

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2009-10

Elementary School K-6 Edition

Derynoski Elementary School**Southington School District**

KAREN L. SMITH, Principal
 JAN VERDERAME, Asst. Principal
 Telephone: (860) 628-3286

Location: 240 Main Street
 Southington,
 Connecticut

Website: www.southingtonschools.org/our_schools/w__a__derynoski/index.html

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: 695
 5-Year Enrollment Change: 1.9%

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	105	15.1	10.2	36.7
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	13	1.9	2.7	7.4
Students with Disabilities	71	10.2	9.9	10.9
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented	8	1.2	1.3	2.4
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	86	77.5	77.9	80.5
Students in Grades Above School's Entry Grade Who Attended Same School the Previous Year	543	94.4	94.7	91.6

PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTION

Instructional Time	School	State Elementary Schools
Total Days per Year	181	181
Total Hours per Year	976	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 half-day kindergarten.

Average Class Size	School	District	State
Kindergarten	18.2	16.2	18.5
Grade 2	19.0	18.1	19.7
Grade 5	23.2	20.4	21.1

Required Hours of Instruction Per Year in Selected Subject Areas		
Grade 5	School	State
Art	22	31
Computer Education	0	18
English Language Arts	430	422
Family and Consumer Science	0	1
Health	30	22
Library Media Skills	18	19
Mathematics	196	199
Music	18	33
Physical Education	22	41
Science	120	97
Social Studies	120	88
Technology Education	0	2
World Languages	0	14

World Language

Formal instruction (at least 1 hour per week) in a world language is not offered in this school.

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	1.9	2.7	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	84.5	84.8	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	4.5	3.0	3.2
% of Computers with Internet Access	100.0	100.0	99.1
% of Computers that are High or Moderate Power	100.0	100.0	89.9
# of Print Volumes Per Student*	14.4	21.4	28.9
# of Print Periodical Subscriptions	14	10	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	36.10
	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	5.99
Special Education:	Teachers and Instructors	5.00
	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	21.01
Library/Media Specialists and/or Assistants		1.50
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs		2.00
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)		0.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists		2.10
School Nurses		1.30
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support		12.30

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	11.8	13.0	13.6
% with Master's Degree or Above	66.7	62.1	79.9
Attendance, 2008-09: Average # of Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	6.4	8.1	8.2
% Assigned to Same School the Previous Year	85.7	88.5	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.

The Derynoski School Community consists of children, families, staff and town volunteers. We are committed to creating and sustaining a viable School-Home partnership in all areas. An electronically sent weekly newsletter informs parents of all school events as well as information about parent workshops and other forums that promote parent connections to our building and to student learning. All teachers have web pages that are also informative, especially about upcoming events within classrooms as well as the school in general. Parents are invited to participate in workshops about "The Kindergarten Experience" as well as the topics of Mathematics and Literacy. Each P.T.O. monthly meeting has a theme about student learning and teachers host these informative meetings that present a snapshot of daily life within that grade level. Effective two-way communication remains important at Derynoski School and we are always seeking ways to enhance this priority. Our school has many parents as volunteers who regularly come to school to help both within the classroom and in the building in general. It is common to see parent-run literacy and math centers as well as parents as volunteers within our Art Room, Publishing Center, or Library-Media Center. Our very generous P.T.O. supports all cultural arts programs and provides transportation to all field trips for all grades. Through fundraising efforts, our P.T.O. also provides classrooms with a wide array of independent reading books that blend with curriculum topics. Career Days, Guest Reader Days, Mystery Guest Days are more formal ways that parents are invited to participate in school life. V.I.P. lunch and recess times are available to parents of first graders and parents actively participate in our annual Field Days, Musical Vocal Programs, and many field trips. Our parents sponsor our Book Fairs and each Fair has a theme that is integrated into our school theme for the year. This year's theme, "Heroes Among Us" recognizes students and adults whose contributions set a fine example of our belief in spreading good news!

SCHOOL DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	3	0.4
Asian American	16	2.3
Black	5	0.7
Hispanic	28	4.0
White	643	92.5
Total Minority	52	7.5

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 0.0%

Non-English Home Language :

3.6% 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 7.

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.

A multitude of cultural arts and field trip opportunities exist within Derynoski School that promote and celebrate diversity throughout the year. Ethnic and cultural customs are introduced beginning in Kindergarten and extend throughout all grades. Our arts program includes vocal and instrumental performances that represent music from around the world. This year our school theme of "Celebrating the Heroes Among Us" is promoting heroes from all cultures who have contributed to the quality of our lives. Students will learn about different customs from a variety of countries and will create artwork that showcases what they have learned. The "Derynoski Cares" program is an outreach program that provides economically disadvantaged families with support throughout the year . Our school is sponsoring a breakfast program for any and all children and families who would find this a beneficial opportunity. This before school program ensures that our students arrive to school well nourished and better ready to face daily challenges.

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	63.1	61.8	50.3	76.1
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	62.9	70.1	57.0	58.1
Writing	57.3	68.0	58.3	47.5
Mathematics	76.2	86.5	62.4	71.5
Grade 4 Reading	69.2	74.9	59.9	64.1
Writing	71.5	76.8	63.6	61.6
Mathematics	85.1	87.8	67.0	82.2
Grade 5 Reading	73.7	72.8	61.8	69.8
Writing	66.9	76.3	68.2	43.4
Mathematics	87.0	91.3	72.4	78.3
Science	76.3	77.5	59.4	77.0
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.com.

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	94.7	96.8	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, 2 students were responsible for these incidents. These students represent 0.3% 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	N/A	N/A
Sexually Related Behavior	N/A	N/A
Personally Threatening Behavior	N/A	N/A
Theft	N/A	N/A
Physical/Verbal Confrontation	N/A	N/A
Fighting/Battery	N/A	N/A
Property Damage	N/A	N/A
Weapons	N/A	N/A
Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco	N/A	N/A
School Policy Violations	N/A	N/A
Total	2	0

* Counts by category may be suppressed to protect student privacy.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this school.

The Continuous School Improvement Plan for Derynoski Elementary School focuses on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Reading - The comprehension strategies of making reader to text connections will be an emphasis for the school year. Understanding the author's style and purpose will allow emerging readers to better their own skills. The Reader's Workshop model of instruction forms the basis of classroom reading experiences for students. This model encourages students to learn how to find 'just right books' as teachers further develop mini lessons around individual student needs. Individual conferencing with students enables teachers to form lessons that relate to individual learning. Writing - Students will become better writers by enhancing their revision skills. Peer editing, journal writing, reading responses, and student conferences will form the basis of our program. This Writer's Workshop model is being implemented in all K-5 classrooms and is an effective way of increasing the amount of writing that occurs on a daily basis for all children. Particular focus this year will be in the areas of composing and revising. Mathematics - Our students will continue to become good problem-solvers by improving their estimation skills. The integration of reading instruction throughout the curriculum subjects will continue as a focus area of growth. The Literacy Specialists and the District Math Specialist will provide professional development as needed to teachers, paraprofessionals, and other support staff. We will merge the Literacy Team with the Special Education Resource Team to create common experiences with improving learning for all children through differentiation of instruction. The entire Derynoski Staff is comprised of adult learners who are always seeking research-based new teaching skills to meet the needs of our diverse learners.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

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

Derynoski Elementary School is situated in the heart of Southington and is comprised of a K-5 student population of over 680. Our school's mission is to always put children's learning first while promoting the social, emotional, and behavioral health of each student. Teachers routinely collaborate with one another around best teaching and learning practices and how to meet the needs of diverse learners. A positive learning community exists and is well established within our school. We participate in the Unified Sports Program, after Art Club, Ski Club, Basketball Intramural Program, Young Author's Program, Bowling Club, and many fundraisers for local charities. Our Student Council meets regularly to support school spirit days as well as to discuss ways to further support our town and community-at-large. We are recognized as a big school with an even bigger heart! This year's theme of "Heroes Among Us" acknowledges the altruistic efforts of adults and students as we contribute to making our world a more caring and supportive environment for all. Buddy programs create positive relationships between and among grade levels and encourage students to appreciate and to value others.
