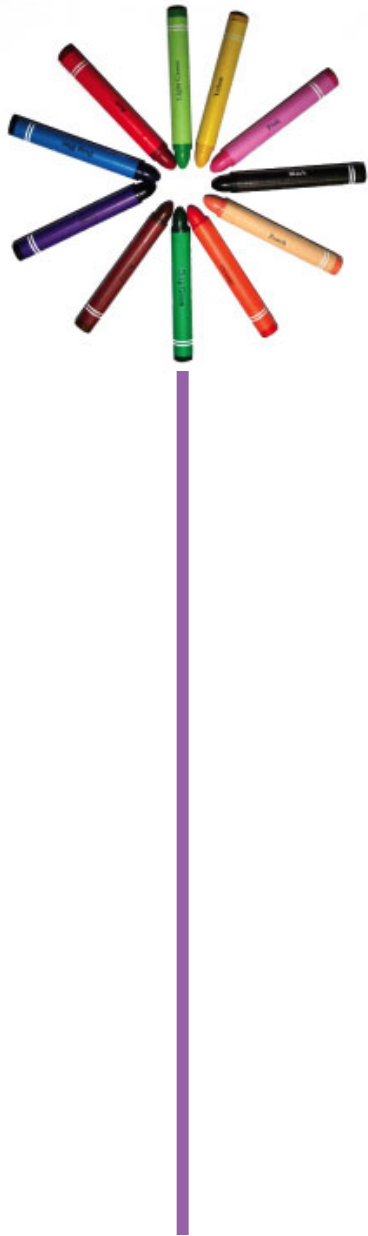




Quality Integrated Education in the Hartford Region

Progress and Prospects in 2012 and Beyond

September 17, 2012



Growing Sheff program enrollments

13,000 total students from Hartford and suburban towns in voluntary, two-way integration programs (2011-2012)

- 40+ school districts
- 31 regional magnet schools
- 4600 Hartford children in regional magnets
- 1400 Hartford children in Open Choice
- 32% Hartford “minority children” in integrated settings in 2011-12 (legal mandate goal)
- 41% goal in 2012-13

Sheff Movement

Quality Integrated Education for All Children



The evolution of the Sheff mandate

1989: Sheff v. O' Neill filed in Hartford Superior Court on behalf of African-American, Latino, and white families;

1992-93: 11-week trial focusing on racial segregation, school poverty concentration, grossly unequal resources, and failing academic achievement outcomes;

1996: Connecticut Supreme Court ruling: segregated school conditions unconstitutional; state assignment of children to segregated school districts is the cause; state is responsible for an effective remedy –

- > An ongoing *Constitutional mandate* based on the right to equal educational opportunity in the Connecticut Constitution.
- > Continuing sense of urgency: “Every passing day denies [Hartford] children their constitutional right to a substantially equal educational opportunity.”



The evolution of the Sheff mandate

1997: two-way voluntary structure established using combination of regional magnet schools and suburban “Project Choice” program – but no goals, benchmarks or timetables;

1998-2002: plaintiffs return to court (twice) to seek more rapid implementation;

2003: first settlement agreement adopted; fails to fully achieve goals, plaintiffs return to court in 2007;

2008: second settlement agreement adopted by the court – currently in effect through 2013;

2010: Hartford’s two-way integration program emerges as a national model

2012-13: parties scheduled to develop next settlement agreement to guide implementation of Sheff programs



Structure & Governance

CT Commissioner of Education

Regional School Choice Office (RSCO)

(runs annual lottery, fall school choice fairs, and satellite offices)

Open Choice program

CREC Magnets

Hartford Host Magnets

Funding Basics

- ◆ **Open Choice:** suburban districts receive \$6000 per student if Hartford students are at least 3% of total district enrollment
- ◆ **Hartford Host Magnets:** 90% school construction grant and \$13,000 reimbursement per non-resident student
- ◆ **CREC magnets:** school construction grant plus \$10,500 reimbursement, supplemented by payment from sending town
- ◆ **Preschool magnet seats:** funded by state in 2012-13



Achievement gains

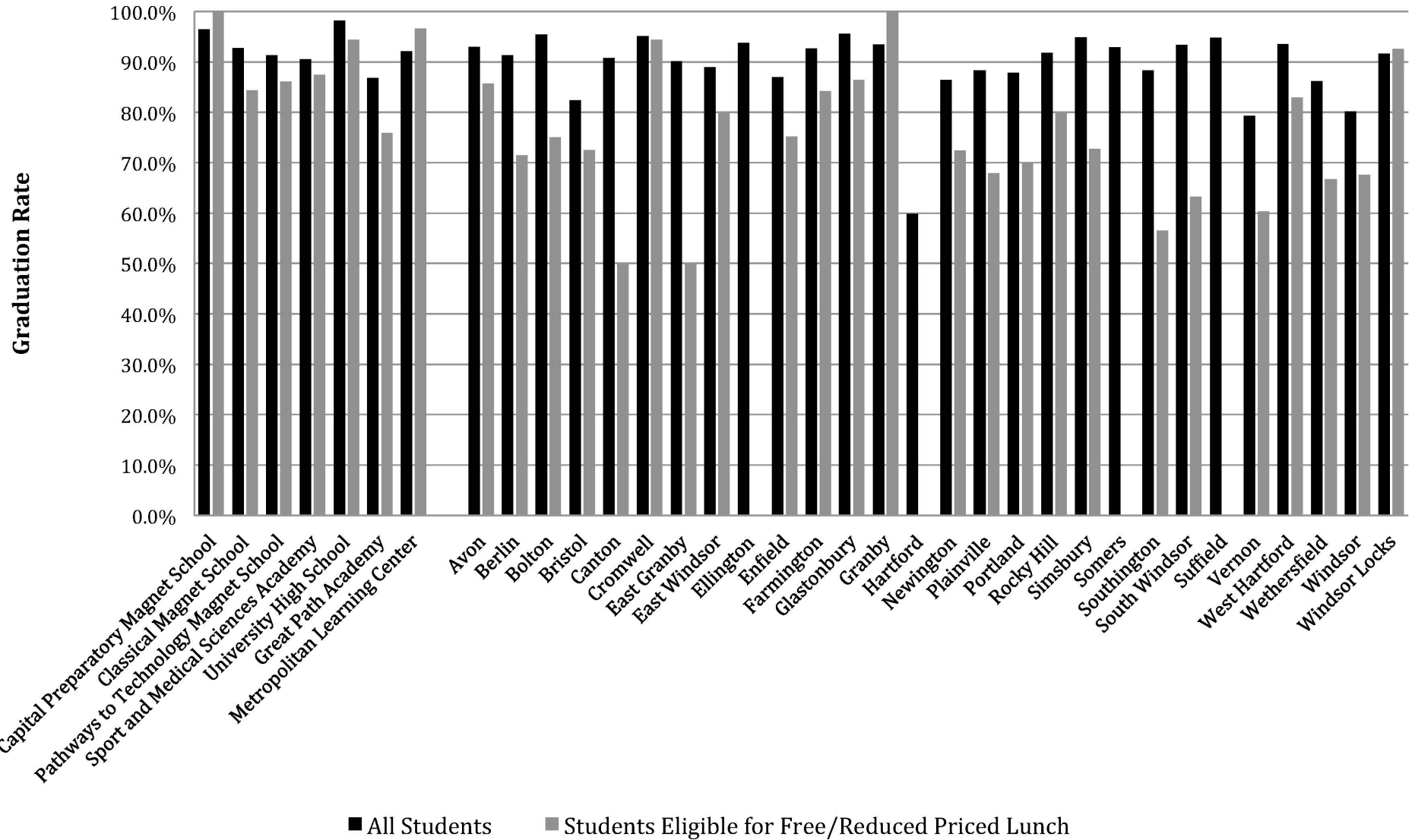
- Black, Latino, and “economically disadvantaged” Hartford students in CREC magnet schools are out-performing the state proficiency levels for their groups (we need comparable disaggregated data for Hartford Host Magnets & Open Choice)
- Black and Latino students in CREC Magnet schools are closing the “Achievement Gap” (we need comparable disaggregated data for Hartford Host Magnets & Open Choice)
- Students in most HPS and CREC magnet schools meet and exceed proficiency standards on state tests
- Hartford Host Magnet schools are helping to lead increasing overall achievement test gains for the Hartford Public Schools
- Graduation rates in HPS and CREC magnet high schools meet or exceed suburban rates



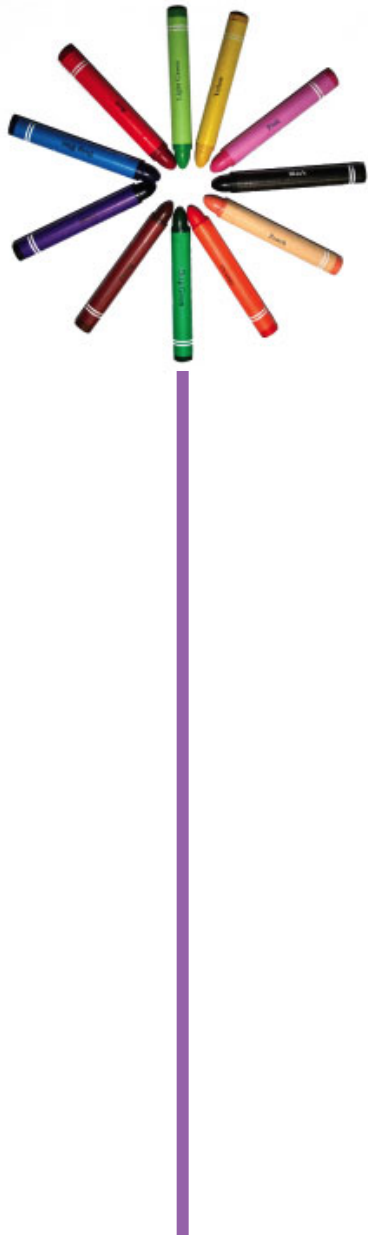
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Magnet High School Graduation Rates Compared to Other Hartford Area Districts



Source: "Connecticut 2010 Cohort Graduation Rates By School." Public School Information System.



Recent Awards

National Blue Ribbon School

- Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School

Hartford “Teacher of the Year 2012”:

- Keith Sevigny, Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School

“America’s Best High Schools 2012” (US News & World Report):

- Sport and Medical Sciences Academy
- University High School of Science & Engineering

“Best Magnet School in America” 2011 (Magnet Schools of America)

- Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy

“Merit Schools of Excellence 2012” (Magnet Schools of America):

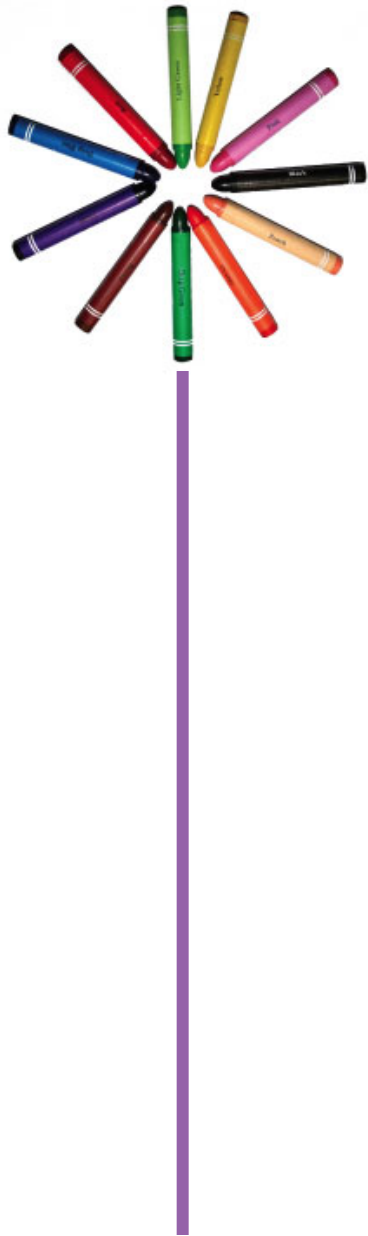
- East Hartford-Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School
- University High School of Science and Engineering

“Merit Schools of Distinction 2012” (Magnet Schools of America):

- Reggio Magnet School of the Arts, International Magnet School for Global Citizenship, Univ. of Hartford Magnet School, Breakthrough Magnet School, Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy

Sheff Movement

Quality Integrated Education for All Children



Challenges for the future

- Expanding existing regional magnet schools
- Adding new magnets for new audiences (dual language immersion?)
- Development of a coordinated magnet school plan
- Identifying new Open Choice seats in the Hartford suburbs earlier in the spring
- Continuing improvements for the Hartford Public Schools – along with expanded integration options
- Ensuring a fair and inclusive marketing and lottery process - expanding access for all children – new strategies to reach underserved families