgraded facilities to cultivate STEM initiatives and provide opportunities for real-world, authentic experiences. (e.g., K-5 STEM lab, new HS Robotics, theater, digital media, and art/music labs).
- Continue to maintain a streamlined digital repository of online tools and resources (technology toolbox/ClassLink) to support the delivery of high-quality instruction.

Community Relations

Use of School Facilities

The facilities of the New Fairfield Public Schools are available for reasonable use by organizations or groups within and outside the school system when they are not in use for school purposes. As Town facilities, **members** the community and ~~members of the system's~~ **school** staff are encouraged to use them within the parameters of Board of Education policy and regulations. The Board shall grant the use of school facilities for activities of an educational, cultural, civic, social, recreational, governmental or general political nature which are sponsored by responsible local persons, organizations, agencies or institutions, as permitted under law. The Board reserves the right, as needed, to modify such use.

The primary scheduling of facilities is for school-related activities and programs. Every attempt will be made to accommodate a community group if there is a conflict with a previously scheduled school function.

All outside groups who use school facilities may be charged a building use fee that is established by the Board of Education. The building use form will be updated as needed to reflect rules governing the use of buildings and grounds, as well as ~~the fee structures the Board approved~~ **fee structures.**

Buildings and Grounds

The Board shall ~~endeavor to~~ use the annual appropriation for the operation of schools for educational purposes, **but will charge extra fees** ~~and seek extra money~~ for community use of buildings by Town or private agencies or individuals.

Due to increased financial investments in classroom equipment, community groups will be assigned to multipurpose areas, like the cafeteria, and gymnasium, with very limited use of classrooms. The Board of Education reserves the right to limit the hours of use and access to buildings and grounds. All individuals or groups who apply to use school facilities must follow the district's procedures. This includes the full completion of a building form ten days prior to use with the appropriate insurance on file. Food and beverages are only allowed in the cafeterias and any other area designated by the building administrators or the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent may exercise discretion in denying building use if an activity is deemed inconsistent with the Board policy.

Community Relations

Use of School Facilities (continued)

Protection of Grounds and Buildings

Students should be allowed the use of school facilities for co-curricular activities, including clubs, recreational events, and other such related activities. These activities must be scheduled in keeping with normal school regulations and provide for adequate supervision, according to school rules. The advisors and chaperones of all student groups must adhere to familiarize themselves with current regulations for the use of school facilities.

Types of Activities That Will Not Be Permitted

1. Any purpose in conflict with the mission or goals of the school district.
2. Fundraising campaigns, except as permitted by Board of Education policy or with permission of the Superintendent's discretion.
3. Any activity that may be injurious to damage or permanently alter the buildings, grounds or equipment of the schools. Any damage that is incurred while using the buildings, grounds or facilities will be the financial responsibility of the organization or party.

Loitering or Causing Disturbance

All visitors must register in the school to be on school property during the school day and be issued a visitor's badge that must be worn at eye-level. Staff members should be alert to the possibility of unauthorized visitors and promptly report any concerns to the Principal. Any person shall be considered loitering on school grounds when s/he loiters or remains in or about a school building or grounds without any reason or relationship involving custody of or responsibility for a student or any other license or privilege to be there. Administrators may exercise discretion with respect to the use of outside facilities.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.
 53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds; Class C misdemeanor
 PA 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities
 Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, Sup. CT., 6-11-01

Policy adopted:	October 19, 2000	NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Policy amended:	July 11, 2002	New Fairfield, Connecticut
Policy amended:	April 26, 2012	
Policy amended:	December 19, 2013	
Policy amended:	June 4, 2015	
Policy amended:	June 21, 2018	
Policy amended:		

Priority List for the Use of New Fairfield School Facilities

The use of school facilities must be ~~self-sustaining~~ **cost neutral** by any organization that plans to use a New Fairfield Board of Education facility. Every organization is responsible for the cost of utilities, cleaning, and maintaining the facility in good operational condition. Organizations that request the use of school facilities are categorized below. The reason for these categories is to differentiate fees according to the types of organizations and the benefit of the activities for the New Fairfield community. There are other considerations to be made that take into account the hours of an event, the number of people involved, custodial needs of an event and the number of activities that are already scheduled. It is understood that all activities under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education are exempt from this priority list and are always given first priority over others. Flat fees, rather than hourly fees, can be established for activities that meet regularly at the discretion of the Superintendent.

1. Local Town Government Meetings

This category includes:

- Official Town meetings and all regular meetings open to the general public in cooperation with the Board of Education.
- Examples: Permanent Building Committee (PBC), Zoning meetings, Finance meetings, Board of Selectmen meetings, Town Meeting.

2. Parent-Teacher and other School Associated Groups

This category includes:

- a. Activities sponsored, organized and supervised directly by the Parent-Teacher Organizations or sponsored by the Board of Education and activities of other groups approved by the Board of Education.
- b. Examples: school clubs, DECA, FBLA, Booster clubs, National Honor Society, all PTO activities, extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

3. Recreation for Children and Adults (non-profit organizations; community based)

This category includes:

- Park and recreation activities.
- Non-Profit groups including Jaycees, Lions, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Aquabears, swim clubs, wrestling clubs, soccer clubs, lacrosse clubs, Pop Warner Football, Babe Ruth Baseball, softball, Falcon Cheerleaders, Flash Track, Adult Education, and CCD.

4. Private Events, Commercial Ventures or Fundraising Activities with Community Benefit

This category includes:

- Activities which charge admission and any commercial venture of definite cultural value for specific benefit to the New Fairfield Community.
- Examples: Private sports clubs; private arts and crafts fair; Women's and Men's Clubs, Alumni groups, church groups, civic and fraternal programs.

5. Private Events, Commercial Ventures or Fundraising Activities for Organizational Benefit

This category includes:

- Activities which charge admission and any commercial venture of definite cultural value for specific benefit of the organization.
- Examples: commercial stage groups, private retail businesses, school of dance, Star-Search, private sports clubs; private arts and crafts fair; Women's and Men's Clubs, Alumni groups, church groups.

New Fairfield Public Schools
Facility Fees

The following fees will be charged for the use of any New Fairfield Schools facilities (regardless of the school) room charges are by the hour and field charges are by the participant per field and per season, unless otherwise noted:

Effective beginning July 1, 2018 **October 5, 2023**

Category	Per Classroom Conference Room	Gymnasium	Auditorium	Cafeteria W/o Kitchen	Cafeteria With Kitchen	Pool	Athletic Fields◇
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0*+	\$20	\$30	\$15	\$25	\$40	\$50** ¹ +\$5 ** ³ or \$65** ² +\$5 ** ³
4	\$10*+	\$40	\$60	\$30	\$50	\$80	See Below**
5	\$25*+	\$100	\$150	\$75	\$125	\$200	See Below**
6	See Below**	See Below**	See Below**	See Below**	See Below**	See Below**	See Below**

Category 3 ¹\$50.00 per participant per season (Flash Track fee – 50% of prevailing rate per participant)
²\$65.00 per hour for camps or limited use (fewer than 40 hours)
³\$5.00 additional per athlete for use of each additional field seasonal charge for use of John John Pendergast Field

(Parks & Rec fee – 50% of prevailing rate for use of any outdoor facility specified in the Field Policy Agreement)

Category 4 \$150.00 per hour for 1st day use per field
 \$100.00 per hour for any additional continuous days use per field
 \$50.00 per hour for a grounds man – Saturday – minimum 3 hours
 \$70.00 per hour for a grounds man – Sunday – minimum 3 hours
 \$25.00 per hour fee for lights per field

Category 5 \$200.00 per hour for 1st day use per field
 \$150.00 per hour for any additional continuous days use per field
 \$50.00 per hour for a grounds man – Saturday – minimum 3 hours
 \$70.00 per hour for a grounds man – Sunday – minimum 3 hours
 \$25.00 per hour fee for lights per field

Category 6 Special Events - Cost to be determined by the Director of Buildings and Grounds and the Director, Parks and Recreation, Buildings and Grounds.

◇ Athletic Fields including Track and Tennis Courts, and John John Pendergast Field

*The Board of Education may require a \$500.00 cash bond posted for use of those areas that

contain technology equipment.

