

The Sound School- Admissions Guide

Come chart your future with us!

Thank you for your interest in attending the Sound School! If you have any questions while completing your application please contact us at SoundAdmissions@new-haven.k12.ct.us or (475)220-6805

Completing the Application:

The application is standardized to all of CT's Agriculture Science and Technology Programs. The application can be filled out electronically, or can be printed and completed by hand. We recommend you complete your portion of the application and give it to your school counselor, so they can submit the completed application, including recommendations and school records. The application can be found on our website: <https://sound.school/admissions/application/>

The application can be submitted by email to:

SoundAdmissions@new-haven.k12.ct.us or by mail to:

The Sound School,
60 S. Water St.,
New Haven CT 06519.

Once a complete application is received, all applicants must also participate in an individual 5-10 minute (5 question) interview and parent information session to review program expectations.

Application Criteria:

All applications are evaluated by the following criteria using a standardized scoring system (The list is in order from highest to lowest in criterion).

1. Demonstrated interest in a career in an agricultural or aquaculture related field.*
2. Personal meeting and/or interview with ASTE staff and/or school personnel.
3. A personal essay written by the student
4. Recommendations (Counselor, Teacher and Personal).
5. Attendance record.
6. Academic record.
7. Behavioral record.

*Your interest in our programs is the most important part of your application. Your essay and interview are your chance to show us who you are and why The Sound School is the right place for you. Make sure your essay addresses the 4 key aspects of the prompt: 1. Reasons you want to study agriculture, aquaculture, and/or

marine trades; 2. Previous experiences with any of the pathways offered at Sound; 3. Benefits from being a part of The Sound School; and 4. How The Sound School would benefit from having you as a student.

Application Timeline:

1. We recruit at local middle schools throughout the months of September, October and November.
2. Open House for Interested 8th Graders is **October 23, 2025**.
3. Application deadline is **DECEMBER 20, 2025**.
4. Interview sessions will be held on December 11th; and January 14th.
5. Other applications received after December 20th will be reviewed and interviewed if and when additional spots are available.
6. Students will receive admissions decisions in early March and will have one month to confirm their spot.

We will accept and review completed applications until all 90 seats in the incoming freshmen class for the next school year are full. Once the class is full, student applicants who meet our minimum criteria will be placed on a waitlist. Students on the waitlist will be contacted when a seat opens up; this can happen at any time throughout the spring, summer up until the first weeks of school.

Transfer Students:

Please contact us directly about potential openings for 9th or 10th grade. Complete applications for transfer admission will be accepted on a rolling basis. Should there be an available position for the aspiring student and they meet the minimum criteria they will be accepted. If there are no current openings, transfer students will be added to our waitlist.

Connecticut Admission and retention policies for vocational agriculture programs at the secondary school level

(a) Applicants shall have successfully completed at least the eighth grade for ninth grade admission. (Students may apply for transfer into the program beyond ninth grade. Admittance shall be determined on an individual basis.)

(b) Applicants shall indicate an interest in agriculture as a career and shall agree to participate in a supervised, occupational experience program.

(c) The vocational agriculture staff shall have the responsibility to recommend students for acceptance into the vocational agriculture program.

(d) Any student denied admission to a program of vocational agriculture or who is about to be dismissed from such a program shall be given an opportunity to request an informal review of his/her case before a Review Committee at a Regional Vocational Agriculture Center. The Review Committee shall be composed of at least, but not limited to the following representation: a member of the vocational agriculture staff, an administrator from the school where the vocational agriculture program operates, a member of the operating board of education or their administrative representative, a member of the sending board of education or their administrative representative, and a member of the regional vocational agriculture consulting committee. Such student may make a request in writing, to the proper vocational agriculture center, addressed to the administrator responsible for such center, for a review of his or her case. Any such request shall be made within 15 days of such action. The said committee shall conduct such review within 20 days of receipt of such request. The committee through the operating board of education shall within 10 days of such review, notify in writing, the student, and the sending board of education of its decision. This decision shall be final and binding upon all parties. (Section 10-65-6).