

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2011-12

Single Elementary School District Edition

Voluntown Elementary School

Voluntown School District

ADAM S. BURROWS, Superintendent
MARY T. CHINIGO, PrincipalTelephone: (860) 376-9167
Telephone: (860) 376-2325
Location: 195 Main Street
Voluntown,
ConnecticutWebsite: www.voluntownct.org

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.

COMMUNITY DATA

County: New London	Per Capita Income in 2000: \$23,707
Town Population in 2000: 2,528	Percent of Adults without a High School Diploma in 2000*: 14.1%
1990-2000 Population Growth: 19.6%	Percent of Adults Who Were Not Fluent in English in 2000*: 0.2%
Number of Public Schools: 1	District Enrollment as % of Estimated. Student Population: 98.3%

*To view the Adult Education Program Profiles online, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on Adult Education, then Reports.

District Reference Group (DRG): F DRG is a classification of districts whose students' families are similar in education, income, occupation, and need, and that have roughly similar enrollment. The Connecticut State Board of Education approved DRG classification for purposes of reporting data other than student performance.

TYPE OF SCHOOL**STUDENT ENROLLMENT**School Type: Traditional/Regular Education
School Grade Range: PK - 8Enrollment on October 1, 2011: 319
5-Year Enrollment Change: 2.6%**INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED**

Need Indicator	Number in School	Percent in School	Elementary Schools	
			% in DRG	% in State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	65	20.4	30.7	39.4
K-12 Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	0	0.0	3.4	7.8
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented	0	0.0	1.2	2.0
Students with Disabilities	31	9.7	11.7	10.9
Kindergarten Students who Attended Preschool, Nursery School or Headstart	31	91.2	76.5	79.8
Students in Grades Above School's Entry Grade Who Attended Same School the Previous Year	252	100.0	97.7	95.8
Homeless	10	3.1	0.3	0.3

PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTION

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.

Instructional Time	School	State Elementary Schools
Total Days per Year	183	181
Total Hours per Year	939	993

Required Hours of Instruction Per Year in Selected Subject Areas		
Grade 5	School	State
Art **	34	32
Computer Education **	34	21
English Language Arts	361	430
Family and Consumer Science	0	1
Health	25	21
Library Media Skills **	34	19
Mathematics	211	200
Music	34	34
Physical Education	34	43
Science	86	97
Social Studies	86	87
Technology Education	0	3
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.

** Interdisciplinary approach

Enrollment in Selected High School Level Courses		
Percent of Grade 8 Students Taking	School	State
Mathematics	41.7	37.2
World Languages	0.0	49.9

Average Class Size	School	DRG	State
Kindergarten	17.0	16.0	18.5
Grade 2	17.0	17.9	19.7
Grade 5	17.0	21.0	21.6
Grade 7	17.0	19.1	20.3

Special Programs	School	Elementary Schools	
		DRG	State
% of K-12 Students in Bilingual Education Program or Receiving English as a Second Language Services	0.0	3.4	7.6
% of Gifted and/or Talented Students Who Received Services	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of Special Education Students Attending This School Who Spent Over 79% of Their Time with Their Non-Disabled Peers	90.3	82.6	78.8

LIBRARY AND COMPUTERS

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

Instructional Computers and Library Materials	School	Elementary Schools	
		DRG	State
# of Students Per Computer	2.6	2.8	2.8
% of Computers with Internet Access	100.0	98.2	97.4
% of Computers that are High or Moderate Power	100.0	95.9	94.2
# of Print Volumes Per Student*	60.0	36.1	29.7
# of Print Periodical Subscriptions	2	10	11

*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.

DISTRICT STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of School Staff			In the full-time equivalent (FTE) count, staff members working part-time in the school district are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in the district contributes 0.50 to the district's staff count.
General Education:	Teachers and Instructors	26.00	
	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	5.00	
Special Education:	Teachers and Instructors	3.00	
	Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	11.00	
Library/Media Specialists and/or Assistants		1.00	
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs			
	District Central Office	0.40	
	School Level	2.00	
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)		0.00	
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists		1.60	
School Nurses		1.00	
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support		20.35	

Teachers and Instructors	School	Elementary Schools	
		DRG	State
Average Number of Years of Experience in Education	14.7	14.4	13.7
% with Master's Degree or Above	93.1	80.8	81.6
Attendance, 2010-11 Average Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	9.8	7.8	8.7
% Assigned to Same School the Previous Year	93.1	80.5	85.0

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's website is devoted to homework pages.

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

Voluntown Elementary School participated in several activities that enhanced home/school communication and support. - Annual Open House, Parent/Teacher Conferences. - Our preschool teacher made home visits. Our Early Childhood Council met on a regular basis, has parent representatives, and actively plans for parent workshops. - A Title I Family Involvement Coordinator provided workshops to train parents in ways to enhance their child's learning at home. - A parenting skills series of workshops was made available to all parents in the district. - Teacher websites were available to parents/students. Power School program offered parents of students in Grades 6-8 the opportunity to view up-to-date student grades online.- A "Ready, Set, Read" program was held at the end of the year to help parents review ways to enhance student reading skills over the summer months.

SCHOOL DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	2	0.6
Asian American	1	0.3
Black	5	1.6
Hispanic	12	3.8
Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	277	86.8
Two or more races	22	6.9
Total Minority	42	13.2

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 0.0%

Non-English Home Language:

All of this school's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is the primary language.

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.

- The Voluntown School District provides opportunities for reducing racial, ethnic and economic isolation by providing all high school students with the opportunity to choose one of five available high schools programs. - Multicultural days were celebrated by three different grade levels through their social studies programs. The Voluntown PTO sponsored three (3) cultural awareness assemblies for the school.- Voluntown participated in an inter-district program entitled Legacy, through EASTCONN. Grade 6 students met and worked on assignments together with students from various schools. They also participated in DARE activities with schools across Connecticut.- Our Grade 4 students participated in a Lego Robotics program with another district, establishing relationships with other students through that program. 8th Grade students traveled to Boston, Massachusetts to experience an urban environment. - Intensive staff development centered on ensuring that all children became proficient readers by the end of the second grade, regardless of racial, ethnic, or economic background. - Voluntown provided a free early childhood program funded by a School Readiness Grant and free transportation for all Voluntown three-year-olds of all economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds--including children with disabilities. Voluntown provides a free Pre-K program for four-year-olds from all economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, including children with disabilities.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOR

Physical Fitness: % Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests*	School	State	% of Schools in State with Equal or Lower Percent Reaching Standard
Grade 4	37.5	50.9	28.6
Grade 6	48.3	50.7	48.1
Grade 8	44.0	49.8	43.9

*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	District	State	% of Districts in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Grade 3 Reading	43.3	59.2	10.6
Writing	36.7	62.7	3.8
Mathematics	50.0	66.5	12.5
Grade 4 Reading	74.2	64.1	53.8
Writing	75.0	65.3	53.8
Mathematics	93.3	68.0	96.9
Grade 5 Reading	82.4	67.6	71.1
Writing	82.4	68.1	74.4
Mathematics	79.4	71.6	50.0
Science	79.4	63.9	62.5
Grade 6 Reading	78.6	74.1	40.4
Writing	82.8	67.4	75.3
Mathematics	75.9	69.3	48.8
Grade 7 Reading	87.5	79.8	50.9
Writing	78.8	65.6	64.6
Mathematics	87.5	68.1	85.6
Grade 8 Reading	92.0	76.8	80.5
Writing	84.0	68.3	75.0
Mathematics	96.0	67.2	98.7
Science	84.0	61.9	83.1

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	State Elementary Schools
% Present on October 1	95.6	95.9

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 2010-11 school year, 3 students were responsible for these incidents. These students represent 0.9% of the estimated number of students who attended this school at some point during the 2010-11 school year.

Truancy

During the 2010-11 school year, 1 student qualified as truant under state statute. As these counts rely on school-level policies regarding unexcused absences, they are not comparable between schools.

Number of Incidents by Disciplinary Offense Category, 2010-11		
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	4	0

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom the District is Financially Responsible: 45
 Of All K-12 Students for Whom the District is Financially Responsible, the Percent with Disabilities: 11.0%

Of All K-12 Students for Whom District is Financially Responsible, Number and Percentage with Disabilities				
Disability	Count	District Percent	DRG Percent	State Percent
Autism	3	0.7	1.2	1.2
Learning Disability	15	3.7	3.7	3.9
Intellectual Disability	2	0.5	0.4	0.4
Emotional Disturbance	2	0.5	1.2	1.0
Speech Impairment	17	4.1	2.1	2.1
Other Health Impairment*	4	1.0	2.1	2.2
Other Disabilities**	2	0.5	0.9	1.0
Total	45	11.0	11.6	11.7

*Includes chronic health problems such as attention deficit disorders and epilepsy

**Includes hearing, visual, and orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and developmental delay

Federal law requires that students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers as much as is appropriate. Placement in separate educational facilities tends to reduce the chances of students with disabilities interacting with non-disabled peers, and of receiving the same education.

K-12 Students with Disabilities Placed in Educational Settings Other Than This District's Schools		
Placement	Count	Percent
Public Schools in Other Districts	0	0.0
Private Schools or Other Settings	7	15.6

Number and Percentage of K-12 Students with Disabilities for Whom District is Financially Responsible by the Percentage of Time They Spent with Their Non-Disabled Peers

Time Spent with Non-Disabled Peers	Count of Students	Percent of Students		
		District	DRG	State
79.1 to 100 Percent of Time	36	80.0	74.3	72.1
40.1 to 79.0 Percent of Time	5	11.1	15.6	16.3
0.0 to 40.0 Percent of Time	4	8.9	10.0	11.7

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % of Students with Disabilities Meeting State Goal. The reading, writing and mathematics tests are administered to students in Grades 3 through 8, and the science test to students in Grades 5 and 8. 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. The results below are for students attending district schools who participated in the standard assessment with or without accommodations for their disabilities.

Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented. For more detailed CMT or CAPT 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."

CMT Subject Area	Students with Disabilities		All Students	
	District	State	District	State
Reading	23.1	36.0	76.1	70.4
Writing	18.8	21.5	73.2	66.3
Mathematics	53.8	31.8	80.0	68.4
Science	N/A	N/A	81.4	62.9

Accommodations for a student’s disability may be made to allow him or her to participate in testing. Students whose disabilities prevent them from taking the test even with accommodations are assessed by means of a list of skills aligned to the same content and grade level standards as the CMT.

Participation in State Assessments of Students with Disabilities Attending District Schools		
CMT	% Without Accommodations	15.8
	% With Accommodations	84.2
% Assessed Using Skills Checklist		15.0

DISTRICT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES, 2010-11

Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources. DRG and state figures will not be comparable to the district if the school district does not teach both elementary and secondary students.

Expenditures All figures are unaudited.	Total (in 1000s)	Expenditures Per Pupil			
		District	Elementary Districts	DRG	State
Instructional Staff and Services	\$2,603	\$8,344	\$8,513	\$8,070	\$8,469
Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$100	\$321	\$323	\$275	\$271
Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services	\$76	\$245	\$407	\$242	\$482
Student Support Services	\$463	\$1,485	\$919	\$745	\$901
Administration and Support Services	\$621	\$1,990	\$1,700	\$1,555	\$1,490
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$404	\$1,294	\$1,281	\$1,466	\$1,463
Transportation	\$367	\$841	\$678	\$731	\$724
Costs for Students Tuitioned Out*	\$475	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	\$44	\$141	\$102	\$168	\$165
Total*	\$5,153	\$16,004	\$14,710	\$13,431	\$14,140
Additional Expenditures					
Land, Buildings, and Debt Service	\$87	\$280	\$1,866	\$1,440	\$1,331

*Town total expenditures (in 1000s) for PK-12 are: Total, \$6,389 Tuition Costs, \$1,711. Total town expenditures per pupil for PK-12 are \$14,688.

Special Education Expenditures	District Total	Percent of PK-12 Expenditures Used for Special Education		
		District	DRG	State
	\$1,553,951	24.3	20.0	21.7

Revenue Sources, % of Expenditures from Source. Revenue sources do not include state funded Teachers’ Retirement Board contributions, vocational-technical school operations, SDE budgeted costs for salaries and leadership activities and other state-funded school districts (e.g., Dept. of Children and Families and Dept. of Corrections).

District Expenditures	Local Revenue	State Revenue	Federal Revenue	Tuition & Other
Including School Construction	55.1	37.0	7.9	0.0
Excluding School Construction	54.5	37.5	8.0	0.0

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this school.

-Two programs were established at the Voluntown Elementary School. The first provided preschool opportunities for all three-year-olds in the district in a half-day, school year program. The second program established an in-house co-taught alternative school program for those students who otherwise would have been considered for outplacement programs in other districts. Both of these programs—now completing year four—have improved special education services within our public elementary school. -We also implemented a Full Day Kindergarten program in the 2008-2009 school year as an extension of our early childhood initiative. -A Curriculum Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to implement a curriculum improvement process. Last year Voluntown implemented a new language arts series, Treasures, for Grades K-5. Professional development activities and monthly meetings for teachers using the program centered around improving reading and language arts. -The RTI Behavior Committee met weekly and began a School Climate Improvement Plan implemented in 2011-2012, utilizing Benchmark Assessment data.-The Board of Education has a three-year Strategic Plan that prioritizes finances, building and grounds, transportation, community and public relations, students as a focal point, and curriculum, learning and instruction.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

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

-Voluntown Elementary School continued with all necessary procedures for our NAEYC accreditation for our School Readiness Program for three-year-olds. The report sent just prior to the 2010-2011 school year commended Voluntown for their continued efforts for students in the program. The Second Step program continues to be ongoing and was incorporated into our social studies curriculum throughout the grades. The program promotes responsible and respectful behavior.-Our students began a Recycling Club for the elementary school as well as our central office, collecting paper weekly and having recycling containers available throughout the school buildings. -Voluntown Elementary School continues to strive to build and implement a strong academic program that inspires life-long learning for our students with the support of the community.
