

We Are Waterbury



JAHANA HAYES, teacher, Kennedy High School
Waterbury Teacher of the Year, Connecticut State Teacher of the Year

There is an energy and creativity that exists among the students in Waterbury that is unmatched. Once that spark is ignited the possibilities are endless. I could never have experienced the same success as a teacher in another

JUAN MENDOZA, Principal, Reed School

I grew up in Waterbury and attended its public schools from elementary to high school. Growing up, I had parents, community leaders, and teachers that motivated me to do my best, to work hard, and value education. Recognizing their impact on my life, I realized that I wanted to make a difference in my city with students just like me. Working here as a teacher and now as a Principal, has been a rewarding experience as it has enabled me to build strong connections with my community while positively impacting the lives of my students through high expectations, rigorous curriculum, and educational programs for families.



LORRAINE LANGLAIS, teacher, Kennedy High School

My primary motivation when I became a teacher was to make a difference in the lives of the students I taught. I could have chosen to work in a more suburban setting but I quickly realized that this is a district where I can impact students' lives in a more dramatic way. Where there is a greater need there are more urgent challenges, but also more rewarding results when you are able to be a part of helping students overcome those challenges.

SEAN MOSLEY, teacher, Crosby High School

I am a product of the Waterbury Public Schools, so I know what it can do for students. Every student wants to be successful, and every student deserves that opportunity. Waterbury Public Schools gives students that opportunity.





ANITA WATKINS, teacher, Wilby High School

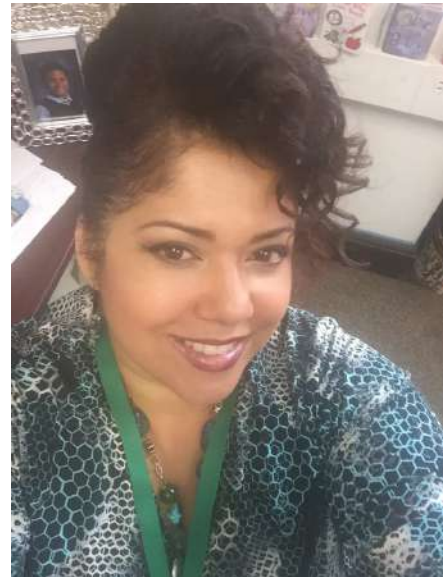
When relocating to Connecticut 11 years ago, and after researching various school districts, I chose to work in Waterbury Public Schools particularly because of its student population. It was the place where I could impact the “whole” student.

My belief is that a student that has experienced academic, social, and emotional success is one that can assist in enhancing their community’s socio-economic and political prowess, while forging a casual contribution to society.

My tenure in the WPS system has been inspiring and truly fulfilling, as it has provided opportunities to develop and facilitate the various facets of growth in my students and myself.

ADELA JORGE-NELSON, Supervisor, Bilingual Education

I began my career in Waterbury Public Schools as a Bilingual student. With the support of my teachers, family, and community, I became a teacher. In my current role of Supervisor of the Bilingual/ESOL Education Department, I am able to ensure Waterbury’s English Learners receive access to quality education in a nurturing environment that promotes self-efficacy and cultivates leadership skills.



DAVID VECCA, teacher, Waterbury Career Academy

I was a product of the Waterbury Public Schools system and I have lived in Waterbury my entire life. Being able to give back to the community that provided me with my education is a reward in itself. I wanted to work in Waterbury because I wanted the chance to work with a diverse range of students from the inner city and make a positive impact in their lives. These students have made me a better educator and I look forward to continuing my journey in Waterbury.



NILSA GARCIA, teacher, Hopeville School

I chose to work in the Waterbury Public Schools system because I want to support the English Language Learners in their transition to learn the English language and culture. I was part of the bilingual transition, Spanish to English, in the Waterbury Public Schools system when I came to this city at the age of 13. Based on my experience as a learner and an educator, I believe that the Waterbury Public Schools system provides high quality education and equal opportunities for all students.

PAUL A. WHYTE, Instructional Leadership Director

I chose to work in Waterbury Public Schools because I am committed to urban education. My work in the district is to help school leadership move students from “at-risk” to “at-promise.” Working in Waterbury has allowed me the opportunity to both learn and lead.



ROXANNE AUGELLI, Principal, Washington School

I am a Waterburyian...went through Waterbury Public Schools from kindergarten through high school, now live and work in Waterbury. My entire school career I was inspired by the teachers I had at every level. Their dedication, their commitment, and their belief in the potential of each one of us (their students).

I have had tremendous opportunities to grow, learn, and develop a mindset of lifelong learning from the many people I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Waterbury has a culture that “believes”... believes we can once again be a thriving city, believes in the character of its citizens, and believes our kids deserve the best education possible. I chose to be part of that culture.





RICHARD M. ARROYO, Principal, Enlightenment and Excel Programs

I love the Waterbury School District. I am a product of the schools within district and I believe that the opportunities I have been afforded is proof for the students, families and stakeholders that with hard work, determination and perseverance, ALL goals can be accomplished.

ELIZABETH BROWN, President, Waterbury Board of Education

Teachers Make a Difference! Waterbury School system provides an excellent education in a thriving urban community. We embrace innovation, creativity, and the gifts each teacher brings to the teaching profession. If you are dedicated, talented, caring, and want to join an amazing school district to make a difference in the lives of children, please consider Waterbury for your teaching career.



TALISH FOY, Supervising Vice Principal, Woodrow Wilson School

Why Waterbury?

I choose to work in the Waterbury Public Schools system because it is comprised of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals with a common goal to educate and inspire students. We work to ensure that each student realizes their potential and is cultivated into a well-rounded individual and is prepared to pursue their future goals. We take pride in, and embrace the reality that our student body is rich in diversity and encompasses various ethnicities and backgrounds. The WPS system has had a positive impact on my career because it was my experience as a student here for 12 years that inspired me to become an educator. The knowledge that I once sat where many of our students sit today has given me a strong desire to give back as much as I have received from Waterbury Public Schools.



KEVIN EGAN, President, Waterbury Teachers Association

Teaching is the greatest gift that we can provide to our children and is what motivated me to become a Waterbury teacher. In Waterbury, I am proud to teach alongside colleagues that inspire and motivate me to become a better teacher every day. I cherish being part of a team of supportive and caring staff that make the Waterbury school district such a special place.



BENJOLA SHULE-SEJDARAS, teacher

As a former student of Waterbury Public Schools system, it has been an honor for me to give back to my community by positively impacting the local youth through teaching.

MATTHEW W. CALABRESE, Principal, Chase School

Having attended and graduated from Waterbury Public Schools, I decided that it was here that I would want to pursue my career in education. I wanted to provide students the same positive experiences and excellent education that I received. Seventeen years ago, the City of Waterbury provided me this opportunity. During this time I have taught at both the elementary and middle school levels, and have gained invaluable experience towards becoming an instructional leader. Today, I continue to gain experience and am always working to better the instruction of my staff and the education of our students.



JESSICA OCASIO, Supervising Vice Principal, B. W. Tinker School

Growing up in Waterbury, I knew that I wanted to help the children thrive to have a successful future. During my career with the Waterbury Public Schools, I have had numerous leadership opportunities. As a classroom teacher, I had the experience of chairing the School Governance Council to being the teacher leader for training fellow teachers. My involvement in these leadership roles afforded me the skills and knowledge needed to become an effective administrator for the Waterbury Public Schools.

JADE L. GOPIE, Principal, Crosby High School

Educating the minds of future generations requires a careful understanding of the cultural and community dynamics that influence the educational needs of our children. It is an honor to be a part of a system that understands and cares for its students.