Connecticut State Department of Education

DISTRICT PROFILE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015–16



Capitol Region Education Council

Mr. Bruce Douglas, Superintendent • 860-524-4063

District Information

| Grade Range | PK-12 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Schools/Programs | 32 |
| Enrollment | 8,354 |
| Per Pupil Expenditures ¹ | N/A |
| Total Expenditures ¹ | N/A |

¹Expenditure data reflect the 2014-15 year.



Community Information

<u>CERC Town Profiles</u> provide summary demographic and economic information for Connecticut's municipalities

Related Reports/Publications

CT Reports (CMT/CAPT)

District and School Performance Reports

Special Education Annual Performance Reports

SAT®, AP®, PSAT® Report by High School (Class of 2016)

(2016® The College Board)

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Notes

Unless otherwise noted, all data are for 2015-16 and include all grades offered by the district.

In most tables, data are displayed only for the three major race/ethnicity categories. For additional race/ethnicity categories, please visit edsight.ct.gov.

State totals are not displayed as they are not comparable to district totals.

Special Education tables reflect only students for whom the district is fiscally responsible.

* When an asterisk is displayed, data have been suppressed to ensure student confidentiality. N/A is displayed when a category is not applicable for a district or school.

Students

| October 1, 2015 Enrollment | | | | |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | | District | State | |
| | Count | Percent of Total (%) | Percent of Total (%) | |
| Female | 4,022 | 48.1 | 48.3 | |
| Male | 4,332 | 51.9 | 51.6 | |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 28 | 0.3 | 0.2 | |
| Asian | 512 | 6.1 | 4.9 | |
| Black or African American | 2,310 | 27.7 | 12.8 | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 2,720 | 32.6 | 23.0 | |
| Pacific Islander | 14 | 0.2 | 0.0 | |
| Two or More Races | 328 | 3.9 | 2.7 | |
| White | 2,442 | 29.2 | 55.9 | |
| English Learners | 397 | 4.8 | 6.4 | |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 4,018 | 48.1 | 38.0 | |
| Students with Disabilities ¹ | 1,324 | 15.8 | 13.7 | |

¹Students in this category are students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) only. This category does not include students with Section 504 Plans.

Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension/Expulsion

| | Chronic | | Suspe | ension/ |
|--|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| | Absenteeism ² | | Expulsion ⁵ | |
| | Count | Rate (%) | Count | Rate (%) |
| Female | 464 | 13.4 | 348 | 8.8 |
| Male | 375 | 10.0 | 480 | 11.3 |
| Black or African American | 222 | 10.9 | 380 | 16.6 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 364 | 15.3 | 319 | 12.1 |
| White | 172 | 8.4 | 93 | 3.9 |
| English Learners | 70 | 17.5 | 30 | 7.5 |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 628 | 16.5 | 611 | 14.4 |
| Students with Disabilities | 236 | 17.8 | 189 | 12.7 |
| District | 839 | 11.6 | 828 | 10.1 |
| State | | 9.6 | | 7.0 |

Number of students in 2014-15 qualified as truant under state statute: 313 Number of school-based arrests: 0

²A student is chronically absent if he/she misses ten percent or greater of the total number of days enrolled in the school year for any reason. Pre-Kindergarten students are excluded from this calculation.

³The count and percentage of students who receive at least one in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Educators

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)1 Staff

| | FTE |
|--|-------|
| General Education | |
| Teachers and Instructors | 595.4 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | 367.2 |
| Special Education | |
| Teachers and Instructors | 158.5 |
| Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants | 300.3 |
| Administrators, Coordinators and Department Chairs | |
| District Central Office | 23.7 |
| School Level | 57.8 |
| Library/Media | |
| Specialists (Certified) | 10.0 |
| Support Staff | 1.0 |
| Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers | 54.2 |
| Counselors, Social Workers and School Psychologists | 67.0 |
| School Nurses | 26.9 |
| Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services/Support | 878.5 |

¹In the full-time equivalent count, staff members working part-time in the school are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in a school contributes 0.50 to the school's staff count.

Educators by Race/Ethnicity

| | | District | State |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| | Count Percent of Total (%) | | Percent of Total (%) |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Asian | 14 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| Black or African American | 65 | 6.6 | 3.5 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 50 | 5.1 | 3.5 |
| Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Two or More Races | 0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| White | 848 | 86.5 | 91.7 |

Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers²

| | Percent of Total (%) | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| District | 99.7 | |
| District Poverty Quartile: High | | |
| State High Poverty Quartile Schools | 97.6 | |
| State Low Poverty Quartile Schools | 99.6 | |

²Core academic classes taught by teachers who are fully certified to teach in that subject area.

Classroom Teacher Attendance: 2014-15

| | District | State |
|---|----------|-------|
| Average Number of FTE Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time | 8.0 | 9.4 |

Instruction and Resources

11th and 12th Graders Enrolled in College-and-Career-Readiness Courses during High School³

| | 11th | | 12th | |
|--|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| | Count | Rate (%) | Count | Rate (%) |
| Black or African American | 104 | 61.5 | 99 | 89.2 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 83 | 47.4 | 128 | 89.5 |
| White | 91 | 58.7 | 117 | 66.5 |
| English Learners | * | * | 10 | * |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 140 | 50.5 | 215 | 86.7 |
| Students with Disabilities | 39 | 42.9 | 54 | 46.6 |
| District | 304 | 56.7 | 381 | 81.1 |
| State | | 61.2 | | 73.9 |

³College-and-Career-Readiness Courses include Advanced Placement®(AP), International Baccalaureate®(IB), Career and Technical Education(CTE), workplace experience and dual enrollment courses.

Students with Disabilities Who Spend 79.1 to 100 Percent of Time with Nondisabled Peers⁴

| | Count | Rate (%) |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Autism | N/A | N/A |
| Emotional Disturbance | N/A | N/A |
| Intellectual Disability | N/A | N/A |
| Learning Disability | N/A | N/A |
| Other Health Impairment | N/A | N/A |
| Other Disabilities | N/A | N/A |
| Speech/Language Impairment | N/A | N/A |
| District | N/A | N/A |
| State | | 68.8 |

⁴Ages 6-21

Students with Disabilities by Primary Disability¹

| | Dis | State | |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| | Count | Rate (%) | Rate (%) |
| Autism | 0 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Emotional Disturbance | 0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Intellectual Disability | 0 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Learning Disability | 0 | 0.0 | 4.6 |
| Other Health Impairment | 0 | 0.0 | 2.8 |
| Other Disabilities | 0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Speech/Language Impairment | 0 | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| All Disabilities | 0 | 0.0 | 13.4 |

¹Grades K-12

Overall Expenditures: 2014-15

| | | Per Pupil | | |
|---|------------|---------------|------------|--|
| | Total (\$) | District (\$) | State (\$) | |
| Instructional Staff and Services | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Instructional Supplies and Equipment | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Improvement of Instruction and Educational Media Services | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Student Support Services | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Administration and Support Services | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Plant Operation and Maintenance | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Transportation | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Costs of Students Tuitioned Out | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Other | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Total | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Additional Expenditures | | | | |
| Land, Buildings, and Debt Service | N/A | N/A | N/A | |

³Expenditures may be supported by local tax revenues, state grants, federal grants, municipal in-kind services, tuition and other sources.

Special Education Expenditures: 2014-15

| | Dist | District | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Total (\$) | Percent of Total (%) | Percent of Total (%) | |
| Certified Personnel | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Noncertified Personnel | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Purchased Services | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Tuition to Other Schools | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Special Ed. Transportation | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Other Expenditures | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Total Expenditures | N/A | N/A | N/A | |

Expenditures by Revenue Source:4 2014-15

| | Percent of Total (%) | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| | Including Excluding | | | | |
| | School School | | | | |
| | Construction | Construction | | | |
| Local | N/A | N/A | | | |
| State | N/A | N/A | | | |
| Federal | N/A | N/A | | | |
| Tuition & Other | N/A | N/A | | | |
| | | | | | |

⁴Revenue sources do not include state-funded Teachers' Retirement Board contributions, vocational-technical school operations, SDE budgeted costs for salaries and leadership activities and other state-funded school districts (e.g., Dept. of Children and Families and Dept. of Correction).

Performance and Accountability

District Performance Index (DPI)

A District Performance Index (DPI) is the average performance of students in a subject area (i.e., ELA, Mathematics or Science) on the state summative assessments. The DPI ranges from 0-100. A DPI is reported for all students tested in a district and for students in each individual student group. Connecticut's ultimate target for a DPI is 75.

| | English Language Arts(ELA) | | Mat | h | Scien | ce |
|--|----------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Count | DPI | Count | DPI | Count | DPI |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Asian | 217 | 78.1 | 216 | 77.5 | 108 | 65.7 |
| Black or African American | 1075 | 58.9 | 1066 | 50.2 | 475 | 46.4 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1212 | 58.4 | 1205 | 50.0 | 531 | 46.8 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Two or More Races | 134 | 68.0 | 133 | 60.3 | 53 | 56.3 |
| White | 992 | 71.4 | 985 | 64.5 | 421 | 61.2 |
| English Learners | 229 | 47.6 | 226 | 42.4 | 76 | 36.1 |
| Non-English Learners | 3412 | 64.7 | 3390 | 57.0 | 1520 | 52.9 |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 1884 | 56.8 | 1870 | 48.6 | 863 | 45.8 |
| Not Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 1757 | 71.0 | 1746 | 64.0 | 733 | 59.5 |
| Students with Disabilities | 682 | 44.9 | 666 | 39.3 | 328 | 34.5 |
| Students without Disabilities | 2959 | 68.0 | 2950 | 59.8 | 1268 | 56.6 |
| High Needs | 2165 | 56.0 | 2146 | 48.3 | 978 | 45.0 |
| Non-High Needs | 1476 | 74.9 | 1470 | 67.4 | 618 | 63.2 |
| District | 3641 | 63.6 | 3616 | 56.0 | 1596 | 52.1 |

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Percent At or Above Proficient¹

| | NAEP | NAEP 2013 | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| READING | Grade 4 Grade 8 | | Grade 12 |
| Connecticut | 43% | 43% | 50% |
| National Public | 35% | 33% | 36% |
| MATH | Grade 4 | Grade 8 | Grade 12 |
| Connecticut | 41% | 36% | 32% |
| National Public | 39% | 32% | 25% |

¹NAEP is often called the "Nation's Report Card." It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. This table compares Connecticut's performance to that of national public school students. Performance standards for state assessments and NAEP are set independently. Therefore, one should not expect performance results to be the same across Smarter Balanced and NAEP. Instead, NAEP results are meant to complement other state assessment data. To view student subgroup performance on NAEP, click here.

Physical Fitness Tests: Students Reaching Health Standard²

| | Percent of Students by Grade ³ (%) | | | | All Teste | ed Grades |
|----------------------|---|------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
| | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | Count | Rate (%) |
| Sit & Reach | 87.0 | 74.4 | 74.0 | 76.1 | 1,769 | 77.3 |
| Curl Up | 85.4 | 85.2 | 80.6 | 72.7 | 1,769 | 81.1 |
| Push Up | 69.2 | 72.4 | 65.0 | 58.5 | 1,769 | 66.5 |
| Mile Run/PACER | 69.5 | 64.6 | 60.1 | 53.7 | 1,769 | 61.8 |
| All Tests - District | 45.7 | 45.4 | 42.3 | 41.5 | 1,769 | 43.7 |
| All Tests - State | 50.6 | 49.8 | 50.6 | 51.1 | | 50.5 |

²The Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA) is administered to all students in Grades 4, 6, 8 and 10. The health-related fitness scores gathered through the CPFA should be used to educate and motivate children and their families to increase physical activity and develop lifetime fitness habits.

³Only students assessed in all four areas are included in this calculation.

Cohort Graduation: Four-Year¹

| | 2014-15 | | | | 2015-16 |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Cohort Count ² | Rate (%) | Target³ (%) | Target Achieved | Target³ (%) |
| Black or African American | 116 | 87.9 | 89.4 | No | 89.9 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 82 | 90.2 | 77.2 | Yes | 79.3 |
| English Learners | * | * | | | |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 180 | 87.2 | 82.8 | Yes | 84.2 |
| Students with Disabilities | 31 | 71.0 | 73.7 | No | 76.2 |
| District | 323 | 90.4 | 87.0 | Yes | 87.9 |
| State ⁴ | | 87.2 | | | |

¹The four-year cohort graduation rate represents the percentage of first-time 9th graders who earn a standard high school diploma within four years. Statewide, district and school results for cohorts of 2010 through 2014 are <u>available online</u>.

11th and 12th Graders Meeting Benchmark on at Least One College Readiness Exam⁵

| | Participation ⁶ | Meeting B | enchmark |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | Rate (%) | Count | Rate (%) |
| Female | 96.5 | 126 | 24.2 |
| Male | 89.7 | 133 | 27.4 |
| Black or African American | 97.1 | 33 | 11.8 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 96.9 | 46 | 14.5 |
| White | 85.2 | 145 | 43.8 |
| English Learners | 100.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 95.6 | 64 | 12.2 |
| Students with Disabilities | 55.7 | * | * |
| District | 93.2 | 259 | 25.7 |
| State | 95.6 | | 40.7 |

⁵College readiness exams and benchmark scores are as follows:

- SAT® meets benchmark score on SAT, Revised SAT or Connecticut School Day SAT
- ACT® meets benchmark score on 3 of 4 exams (benchmark score varies by subject)
- AP® 3 or higher on any one AP® exam
- IB® 4 or higher on any one IB® exam
- Smarter Balanced Level 3 or higher on both ELA and math

⁶Participation Rate equals the number of test-takers in 11th and 12th grade divided by the number of students enrolled in those grades, as a percent. Sources:

SAT® and AP® statistics derived from data provided by the College Board.

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ACT® statistics derived from data provided by ACT, Inc.

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IB® statistics derived from data provided by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

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College Entrance and Persistence

| · · | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Class of 2015 | Class of 2014 |
| | Entrance ⁷ | Persistence ⁸ |
| | Rate (%) | Rate (%) |
| Female | 80.5 | 82.0 |
| Male | 66.9 | 78.6 |
| Black or African American | 70.4 | 80.4 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 71.1 | 75.6 |
| White | 81.7 | 81.4 |
| English Learners | * | * |
| Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals | 69.1 | 77.3 |
| Students with Disabilities | 37.5 | * |
| District | 75.1 | 80.8 |
| State | 71.9 | 88.3 |

⁷College entrance refers to the percent of high school graduates from the year who enrolled in college any time during the first year after high school.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse

²Cohort count includes all students in the cohort as of the end of the 2014-15 school year.

³Targets are calculated when there are at least 20 students in a cohort in the base year (i.e., 2010-11).

⁴Targets are not displayed at the state level.

⁸College persistence refers to the percent of students who enrolled in college the first year after high school and returned for a second year (Freshman to Sophomore persistence).

Next Generation Accountability Results

These statistics are the results from Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System for districts and schools. This system is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. It moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

| Indicator | | Index/Rate | Target | Points | Max | % Points | State Average |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|----------|---------------|
| ELA Performance Index | All Students | 63.6 | 75 | 42.4 | 50 | 84.9 | 67.7 |
| ELA Performance muex | High Needs Students | 56.0 | 75 | 37.3 | 50 | 74.7 | 56.7 |
| Math Performance Index | All Students | 56.0 | 75 | 37.4 | 50 | 74.7 | 61.4 |
| Math Performance index | High Needs Students | 48.3 | 75 | 32.2 | 50 | 64.4 | 49.9 |
| Science Performance Index | All Students | 52.1 | 75 | 34.7 | 50 | 69.4 | 57.5 |
| Science Performance muex | High Needs Students | 45.0 | 75 | 30.0 | 50 | 60.0 | 47.0 |
| ELA Academic Growth | All Students | 61.4% | 100% | 61.4 | 100 | 61.4 | 63.8% |
| ELA ACAGEMIC Growth | High Needs Students | 58.6% | 100% | 58.6 | 100 | 58.6 | 58.3% |
| Math Academic Growth | All Students | 58.4% | 100% | 58.4 | 100 | 58.4 | 65.0% |
| Watti Academic Growth | High Needs Students | 54.1% | 100% | 54.1 | 100 | 54.1 | 57.4% |
| Chronic Absenteeism | All Students | 11.6% | <=5% | 36.8 | 50 | 73.6 | 9.6% |
| CHIOTIC Absenteeisiii | High Needs Students | 16.0% | <=5% | 28.0 | 50 | 56.0 | 15.6% |
| Dranaration for CCD | % Taking Courses | 68.1% | 75% | 45.4 | 50 | 90.8 | 67.6% |
| Preparation for CCR | % Passing Exams | 25.7% | 75% | 17.2 | 50 | 34.3 | 40.7% |
| On-track to High School Gra | duation | 90.9% | 94% | 48.4 | 50 | 96.7 | 85.1% |
| 4-year Graduation All Stude | nts (2015 Cohort) | 90.4% | 94% | 96.2 | 100 | 96.2 | 87.2% |
| 6-year Graduation - High Needs Students (2013 Cohort) | | 78.1% | 94% | 83.1 | 100 | 83.1 | 78.6% |
| Postsecondary Entrance (Class of 2015) | | 75.1% | 75% | 100.0 | 100 | 100.0 | 71.9% |
| Physical Fitness (estimated p | part rate) and (fitness rate) | 76.1% 43.3% | 75% | 14.4 | 50 | 28.9 | 89.2% 50.5% |
| Arts Access | | 52.4% | 60% | 43.6 | 50 | 87.3 | 47.5% |
| Accountability Index | | | | 959.6 | 1350 | 71.1 | |

| Gap Indicators | Non-High Needs Rate ¹ | High Needs Rate | Size of Gap | State Gap Mean + 1 Stdev ² | Is Gap an Outlier? ² |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Achievement Gap Size Outlier? | | | | | Υ |
| ELA Performance Index Gap | 74.9 | 56.0 | 18.9 | 16.5 | |
| Math Performance Index Gap | 67.4 | 48.3 | 19.1 | 18.9 | |
| Science Performance Index Gap | 63.2 | 45.0 | 18.2 | 17.2 | |
| Graduation Rate Gap | 91.3% | 78.1% | 13.1% | 15.3% | N |

¹ If the Non-High Needs Rate exceeds the ultimate target (75 for Performance Index and 94% for graduation rate), the ultimate target is used for gap calculations.

²If the size of the gap exceeds the state mean gap plus one standard deviation, the gap is an outlier.

| Sul | oject/Subgroup | Participation Rate (%) ³ | |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ELA | All Students | 97.5 | ³ Minimum |
| ELA | High Needs Students | 97.0 | participation standard is 95%. |
| Math | All Students | 96.9 | |
| IVIALII | High Needs Students | 96.1 | |
| Science | All Students | 97.7 | |
| Science | High Needs Students | 96.9 | |

Connecticut's State Identified Measurable Goal for Children with Disabilities (SIMR)

Increase the reading performance of all 3rd grade students with disabilities statewide, as measured by Connecticut's English Language Arts (ELA) Performance Index.

Grade 3 ELA Performance Index for Students with Disabilities:

District: 45.5 State: 51.4

Supporting Resources

Two-page FAQ

Detailed Presentation

Using Accountability Results to Guide Improvement: comprehensive documentation and supports

Narratives

School District Improvement Plans and Parental Outreach Activities

The vision of CREC Schools is to empower a diverse population of students to take ownership in meaningful learning and to be life-long learners in an ever changing global society. Through a focus on the essential skills for deeper learning, every student is prepared for success. At the school level, school administrators and teachers engage in data team meetings to assess student needs. At the district level, each school presents twice yearly on their student achievement results. These presentations include strengths, but also highlight where additional support is needed to advance student achievement.

As a district, CREC works collaboratively with Local Education Agency (LEA) districts to implement appropriate services as designed within a magnet school student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The development of IEP goals and objectives are aligned to grade level performance expectations. Progress monitoring and data collection assist the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) in writing and revising IEP goals and objectives and determining appropriate service provision.

To ensure all students receive the supports and assistance they need, CREC utilizes an Early Intervention Program (EIP) and SRBI strategies and interventions to assist struggling students. Teams that include school administrators, student support staff, community supports if applicable, parents and the LEA review all information and develop appropriate interventions and strategies to assist students in making academic and behavioral strides through scheduled progress monitoring and review. Teams re-meet regularly to review progress and make further determinations. In addition, schools have implemented Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) programs to support a positive school climate.

Parent and family engagement is a critical component to student success and as such, CREC continued its efforts in 2014-15 to enlist parents as co-educators. In addition to establishing and defining expectations for parental engagement, CREC builds staff capacity through ongoing, embedded professional development. Regular meetings with school-based parent liaisons enable schools to share best practice related to parent engagement and ensure consistent expectations for home-school communication. All CREC schools are expected to include parents in the development of their School Improvement Plan.

CREC provides a mix of online resources, print materials and in person meetings to help parents support academic growth at home. For the 2015-16 school year, some of these supports included: Common Core aligned Curriculum Guides by grade level, workshops related to reading at home, college preparation, and the special education process, Parent Compacts, frequently updated lists of online and print resources for parents to support learning at home, and parental access to a Parent Portal, PowerSchool and Schoology. PowerSchool enables parents to monitor grades and attendance, and Schoology allows parents to see course content and specific assignments.

In addition, the CREC Family Resource Center located at the Wilson Gray YMCA in Hartford offers monthly workshops on topics such as nutrition, communication with school staff, and understanding the education process.

Efforts to Reduce Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation

For nearly five decades, the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), in partnership with its member districts, has served the needs of children and families in the Greater Hartford Area through its high quality educational programs. In accordance with the Sheff v. O'Neil desegregation case, CREC operates eighteen magnet schools and programs in an effort to reduce the racial, social and economic isolation that exists in the area. As a continued effort to provide equitable access to education for students throughout greater Hartford, additional seats are offered each year through the Regional School Choice Office lottery. In addition, each CREC magnet school completes an Enrollment Management Plan to ensure that the demographics of their school are both racially and socioeconomically diverse.

For the 2015-16 school year, the enrollment for CREC magnet schools was 8354; 48.1% of students were eligible for free or reduced lunch, and 70.81% of students identified as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group. The diversity of the district is reflected in the demographics of CREC's schools. In addition, CREC is dedicated to extending its work beyond the magnet schools by providing educational services to its partnering districts. It manages the Open Choice program, which placed approximately 2,343 Hartford students in suburban districts in 2015-16.

As a Regional Educational Service Center CREC designs and facilitates professional development activities for teachers and administrators in Greater Hartford by using the effective teaching practices that are implemented in its magnet schools.

In all of CREC's schools and programs diversity is celebrated on a daily basis. Students are encouraged to share with their peers their life experiences, cultural heritages, and family traditions. Special attention is also given to the development of curricula that recognizes diversity and the importance of that diversity in the classroom. Project based learning empowers students to apply their life experiences and perspectives to their learning in authentic, meaningful ways.

Equitable Allocation of Resources among District Schools

Magnet schools that are operated by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) are funded by Interdistrict Magnet School grants from the State Department of Education and from tuition that is charged to each of the participating districts. School budgets are created in January at the district level by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents of Magnet Schools who work along with CREC's Business Services Manager and each school principal to make sure that all schools have an equitable allocation of resources and that the needs of individual schools are addressed. The budgets for all eighteen magnet schools are submitted for approval to CREC Council in June of each year.