

Data: Conn. districts' income divides

Greenwich in top 10 of CT Insider's database

By Patrick McCaslin
STAFF WRITER

In 2024, residents of the Hartford School District in the center of Connecticut had a per-capita income of just over \$27,000. Head a few miles to the west, though, and the picture is starkly different: people in the West Hartford School District made more than two-and-a-half times as much, \$70,000 per capita. It's one of the state's largest disparities in per-capita income between two neighboring school districts.

As might be expected, the dif-

ference doesn't only manifest in incomes. It is also reflected in English language arts and math test scores, chronic absenteeism, the four-year graduation rate, post-secondary readiness and even physical fitness. On each metric, West Hartford scored significantly higher on the state's metrics than its neighbor.

In an effort to understand where similar dividing lines exist across the state of Connecticut, we calculated the average per capita income in each school district by aggregating income data across each district from

the Census Bureau's American Community Survey and then dividing that total by the district's total population.

Darien topped the list with an aggregate income of \$150,000 per resident in 2024, nearly triple the state's average per-capita income. In the 2024-25 school year, students in Darien posted the third- and fourth-highest English language arts and math scores respectively and the fifth-highest accountability index score from the state.

Other wealthy school districts received similarly high scores. New Canaan, the second wealthiest, had the highest test scores

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Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
Students and their parents arrive before the first day of class at Riverside School on Aug. 30, 2024.



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media
From left, Pam Ehrenkranz, CEO of UJA-JCC Greenwich; Gary Jones, Jewish Community Relations Council director, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien; and Jim Comstock, regional security director of the Community Services Initiative, in front of the UJA/Federation of Greenwich.

As antisemitic incidents rise, Jewish leaders stress safety

Community members are being trained to protect themselves

By Shaniece Holmes-Brown
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — A young boy with a yarmulke on his head was walking with his sister to a school bus stop in Stamford when he heard someone driving past yell “F— Jews!” at him.

Former Stamford police officer Jim Comstock said this happened in November 2025 while the boy was walking from his home where Israel's flag was displayed out front. According to the Anti-Def-



Courtesy of UJA-JCC Greenwich
A June 9 ‘Stop the Bleed’ training, hosted by UJA-JCC Greenwich, was held at Christ Church in Greenwich.

amation League's 2025 data report, Connecticut ranked No. 14 nationally for total anti-semitic incidents, and No. 9

nationwide for incidents that occurred at K-12 schools.

“One incident is one too many,” Comstock said. “I'm very sad to get reports of as young as middle schools having swastikas written on desks, and in high schools.”

According to the ADL's report, Connecticut had 126 antisemitic incidents in 2025; 83 of them were harassment; 42 were vandalism; and there was one assault.

Comstock said residents need to learn how to protect themselves from antisemitic

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Districts to phase out kindergarten age waivers

By Crystal Elescano
STAFF WRITER

Some Connecticut families will no longer be able to seek early kindergarten admission for their children as school districts begin phasing out waivers ahead of the state's plan to eliminate them entirely.

Here is what you need to know about the phasing out of the waivers:

What is the current kindergarten age requirement?

Currently, students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the school year to enroll, though some districts may offer a waiver process for students who do not meet the age requirement. But soon, the waiver will be eliminated.

When is the waiver eliminated?

The waiver will be eliminated starting July 1, 2027, and go into effect for the 2027-28 school year.

When does the phaseout start?

The phaseout of the waiver has already begun. For the 2026-27 school

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Connecticut towns drop ‘character’

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

Over the last five years, many towns and cities across Connecticut have been rewriting official zoning regulations to remove a single word: “character.”

The change comes thanks to a 2021 law that followed several appeals of project denials throughout the state. It removes some of the subjectiveness in a project's denial and helps reduce the “exclusionary” connotation land use officials, including Milford City Planner David Sulkis, say is attached to the word “character.”

Specifically, towns can't deny land use permits based on “a district's character, unless such character is expressly articulated in such regulations by clear and explicit physical standards for site work and structures,” the law states.

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Greenwich Grill to open next week, offering craft cocktails

By Susan Braden
STAFF WRITER

The new Greenwich Grill is opening July 15 at a historic mill on the Byram River in the former Lion Brasserie space, it announced on Facebook.

It is located at The Mill Greenwich at 328 Pemberwick Road. “Join us at The Mill Waterfall as we welcome you into Greenwich Grill for the very first time. Celebrate with us and experience our reimagined space, elevated American classics, and a warm welcome to the Green-

wich community,” the post said.

The restaurant will offer a “nice, classic American grill” menu with prime New York strip steak, half roasted chicken, grilled salmon, burgers and 1/2 racks of ribs, said manager David Wolvovsky.

The eatery will also serve craft cocktails such as London Mist made with house-infused Earl Grey Empress gin with lavender, violet, lemon and a “velvety egg-white finish.” Also on the cocktail menu is the Tropical Heat Wave, which they call “paradise with a little kick” made with pas-

sionfruit, lime, agave, habanero-infused Milagro Silver and a Tajin rim, according to the post.

The Mill is a 19th-century brick industrial complex that has been transformed into luxury waterfront apartments, lounges and dining spaces with a scenic dam with cascading falls. Its history dates back to a late 18th-century textile mill along the Byram River, in what was then the town of Sherwood Bridge and a centerpiece of Greenwich's Glenville district today, the Greenwich Time had previously reported.



Alexander Soule/Hearst Connecticut Media
The waterfall at The Mill complex at 10 Glenville St.