

**Canton Public Schools**  
**Athletic Department**  
**3-Year Strategic Plan**  
**2018-2021**



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## Planning Context

Incorporated in 1806, Canton Connecticut is located in Hartford County astride the Farmington River Valley and has a population of 10,334. The Canton Public School district enrolls 1,601 students from the town of Canton as well as other surrounding Open Choice communities. All of these students are housed in four school facilities; an elementary, intermediate, middle and high school. Canton Public Schools have earned a reputation for being among the highest performing school systems in their comparison group with students who consistently perform at or above the levels of districts with similar demographic and economic profiles.

Tremendous progress has been achieved and the outcomes speak for themselves. Student performance on standardized assessments is trending up throughout the system and Canton High School is regarded as one of the top high schools in the state of Connecticut. From teaching and learning to communications and leadership, the district has systematically worked to improve all facets of the educational process on behalf of the students of Canton. The Canton Public Schools are a source of pride for the community and by any measure, this sense of accomplishment is well deserved.

The Canton Public Schools Athletic Task Force began meeting in May of 2017 for the specific task of developing a Canton Public Schools Athletic Strategic Plan. The committee of 17 represented the Canton school community at large.

The Canton Public Schools Athletic Task Force:

- met 7 times
- held student focus groups
- held coaches forum
- held public input session
- visited Old Lyme High School
- conducted a community survey

The Athletic Task Force reviewed all of the data collected and implemented necessary items into the strategic plan.

## ***Canton Public Schools***

### ***Canton Board of Education***

Julie Auseré, Chair

Ana Cavanaugh-Vice Chair

Maria Bradley-Secretary

Peg Berry

David Briggs

Ryan O'Donnell

Jack Powell

Joe Scheideler

Helen Treacy

### ***Administration***

Mr. Kevin D. Case

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jordan E. Grossman

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

*The Canton Public Schools Athletic Task Force*

Dr. Jordan E. Grossman	Assistant Superintendent	Co-Chair
David Briggs	BOE Member	Co-Chair
Kim Church	Interim Athletic Coordinator	Vice-Chair
Peg Berry	BOE Member	
Drew DiPippo	Canton High School Principal	
Pam Hamad	Canton Middle School Principal	
Joe Scheideler	BOE Member	
Jack Powell	BOE member	
Kathy Wood	President Canton Friends of Football	
Chris Tucker	Canton Youth Lacrosse	
Greg Skinner	President Canton Booster Club	
Craig Archambault	Boys Basketball Coach	
Josh Bristol	Middle School/High School Wrestling Coach	
Kim Weller	Parent	
Janet Connolly	Parent	
Lauren Puglielli	Student	
Emily Gabrielian	Student	

# Charting Our Course

## *Our Vision: Opening Minds ... Transforming Lives*

As a leader among schools and a source of pride in our community, the Canton Public Schools enrich the present and shape the future of its students by opening minds and transforming lives.

## *Our Mission*

Our mission is to prepare independent, productive, respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to an ever changing world. We pursue continuous improvement while honoring our strong educational legacy and traditions. We unite with families and the community to provide challenging educational experiences that promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of our students.

## *We Believe:*

- All students will successfully master Canton's Community Expectations for Learning
- All students benefit from high quality resources and experiences that foster intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth
- All students flourish in a safe and healthy learning environment that values differences while respecting cultures, abilities and perspectives
- All children are entitled to a childhood

## **Canton Public Schools Athletic Department Successes**

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The Canton Public Schools Athletic Department represents pride and joy in the Canton Community. There is a strong tradition of academic and athletic success. Though there have been leadership changes the past few years, the high level of success is based on a

sense of purpose and commitment to excellence. The Athletic Department receives wonderful support from the community in the form of spirit and financial assistance.

Over the past five years on average, 65% of Canton High School students participated in athletics. Canton is also proud to have high achieving students. Since 2014, students have raised a total of \$8,278 for multiple charities and organizations. Canton High School has been awarded the Michael's Cup four times with two of those being awarded in the last three years. The Michael's Cup is given to high schools in Connecticut for excellent achievement as an overall athletics program. The Michael's Cup recognizes achievement in the following areas: sportsmanship, participation, athletic scholarship, athletic personnel, equity, chemical free initiatives and athletic achievement. Academic success of Canton High School students has been most impressive with 390 students being named scholar athletes in the past three years. All of these accomplishments is one of the reasons the Canton Public Schools is recognized as one of the top school districts in the state of Connecticut.

Since 1970, Canton High School has claimed 26 State Championships, 67 Conference Championships, and numerous All-State, All-New England and All American Athletes.

**Goal Area 1: The Canton Public Schools' Athletic Department is committed to be a program with strong guiding principles and one with high integrity.**

**Indicators of Success:**

- Development of clear mission statement and expectations for the athletic department which builds on the philosophy of participation, building character, and skill development.
- Dedication to continuous improvement of the athletic department in the areas of communication, celebration of student athletes, and recruitment/maintaining a high-level coaching staff.
- Development of leadership opportunities for student-athletes that will prepare them for life after high school athletics.

**Goal Area 2: The Canton Public Schools’ Athletic Department is committed to providing resources, proper facilities, and support necessary for sports teams and to maintaining fiscal responsibility.**

**Indicators of Success:**

- Resolve the issue of funding for Football and Boys Lacrosse.
- Ensure well-developed multiple measures are in place and reported regularly to ensure equity, cost effectiveness, sports team configuration (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman), and participation in the athletic department.
- Sustain leadership in the athletic department allowing for growth and development in programming.
- Engage in cooperative sports relationships with other school districts of sports with low participation numbers as necessary.
- Develop a Capital Improvement Plan.

**Goal Area 3: The Canton Public Schools’ Athletic Department is committed to enhancing the welfare of student athletes and developing partnerships with other departments in the school and within the community.**

**Indicators of Success:**

- Engage in clear, regular, and reliable communication of appropriate information to all stakeholders in the community.
- Provide student-athletes with the support necessary to help them achieve to the highest level possible in and out of the classroom.
- Expand and strengthen the positive relationship between student athletes in the classroom and their success as competitive athletes with the community, specifically youth athletes.