



THE HARTFORD REGION OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM (OPEN CHOICE)





Agenda

- History of Open Choice
- CSDE Structure for Open Choice
- What is Open Choice?
- Who Can Apply to Open Choice?
- Participating Suburban Districts
- Participating Hartford Public Schools
- How Do We Get Open Choice Seats?
- Open Choice Funding
- Student Enrollment
- Open Choice Staffing & Services
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History of the Hartford Region Open Choice Program

- ❑ In 1966, Project Concern began and was managed by the Hartford Board of Education with five founding districts opening their schools and communities to 253 Hartford children in Farmington, Manchester, Simsbury, South Windsor, and West Hartford.
- ❑ In 1997, Project Concern became part of the statewide Open Choice program as a solution to the Sheff vs. O'Neill court case.
- ❑ Open Choice is funded by the State Department of Education and is legislatively mandated to be managed by CREC.
- ❑ Today, the program partners with 28 participating districts serving a little over 2,200 students in 140 schools, including suburban residents attending Hartford Public Schools.





Connecticut State Department of Education Structure for Open Choice

Regional School Choice Office (RSCO):

- ❑ Oversees the application and placement process for Open Choice, magnet schools, and three technical high schools
- ❑ Partners with SDE, Bloomfield Public Schools, CREC, East Hartford, Goodwin College, Hartford Public Schools and State Technical High Schools

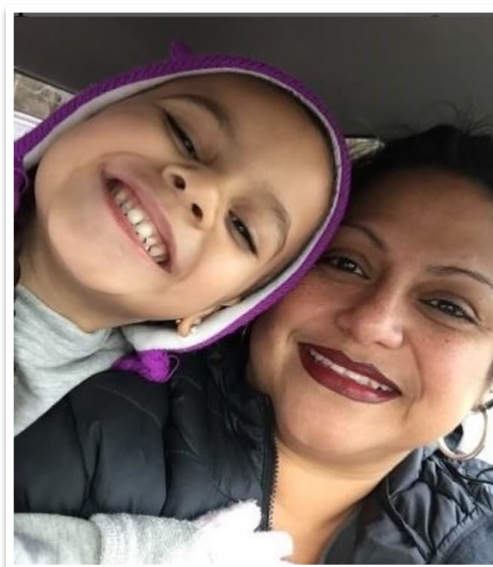




What is the Open Choice Program?

The Open Choice program was created to allow

- Hartford resident students to attend non-magnet public schools in surrounding towns.
- Students who live outside of Hartford to attend non-magnet themed Hartford public schools.





Who Can Apply to Open Choice?

HARTFORD RESIDENT STUDENTS

- Applying to grades PK4 – Grade 10



SUBURBAN RESIDENT STUDENTS

- Applying to grades KG – Grade 12





Hartford Region OC Districts

Hartford families can select up to five districts for a placement in a regular public, non-magnet school.

Zone	Districts
1	Avon*, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Simsbury*, Suffield, West Hartford
2	Bolton, Coventry, East Windsor, Ellington*, Enfield*, Somers, South Windsor, Tolland, Windsor Locks
3	Berlin, Farmington*, Newington, Plainville*, Southington
4	Berlin, Cromwell*, Glastonbury, Portland, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield

*Offers preschool opportunities for Hartford residents





Suburban Residents

Participating Hartford Public Schools

Suburban Families can apply to attend:

- Dwight-Bellizzi Dual Language Academy
- Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School
- Global Communications Academy
- Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy

Suburban students are also enrolled in

- Bulkeley High School
- HPH Academy of Nursing & Health Science
- Weaver High School





How Do We Get Open Choice Seats?

SEAT DECLARATION FORM

In February, the Commissioner of CSDE sends a letter and a Seat Declaration Form to participating district superintendents.

To receive additional bonus funding, this form must be returned to SDE by March 1.

D. Proposed New Seats, Reserved and Unreserved, 2020-21

In the chart below, please enter the proposed new Open Choice seats by grade for 2020-21. To add a new school, enter the school's name and the proposed seats by grade in the New School(s) section below. If any of the seats declared in your Proposed New Seats are reserved for siblings (Reserved), please sum the number of those seats plus the number of other seats (Unreserved), and enter the total number for each grade. For information on the number of sibling applicants who have applied to your district, please refer to Attachment A in the Commissioner's letter for the Sibling Applicant Pool data.

School Name	PK4 # of Seats	K # of Seats	1 # of Seats	2 # of Seats	3 # of Seats	4 # of Seats	5 # of Seats	6 # of Seats	7 # of Seats	8 # of Seats	9 # of Seats	10 # of Seats	Total # of Seats
													0
													0
													0
													0
													0
													0
													0
New School(s)													0
													0
													0
TOTAL: New Open Choice Seats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Grand Total of New Seats (Sum of Non-Sibling Plus Sibling Seats)</i>													0

***The # of Seats = the Number of Reserved sibling seats + the Number of Unreserved seats.**

If the sibling applicant does not accept the offered seat, may we offer the seat to the next student on the waitlist in that grade? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
(check one) If No, enter the number of seats in the column of the school and grade that should not be offered. If no Sibling seats are reported as designated only for Siblings below, RSCO will offer the seats to the next Non-Sibling applicants on the waitlist.

School Name	PK4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
													0
													0
													0





Open Choice Funding

Each Open Choice district receives the following reimbursements based on enrollment as of October 1st:

ATTENDANCE GRANT

Funding based on the percentage of Open Choice students in relation to total student population in the district:

- **\$3,000** per OC student for districts who enroll **less than 2%**
- **\$4,000** per OC student for districts who enroll **greater than or equal to 2%**
- **\$6,000** per OC student for districts who enroll **greater than or equal to 3%**
- **\$8,000** per pupil for districts who enroll **greater than or equal to 4%**

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Early Beginnings: For each preschooler & kindergartener enrolled in district for a full day program:

- **\$6,500** per OC student. In addition, schools receive instructional coaching services.

Academic & Social Support Grant: For SY2020-21, the State Department of Education granted \$2.3 million to fund academic, student and social support activities to Open Choice districts.





Bonus Set-Aside Grants

BONUS SET-ASIDE GRANTS

Pending confirmation from the State of Department of Education, this funding is in addition to, not in place of, the statutorily provided open choice attendance grant.

- **Schools with 10 or more enrolled Choice students:** Districts share in a bonus set aside of up to \$500K (subject to available funds).
- **Tier II Bonus:** For districts that enrolled an increased number of Choice students for the current year versus the prior year, based on October 1st enrollment data. Districts share in a bonus set aside of up to \$500K (subject to available funds) for each student above the previous year's enrollment.
- **School Construction Bonus Funds:** Districts receive a bonus through the school construction grant, which is equal to the percentage of Open Choice seats to the total projected school enrollment capped at 10%. For example, a school with a highest 8-year projected enrollment of 600 students, which enrolls 60 Open Choice students, would receive the full 10% bonus on their school construction grant.

Total payments received per district - \$21,652 - \$1,033,202

Grand Total Payments - \$10,742,149





OC Districts Student Enrollment

OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM				
District Student Enrollment as of 2/11/22				
DISTRICTS	STUDENTS			
Avon School District	113			
Berlin School District	109			
Bolton School District	40			
Canton School District	95			
Coventry School District	1	new district for SY 2021-22		
Cromwell School District	85			
East Granby School District	51			
East Windsor School District	71			
Ellington School District	90			
Enfield School District	104			
Farmington School District	131			
Glastonbury School District	56			
Granby School District	81			
Hartford School District	85			
Newington School District	129			
Plainville School District	119			
Portland School District	61			
Rocky Hill School District	11			
Simsbury School District	166			
Somers School District	12			
Southington School District	78			
South Windsor School District	102			
Suffield School District	36			
Tolland School District	14	new district for SY 2017-18		
Vernon	1	11th gr.		
West Hartford School District	206			
Wethersfield School District	113			
Windsor Locks School District	85			
Total Enrolled Students	2245			
















School Choice Division Staff








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QUESTIONS

