



Domus High School Family Advocacy

Domus' high school school engagement program engages disengaged high school Stamford Public School (SPS) students over four years in intensive, interpersonal relationships with family advocates to help them acquire the social and emotional skills, attitudes, and habits needed to graduate and enroll and engage in post-secondary or employment. The program operates as Domus Knights (created in 2017) and Domus Vikings. All high school students were disengaged 9th graders at intake, defined as having an attendance rate between 50-85% and/or suspended at least twice and/or have internalizing or externalizing behaviors that impact their ability to succeed in school.

Total students served in SY24: 352

RESULTS, SY24

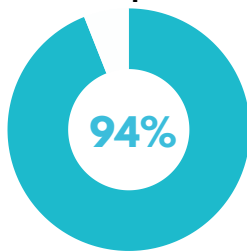
- 87% of 2023 graduates were on track 12 months post-graduation.
- 82% of students were promoted on time.
- 93% of students said the help their family advocate provides is *very/extremely* helpful.
- 87% of families would *strongly recommend* this program to other families.
- 96% of students and 92% of families returned their survey.

STAFFING & FINANCIALS

Bilingual Staff



Black or Hispanic Staff



16 family advocates*, 2 supervisors
**2 at Anchor, 7 each at WHS and SHS*

Annual Program Revenues

Provided by Domus:
\$2.3M (100%)



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS, SY24

100% of students were disengaged or disconnected at intake.

- 96% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
- 36% have an IEP.
- 96% identify as Black, Hispanic, or multiracial.
- ≥99% have experienced trauma which impacts their ability to be successful in school.

CORE SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED IN SY24

For 352 high school students, Domus family advocates completed:



16,276
Student
Contacts



3,959
Family Contacts,
Including Home Visits



9,791
School Staff
Contacts

DOMUS RELATIONAL MODEL

The entirety of our work is based on the undeniable power of love to transform lives. Our staff work relentlessly to engage young people, never giving up until they feel a sense of safety and belonging. We use a unique and powerful combination of trauma-responsive and anti-racist practices, positive youth development, loving relationships, and Thoughts, Emotions, & Behaviors (a form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) skills-building. Together, these elements engage a young person's entire nervous system to increase their safety, health, wisdom, resilience, and skills. Fundamentally, they help youth regulate, relate, and reason as they practice shifting from a chronic stress response ("fight, flight, or flee") to engage their "calm and connect" systems. Thus, when facing life's inevitable challenges, youth can interrupt unproductive, automatic reactions and respond more skillfully. Through these loving, evidence-based interventions, Domus empowers young people to achieve life-changing outcomes.



CT must place a stronger emphasis on....helping students navigate the transition between middle school and high school. At least two organizations in CT have already successfully modeled what this role can look like: Domus Family Advocates in Stamford...—*Young People First Report*, pg 56 (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, 2024)