

2020-2021 Annual Report



Unified School District #1
CT Department of Correction

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Unified School District #1 does not discriminate on the basis of religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in providing education services. Unified School District #1 does not discriminate on the basis of disability by denying access to the benefits of district services, programs or activities.

Title IX Coordinator: 860-692-7537

Section 504/ADA District Coordinator: 860-692-7537

State of Connecticut Department of Correction
Unified School District #1
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109



CT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.



UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

MISSION STATEMENT

The Connecticut Department of Correction – Unified School District #1 is dedicated to providing quality educational programs for incarcerated individuals so that they can make a successful transition to society. Academic knowledge, vocational competencies, use of technology and life skills integrated with technology are offered to students in a positive environment to foster life-long learning and multi-cultural awareness.

VISION STATEMENT

Unified School District #1 will be recognized for its forward thinking, its connections to the community and for the success of its students.

Unified School District #1 Quick Stats 2020-2021

- Duplicated enrollment: 6,307 students
- Unduplicated enrollment: 2,585 students
- Average daily enrollment: 849 students
- Diplomas Awarded:
 - GED - 41 students
 - SDE High School Diploma - 7 students
 - USD #1 Adult Education Diploma - 44 students
- 403 students were promoted to higher class levels.
- Students averaged a 5.2 grade level gain on the Test of Adult Basic Education.
- 951 students earned Career-Technical Education certificates.
- 123 students were awarded Vocational Certificates of Completion.
- 22 students completed ServSafe Certification.

School Administrators 2020-2021

District Administrators:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Maria Pirro | Acting Superintendent of Schools (Retired 10/2020) |
| Veron Beaulieu | Acting Superintendent of Schools (Effective 10/2020) |
| | Deputy Superintendent of Schools |
| Mike Nunes | Director of Special Education |
| Gabriel Riccio | Director of Curriculum & Instruction (Retired 9/2020) |

School Administrators:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Daniel Cambra | State School Department Head |
| Nickko Checovetes | State School Department Head |
| Patrina Evans | State School Department Head |
| Lenore Gagain | State School Principal |
| Debra Grainsky | State School Department Head |
| Tameka Grant-Mack | State School Department Head |
| Chris Hempel | State School Department Head |
| Latesha Jones | State School Department Head |
| Heather Mroz | State School Department Head |
| Matthew Reinke | State School Principal |
| Roseann Sessa | State School Department Head |
| Heather Verdi | State School Department Head |

2020-2021 USD #1 Staffing

School Sites

14 Facilities

State School Teachers

69

Vocational Instructors

26

Librarians & Library Media Specialists

2

Pupil Services Staff

16

Support Staff

9 (Full Time)

6 (Part Time)

School Administrators

12

Central Office Administrators

2

Facility Schools

Bridgeport CC

Brooklyn CI

Cheshire CI

Corrigan-Radgowski CC

Garner CI

Hartford CC

MacDougall CI

Manson Youth Institution

New Haven CC

Northern CI (Closed 6/11/21)

Osborn CI

Robinson CI

Willard-Cybulski CI

York CI



Historical Background

In June of 1969 the Connecticut General Assembly enacted legislation formerly establishing Unified School District #1 (USD#1) as the legally vested school district within the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC). From a small and limited beginning, the district has grown to be a comprehensive and dynamic component of the Agency's Programs and Treatment Unit. Today, USD#1 is a national leader in correctional education with approximately 144 employees in 14 facilities across Connecticut. Unified School District #1 continues to be responsive to the needs of our students with a focus, not only on academics and career-technical education, but on social emotional learning (SEL) which has a direct impact on our students' learning abilities.

General Information

Unified School District #1 remains dedicated to providing quality educational programming that meets the needs of its incarcerated population and prepares them to successfully transition back to society. Best practices and evidenced-based research are the foundations that support academic knowledge, vocational competencies, life skills development, multiculturalism, and technology awareness in a positive, and growth-oriented environment that prepare students to be life-long learners.

Educational programming is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of learning styles, yet designed to provide the essential structure necessary to support the orderly assimilation of academic, social, and emotional skills on a daily basis. Educational programming is designed to provide essential opportunities to offenders while supporting the specific needs of each facility and the mission of the Connecticut Department of Correction. There are approximately 54% of inmates within the Department of Correction who do not hold a High School Diploma or GED. The average skill level of students upon entry into a school program is between the 4th and 5th grade.

While not all programs are available in each facility, throughout the district USD#1 offers a K-12 High School Program, Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), Credit Diploma Program (CDP), English as a Second Language (ESL), and a wide variety of Career-Technical Education (CTE) programs. Additionally, certified educators provide opportunities for students to explore other topics vital to their personal growth and development. The talented and dedicated professionals in USD#1 are grounded in the knowledge that recidivism is reduced by helping offenders become educated and mature citizens who transition from prison as positive and responsible contributors to the larger community.

Organization

The Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction is designated as the Chairperson of the school board for Unified School District #1. The authority to administer, organize, manage, and supervise the daily operations of the district is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools who may further delegate this authority to other school administrators and staff, as necessary. In addition to assigned responsibilities, USD #1 has a Director of Special Education who oversees, monitors and directs the special education programming at all sites.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) Maintaining oversight and compliance with Agency and State Department of Education policies, procedures and regulations, (2) Developing and implementing progressive district school improvement projects and managing the operational needs of all schools in USD#1, and (3) Implementing measures to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning as well as providing support and guidance about education to the Commissioner and his executive team. The Superintendent is also responsible for hiring, retention, and termination decisions for the school staff in collaboration with Human Resources.

Under the guidance and leadership of the Superintendent, the USD#1 administrative team supports the effective operation of the district. USD#1 employs both certified educational staff and direct and indirect support staff employees in a variety of settings.

All professional staff members are CT State certified and must maintain their certification to ensure compliance with Connecticut State Department of Education certification requirements. Ongoing professional development opportunities are provided to all certified staff in accordance with best practices. All professional development is founded upon the principle of results-based accountability and focused on improving school effectiveness and achievement for all students in USD#1.

Students

Unified School District #1 provides education services to offenders incarcerated as adults in the CT Department of Correction. Students under the age of 18 without a high school diploma or GED are required to attend school while school is voluntary for offenders ages 18 years or older.

| Age Group | Education |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 14-17 year olds | Required to Attend |
| 18 years old and up | Voluntary |

Academic Program Options

Unified School District #1 offers the following academic program options; however, not all options are available to all students.

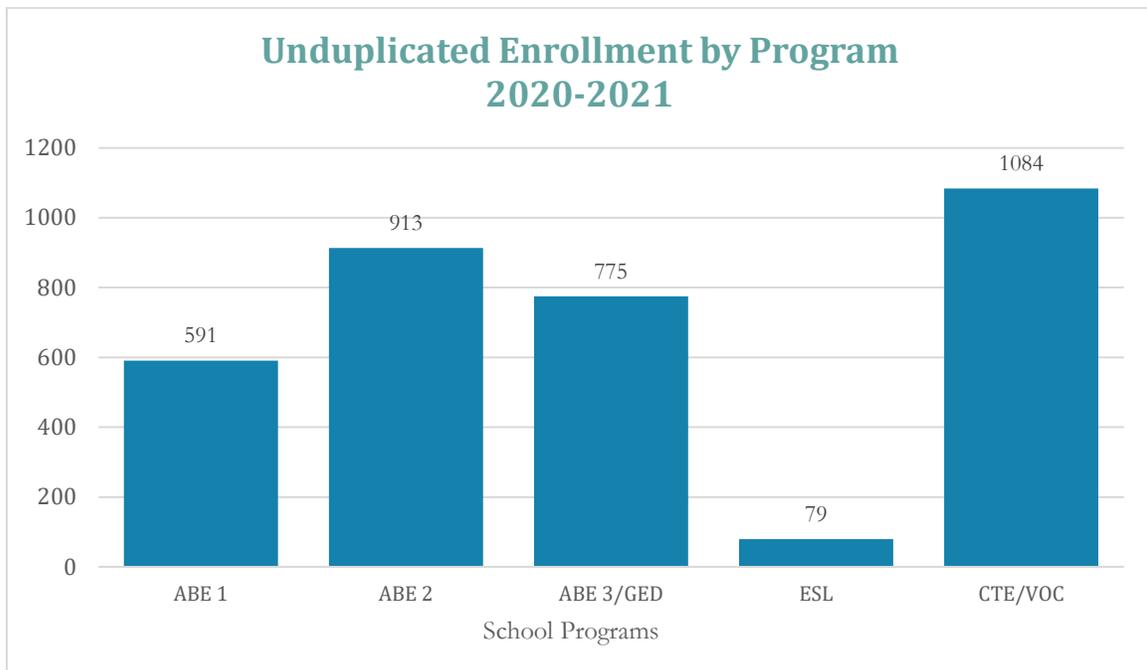
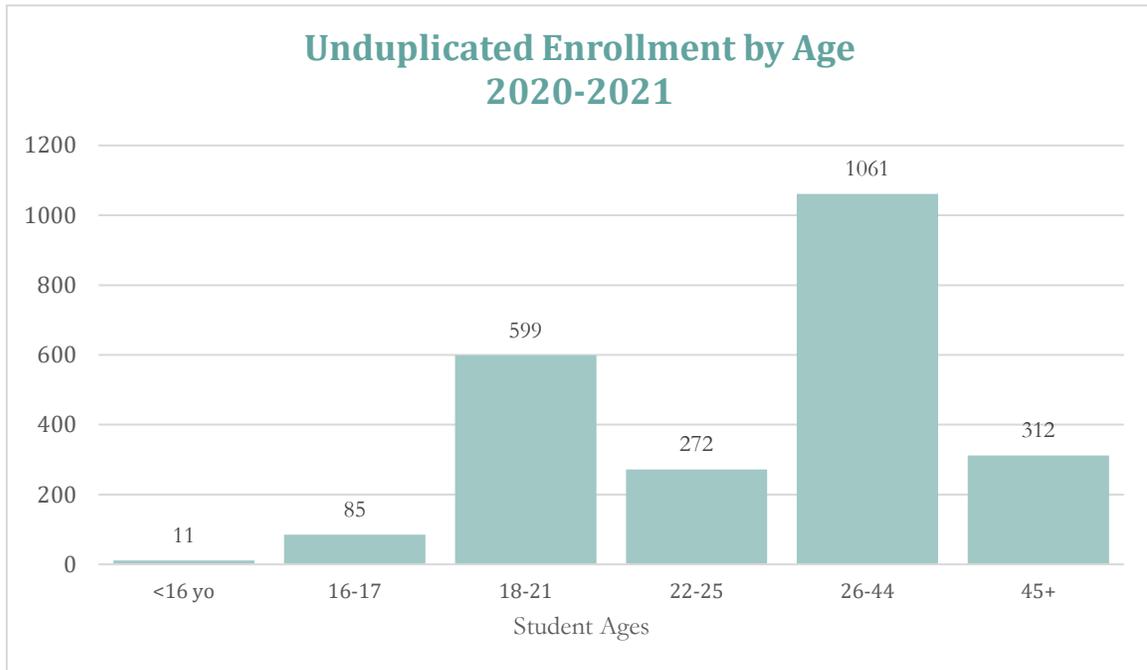
| Academic Program Options | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ages | K-12 Education | Adult Education | |
| 14-17 years old | High School Program | | |
| 18-21 years old | High School Program* | ABE/GED Program | Credit Diploma Program |
| 22 years old or older | | ABE/GED Program | Credit Diploma Program |

* Eligibility based on individual review of student credits and other pertinent information.

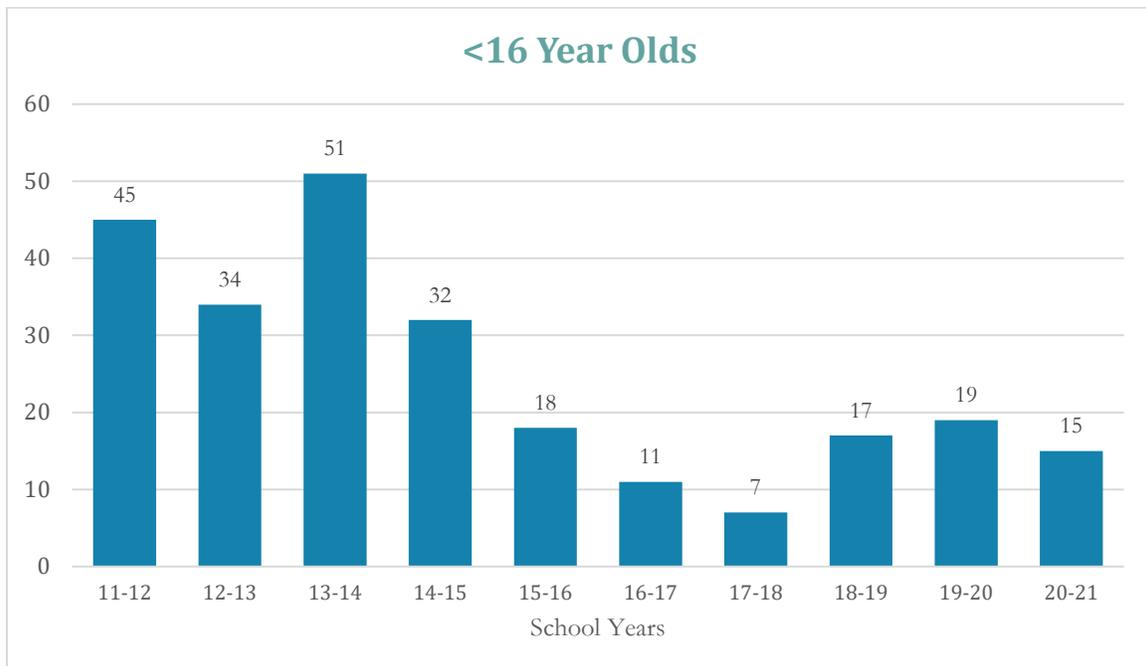
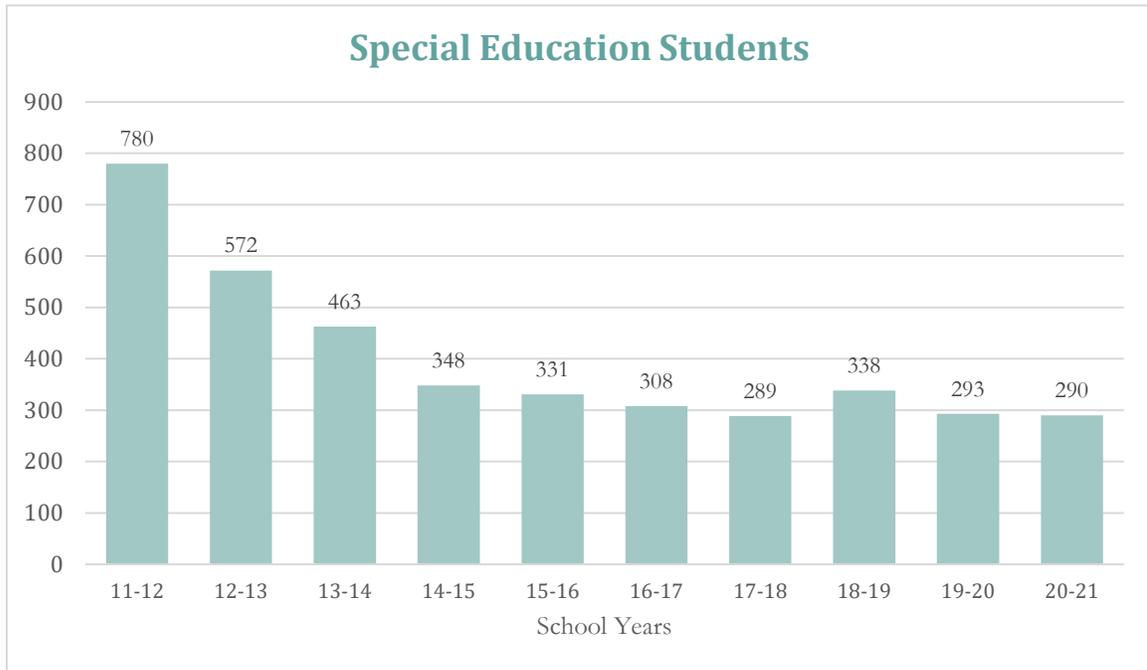
| 2020-2021 Educational Offerings by Type | |
|--|---|
| Program Type | Educational Offerings* |
| Academic & Enrichment | Adult Basic Education (ABE) Credit Diploma Program ESL General Education Development (GED) K-12 High School Diploma Special Education Technology Education |
| Student Services | Academic Assessments Career Resource Fairs Continuing Education Correspondence Courses Counseling Services DSST Examinations Special Education and Related Services |
| Career-Technical Education | Auto Body Repair Technology Automotive Technology Building Maintenance Business Education Carpentry Commercial Cleaning Computer Education Computer Repair Cosmetology/Barbering Culinary Arts Drafting CAD/CAM Electro-Mechanical Technology Graphic and Printing Technology Horticulture/Landscaping Technology Hospitality Operations Technology Machine Tool Small Engine Technology Wheelchair Repair |

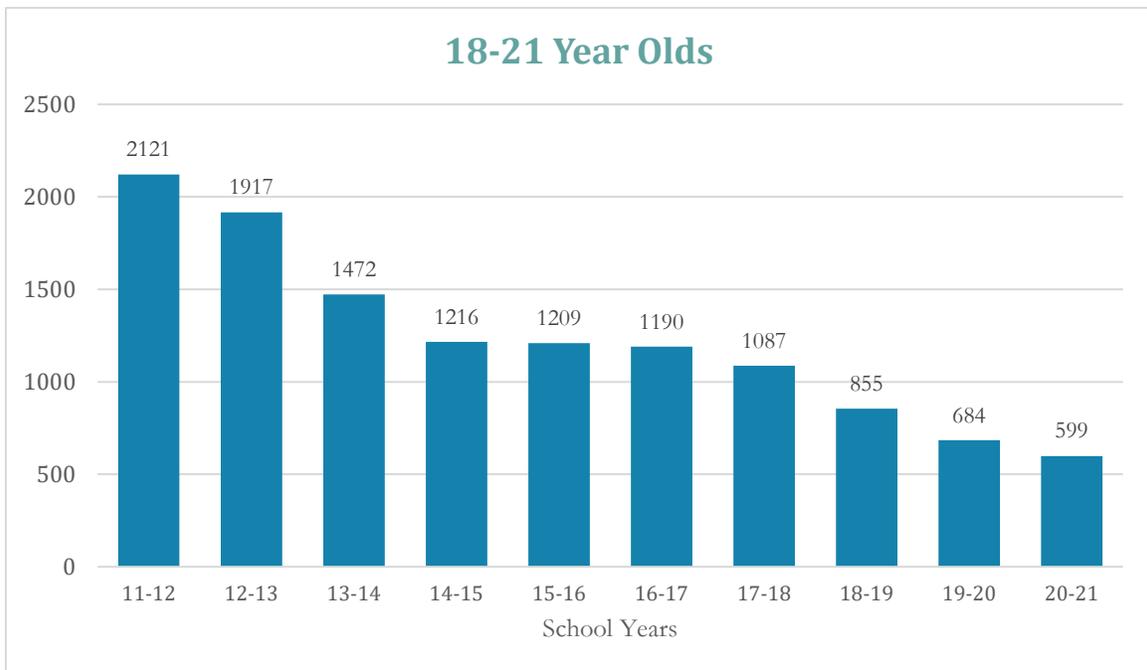
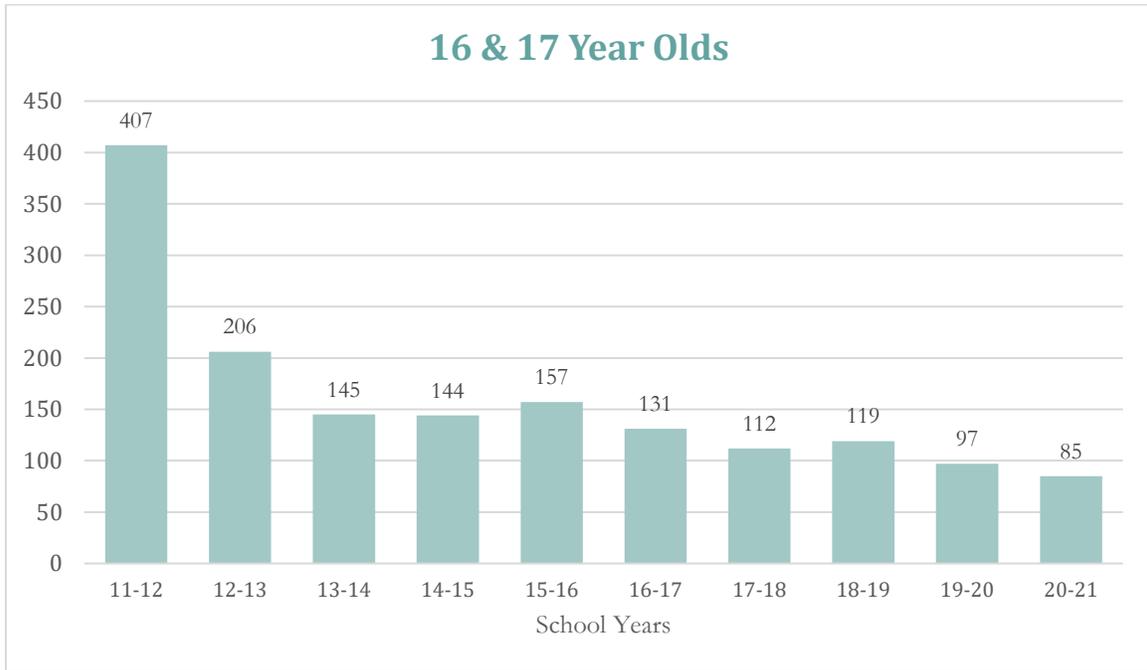
* Not all offerings are available at every facility.

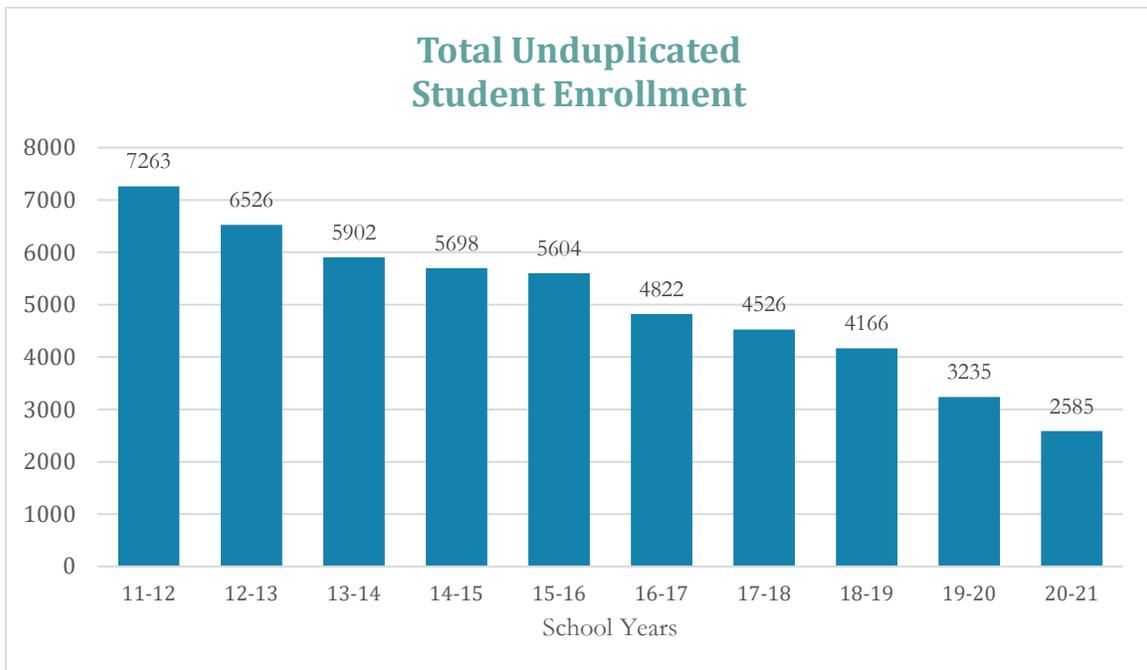
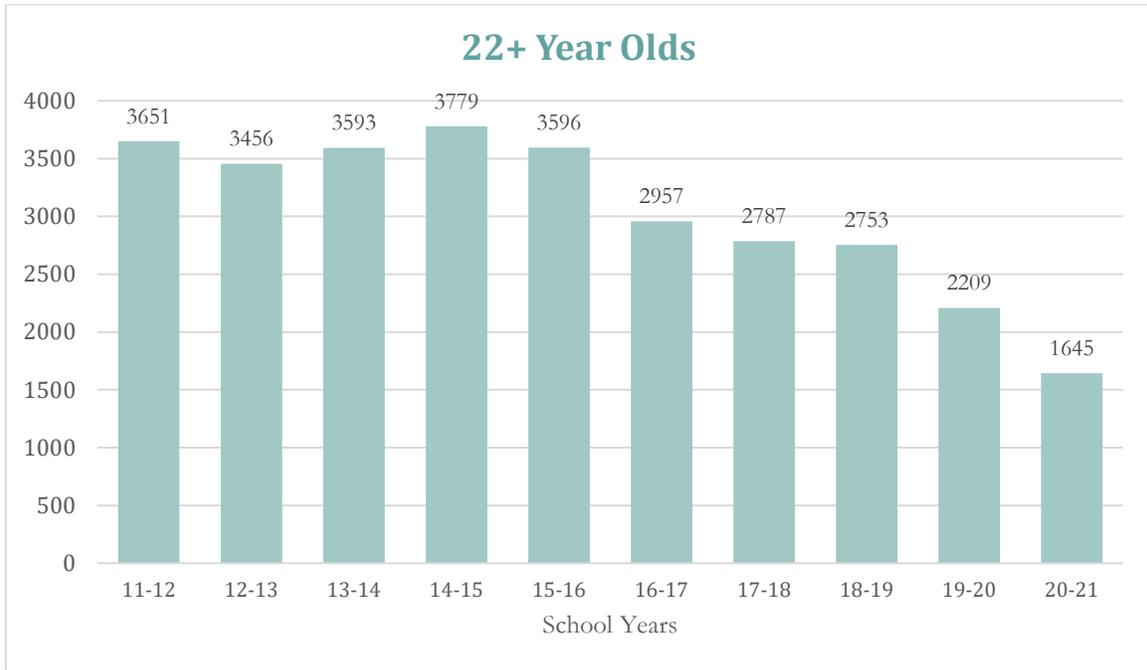
Student Enrollment Data

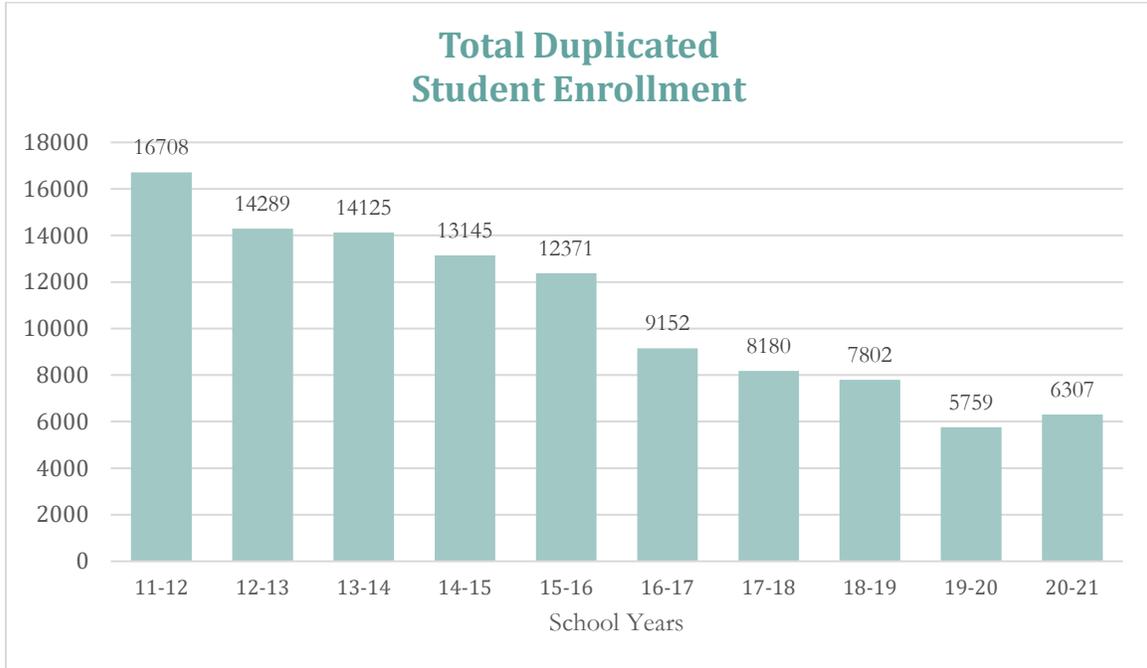


Enrollment Trend Data

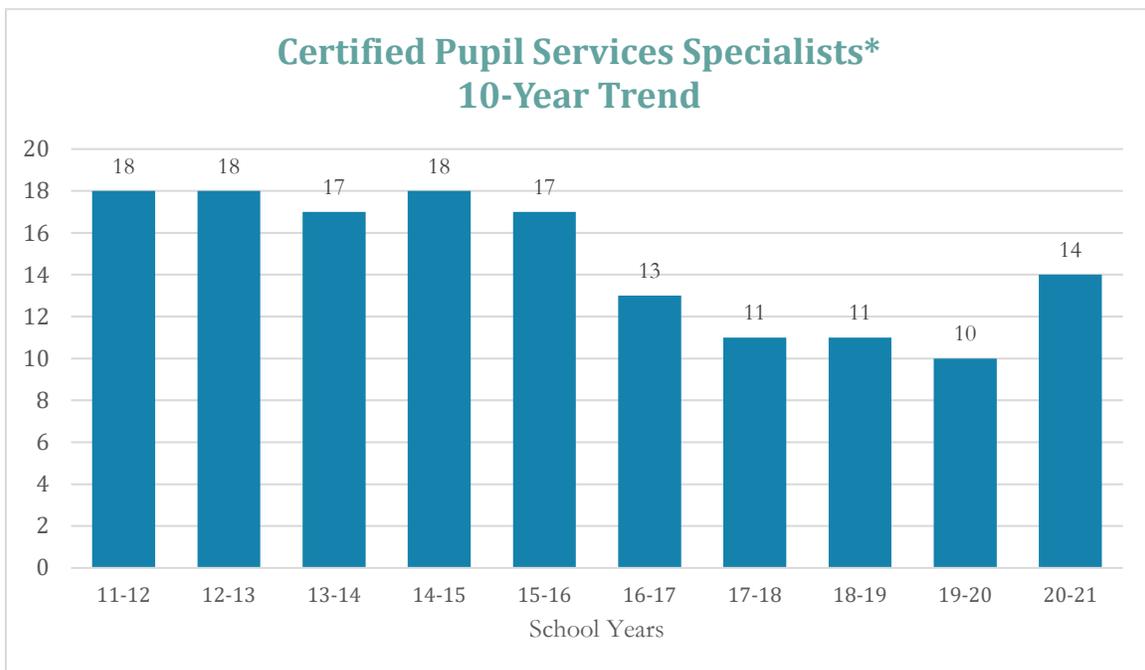
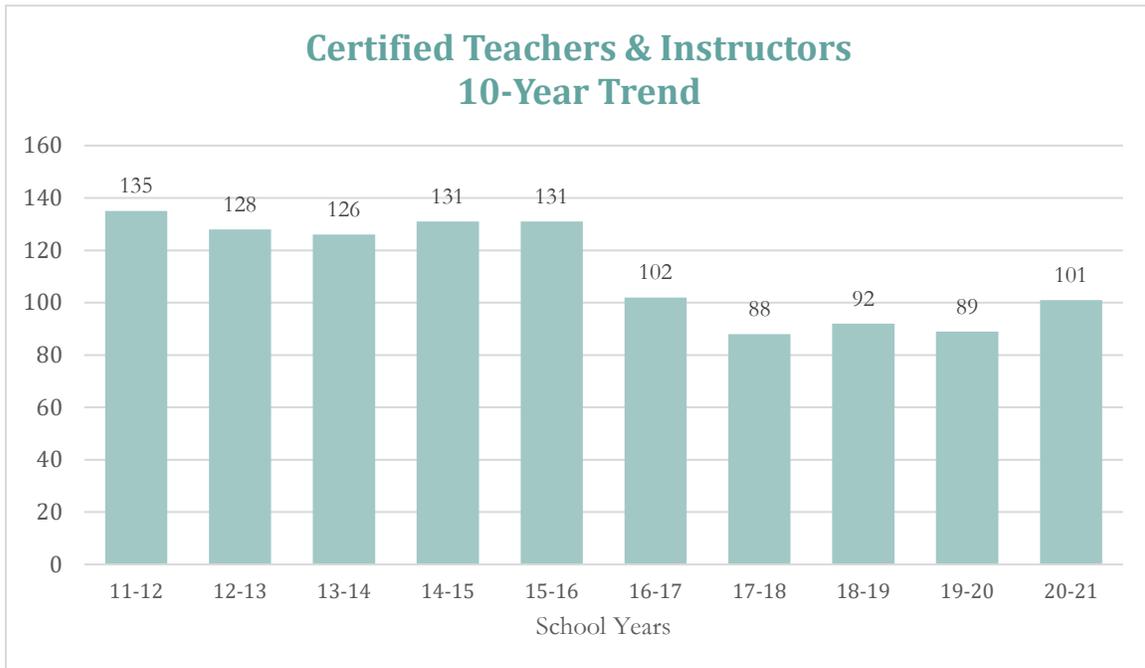








Staff Trend Data



* Pupil Service Specialists include School Psychologists, School Counselors, and School Social Workers.

Angel Quiros
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Correction

Eulalia Garcia
Director of Programs and Treatment
Connecticut Department of Correction

Veron Beaulieu
Acting Superintendent of Schools
Unified School District #1



9/2021

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
Unified School District #1
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