

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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STAMFORD DELEGATION SECURES EXPANSION FOR STAMFORD'S ROGERS INTERNATIONAL MAGNET SCHOOL

Expansion needed to keep pace with growing enrollment in Stamford schools

STAMFORD, CT — Attendance in Stamford Public Schools has grown by nearly 5,000 new students in the past fifteen years and more growth is expected in the future. Today, Stamford's delegation to the General Assembly announced that they have secured funding for a critical expansion of the Rogers International Inter-District Magnet School which will help meet the growing demand for classroom space in the city.

State Senator Carlo Leone (D-Stamford) joined **State Representatives William Tong (D-Stamford), Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford)** and **Terry Adams (D-Stamford)** at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue in Stamford—the site of the future expansion—to make the announcement alongside **Mayor David Martin, Superintendent of Schools Winifred Hamilton** and members of the Stamford Board of Education.

"I am so proud to stand with the Stamford legislative delegation, Mayor's Office, Board of Education, and Superintendent today announcing \$62 million in the state budget for the expansion of Rogers Magnet School in Stamford, which will serve hundreds of students," **Rep. Simmons** said. "Thank you to Carlo Leone, William Tong, Pat Miller, Terry Adams, Dan Fox, David Martin, Winifred Hamilton, Tamu Lucero, Michael Pollard, Cindy Gradstein, Jackie Heftman, Julia Wade, and many others for all of the work you did to make this possible and to ensure all students in Stamford have access to a quality and equal education."

"The \$62 million in funding we secured to expand the Rogers School will help the city refurbish this building so we can ease overcrowding in our school system and make sure that our children get the education they need," said **Sen. Leone**. "The members of our delegation, the Mayor's office, the Superintendent and the Board of Education all worked together to make this project a reality, and I'm glad to say that we've had the strong support of the Governor in our efforts. This expansion ensures that our children will get the quality education they deserve and will make them the successful leaders we know they can be."

"Marking this historic investment in education in Stamford is an honor," said **Rep. Tong, House Chair of the Judiciary Committee**. "I look forward to celebrating the achievements of the great students that will graduate from Rogers in the years to come."

“I am grateful my colleagues and I were able to bring this state funding home to Stamford for the benefit of our students. This much-needed funding will expand the Rogers International School, allowing more students to take advantage of the high-quality education this school offers,” said **Rep. Patricia Billie Miller (D-Stamford)**.

Stamford Public Schools enrollment has grown from 11,394 students in the 1989-1990 school year to 16,069 students in the 2013-2014 school year. Growing demand has strained existing schools to their limits. Many of Stamford’s schools are not equipped with modern small group instruction spaces and other necessary educational features. This has resulted in classrooms being forced to host multiple classes, the loss of dedicated music and art rooms, and the repurposing of offices, storage rooms and hallways as classroom space. Expanding the Rogers School will help Stamford meet the need for additional space.

Funding for the expansion and other statewide school building projects is supported by House Bill 7102. Operating funds for the school are provided by Senate Bill 1502. Stamford will receive \$61 million for school construction and \$900 thousand in operating funds.

The Rogers School has a track record of success in offering a high-quality education to students. The school has been in high demand, with 500 students applying for 88 kindergarten seats for the 2014-2015 school year. The Rogers School expansion will ensure that additional classroom space is available in a community where it is greatly needed. Four of the area’s most overcrowded schools will be greatly impacted by the expansion of the Rogers School.

Senate Bill 1502 has been signed into law by Governor Dannel P. Malloy and House Bill 7102 awaits his signature.



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