

# HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

## SUFFIELD ACADEMY

Suffield, Connecticut

[suffieldacademy.org](http://suffieldacademy.org)

Start Date: July 2027



**Carney  
Sandoe**  
& ASSOCIATES

[CARNEYSANDOE.COM](http://CARNEYSANDOE.COM)

# Mission Statement

Suffield Academy is a coeducational independent secondary school serving a diverse community of boarding and day students. Our school has a tradition of academic excellence combined with a strong work ethic. A commitment to scholarship and a respect for individual differences guide our teaching and curriculum. We engender among our students a sense of responsibility, and they are challenged to grow in a structured and nurturing environment. The entire academic, athletic, and extracurricular experience prepares our students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and active citizenship.

## At a Glance



Established  
**1833**



Total enrollment  
**415**



Total faculty  
**95**



Student/teacher ratio  
**4.4:1**



Students of color  
**23%**



Financial aid awarded  
**\$6.7M**



International students  
**80**



Campus size  
**350 acres**

Boarding students: 67%  
States represented: 18  
Countries represented: 22  
Trustees: 30  
Admissions selectivity: 22%  
Yield on accepted students: 51%

Students receiving financial aid: 35%  
Endowment: \$97M  
Long-term debt: \$13M  
Annual operating budget: \$28M  
Academic class sections: 246





## Overview

Suffield Academy, a coeducational boarding and day school for students in grades 9 through post-graduate, blends a rigorous college-preparatory academic program with an encouraging, spirited environment and world-class facilities. Guided by core values of kindness, respect, leadership, and effort, the school is known for its strong academic foundation, extensive arts and athletic programs, and an inclusive, close-knit community where every student is known and valued.

Founded in 1833 and located on a stunning 350-acre campus in historic Suffield, Connecticut—just ten minutes from Bradley International Airport—Suffield Academy blends tradition with innovation. The school's signature programs reflect a deep commitment to holistic development. These include a nationally recognized Leadership Program, a developmentally-sequenced four-year college counseling process, a Balance Barn that promotes wellness and mindfulness, and truly robust extra-curricular programs in the arts, community service, and student life. Suffield actively cultivates a diverse and inclusive community and encourages students to grow with confidence, curiosity, and compassion. More than \$120 million has been invested in new construction or significant renovations over the past two decades.

The next Head of School will join a vibrant, mission-driven institution with a dedicated faculty and staff, engaged families, talented senior administrative leadership team, and an active and supportive alumni network. Suffield also has a robust applicant pool, strong financial foundation, and dedicated Board of Trustees. This is a leadership opportunity for someone who is both deeply relational and strategically visionary—an experienced educator who leads with warmth, communicates with transparency, and inspires trust. The next Head will honor Suffield's proud traditions while charting a clear path forward, ensuring that the school continues to thrive as a dynamic, student-centered learning community committed to excellence, inclusion, and personal growth.



## Opportunities and Challenges

Suffield Academy seeks a highly relational and responsive leader who will steward, connect with, and lead a school community to assess and address its current needs and to secure its future of hope and promise. Working alongside an accomplished senior administrative team and dedicated faculty, the Head of School will build on the exceptional work done by Charlie Cahn in his decades of strong leadership. Specific opportunities and challenges will include:

- Maintain the present school culture of excellence and embrace its strong traditions while continuing to enhance the program and facilities;
- Continue to foster the deep sense of community where every student feels seen and heard, and faculty members are involved in all aspects of community life;
- Carry on the excellent admissions and outreach work being done that has raised the profile of Suffield Academy and continue to expand brand visibility and public recognition;
- Build on the existing successful fundraising efforts and sound budgetary management to further strengthen the finances of the school and support long-term sustainability;
- Demonstrate in thought and action that the needs of the students—academically, physically, and emotionally—are at the center of all program considerations;
- Honor the proud legacy of Suffield Academy while cultivating the healthy evolution of the school's programs through intentional innovation;
- Work in partnership with a dedicated and invested 30-person Board of Trustees.

## Qualities and Personal Attributes

### Professional Qualifications

- A deep understanding of and appreciation for boarding school life and the commitment to a residential community;
- Personal and professional alignment with a school that has long standing traditions and believes providing a student-centered experience is at its core;
- Experience recruiting, hiring, and supporting faculty for a boarding community that is student centric, and where a high degree of engagement is expected;





- Fundraising experience and the ability to be Suffield's lead communicator;
- The relationship-building skills to continue engendering deep trust across all constituents, including students and families, faculty and staff, alumni, trustees, and donors;
- Experience assessing current educational and programmatic offerings and aligning and raising resources to support excellence in all the school's endeavors;
- A strong track record of articulating a bold future vision complemented by pragmatic implementation;
- The ability to manage and lead the financial and operational aspects of a complex organization.

### **Leadership Style and Personal Qualities**

- A warm, authentic, student-centered leadership style that leads with kindness but can affirm boundaries;
- A demonstrated, highly effective, and strategic communication style in written, verbal, and personal interactions;
- A community-building style that is collaborative whenever possible and decisive when necessary, demonstrating approachability, trustworthiness, transparency, as well as a commitment to honoring multiple perspectives;
- A capacity to balance a school ethos that prioritizes the agency of the individual while recognizing the importance of coherence and community;
- Courage to make difficult decisions, upholding the highest standards of integrity;
- A joyful countenance and desire to actively engage with students, parents, faculty, and alumni and the willingness to prioritize presence and visibility;
- A calm demeanor in attending to urgent issues of crisis and high emotion;
- Sophisticated emotional intelligence and cultural sensitivity to respectfully navigate diverse cultural and social situations and foster understanding and inclusion in the school community;
- An optimistic attitude and balanced mindset particularly when helping the community attend to national and global disruption;
- A growth mindset, a good sense of humor, and a genuine passion for students and education.

# Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Suffield Academy.

[School Website](#)

[Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[College Matriculation](#)

[About Suffield, Connecticut](#)



## To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing interest in this particular position
- A current résumé

Selected candidates may be asked to provide:

- Writing samples specific to this search
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

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