



Hartford Region Open Choice Program

Tolland Public Schools
August 24, 2016



ABOUT THE HARTFORD REGION OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM

- In 1966, Project Concern was developed and managed by the Hartford Board of Education. In 1997, it became part of a statewide Open Choice Program as a solution to the Sheff vs. O'Neil court case and is now funded by the State of Connecticut.
- CREC, the Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) in the Hartford area, is legislatively mandated to manage the program.
- Students are selected for the program by applying to the State Department of Education's Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) lottery, which randomly selects students for placement in a district.
- In 2015-2016, there are approximately 2,200 Open Choice students enrolled in 130 schools and 28 school districts.

Program Goals:

- To improve academic achievement
- To reduce racial, ethnic & economic isolation and encourage diversity
- To provide a choice of educational programs for students



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

The following offices within the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) work with CREC and Open Choice districts in a variety of ways:

Sheff Office:

- The Sheff Office oversees the implementation of the Stipulated Agreement entered into by the State of Connecticut and Sheff plaintiffs used to meet the goals of the Agreement in the Connecticut State Supreme Court Case *Sheff v. O'Neill*.
- The seat declaration process for Open Choice is administered through the Sheff Office.
- The Open Choice Academic & Social Support Grant is administered through the Sheff Office.

Choice Division:

- The Choice Division administers oversight of the attendance grant and funding for the management of all Open Choice programs in the State of Connecticut.

Regional School Choice Office:

- The Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) is within the State Department of Education (SDE) and is a partnership between SDE, CREC, Bloomfield Public Schools (new), Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy (new), Hartford Public Schools, Goodwin College and the State Technical high schools.
- RSCO oversees the application, placement and waitlist process for students applying to the Hartford Region Open Choice program and inter-district magnet schools.
- RSCO oversees the transportation contract for all RSCO programs.



APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The State Department of Education manages the seat declaration, application and placement of students into the Hartford Region Open Choice program.

- Families apply through the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) from the start of November through the end of February at www.choiceeducation.org
- SDE requests seats from districts: February
- Superintendents return available seats report: March 1
- The initial placement round for SY16-17 occurred on May 19, 2016.
- Rolling Enrollment: May – October 1, 2016
 - Districts have direct access to students who accept seats, manage student registration and are responsible for requesting records from Hartford Public Schools.



OPEN CHOICE STAFF

CREC staff work with Open Choice districts and students in a variety of ways:

Managing Director:

- Provides overall direction and oversight of the Open Choice program
- Collaborates with districts on variety of topics related to the operation and implementation of the program

Student Services Coordinator:

- Social Worker for middle and high school students
- Coordinator of student based programs outside of the district

Support Specialists in 28 districts:

- Consult with families, teachers and school staff to develop best practices
- Strategic School visits: Group and individual meetings with students may be conducted by the Support Specialist including attending PPT's
- Monitor students' progress: Report cards, attendance, social needs and crisis intervention.

Early Beginnings Coordinator, Resource Specialists and Literacy & Math Facilitators:

- Collaborate with teachers, families and principals to assist preschool & kindergarten students
- School visits, home visits and assistance with individual preschool & kindergarten student needs
- CT Certified teacher(s) provide one full day of facilitation in schools with five preschool &/or kindergarten Open Choice students

Education Resource Specialist:

- Designs, develops and delivers professional development programs and services to enhance services and operations to Open Choice districts, students and families

Outreach and Transition Coordinator:

- Coordinates all outreach and communication to prospective and new families
- Communicates with districts on the application, placement and registration process



HARTFORD REGION OPEN CHOICE PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS

- Avon
- Berlin
- Bolton
- Canton
- Cromwell
- East Granby
- East Windsor
- Ellington
- Enfield
- Farmington
- Glastonbury
- Granby
- Hartford
- Newington
- Portland
- Plainville
- Region 10
- Rocky Hill
- Simsbury
- Somers
- South Windsor
- Southington
- Suffield
- Vernon
- West Hartford
- Wethersfield
- Windsor
- Windsor Locks



OPEN CHOICE CORE COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES

☐ District Level

- ☐ Professional Development
- ☐ Registration & Enrollment
- ☐ Choice Liaisons
- ☐ Community Discussions



☐ School Level

- ☐ Customizable Professional Development to support students enrolled in Open Choice
- ☐ Year-In- Review Meetings
 - ☐ Review, Discuss, Strategize
- ☐ Staff Meeting Presentations on Open Choice



SERVICES FOR OPEN CHOICE DISTRICTS

The following professional development and partnership opportunities are available to all Hartford Region Open Choice districts to assist with culturally relevant pedagogy & practices:

- ❑ Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Programs
- ❑ Book Club
- ❑ Dine & Discuss Series
- ❑ Leadership Institute
- ❑ Special Education Supports
- ❑ Training on Culturally Responsive Approaches & Pedagogy
- ❑ Welcoming Schools Training
- ❑ Professional Learning Communities – Instructional Leadership Teams
- ❑ Partnering with Parents
- ❑ Student Engagement





PROGRAM FUNDING

Each Open Choice district will receive the following funding based on enrollment as of October 1, 2016:

Attendance Grant: The amounts below are allocated to school districts 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%
- \$6,000 per pupil for districts with greater than 4,000 students enrolled that increase the number of Open Choice students enrolled by at least 50% on October 1, 2012
- \$8,000 per pupil for districts who enroll greater than or equal to 4%

Early Beginnings: For each preschooler & kindergartener enrolled in district for a full day program, the district receives \$4,500 per child above the Attendance Grant funds. In addition, districts who enroll 5 or more kindergarten students in one school will receive a Literacy and Math Facilitator to provide one day, per week, of literacy and math assistance to *all* students in the classroom.



OPEN CHOICE FUNDING CONTINUED

Academic & Social Support Grant: For SY16-17, there is approximately \$2 million available to fund academic, student and social support activities. This funding is in addition to, not in place of, the statutorily provided Open Choice Attendance Grant.

- Per Pupil Award: \$575 per enrolled pupil in grades K-5 & \$900 per pupil enrolled in grades 6-12.
- Professional Development: Each Open Choice district also received \$5,000 for professional development earmarked for teacher training related to the Open Choice program.

Bonus Set-Aside Grants: This funding is in addition to, not in place of, the statutorily provided open choice attendance grant.

- Schools with 10 or more Choice students: This funding is available to districts when a school enrolls 10 or more Open Choice students. Districts share in a bonus set aside of up to \$500,000 (subject to available funds). For SY2015-16, districts received \$203 per pupil.
- Tier II: This funding is available to districts that enroll additional Open Choice students above the previous year's October first PSIS count. Districts share in a bonus set aside of up to \$100,000 (subject to available funds). For SY2015-16, districts received \$436 per pupil.
- Construction Bonus Funds: Each district has an opportunity to receive a funding bonus through their school construction grant, which is the percentage of CHOICE seats to the total projected enrollment (inclusive of CHOICE seats) capped at 10%. For example, an elementary school with a highest projected 8-yr enrollment of 600 students, inclusive of 60 CHOICE students would receive a 10% point bonus to their school construction grant.



OPEN CHOICE

Tolland Scenario #1, under 2%

Assume 20 students divided evenly between kindergarten and grade one. Twenty students is less than 2% of the total Tolland enrollment of 2,577.

Attendance Grant: $20 \times \$3,000 = \$60,000$

Early Beginnings Grant: $10 \times \$4,500 = \$45,000$

Academic & Social Support Grant: $20 \times \$575 = \$11,500$

Bonus 10 students/school: \$4,000

Tier II Bonus: \$4,000

Total: \$124,500



OPEN CHOICE

Tolland Scenario #2, 2.1%

Assume 52 students spread over the elementary grades. 55 students = 2.1% of the total Tolland enrollment of 2,577.

Attendance Grant: $55 \times \$4,000 = \$220,000$

Early Beginnings Grant: $10 \times \$4,500 = \$45,000$

Academic & Social Support Grant: $55 \times \$575 = \$31,625$

Bonus 10 students/school: $\$10,000$

Tier II Bonus: $\$4,000$

Total: $\$312,625$



OPEN CHOICE

Tolland Scenario #3, 3%

Assume 78 students, 10 in kindergarten, 10 in 6th grade and the rest in various elementary grades. 78 students = 3.0% of the total Tolland enrollment of 2,577.

Attendance Grant: $78 \times \$6,000 = \$468,000$

Early Beginnings Grant: $10 \times \$4,500 = \$45,000$

Academic & Social Support Grant: $68 \times \$575 = \$17,250$

$10 \times \$900 = \$9,000$

Bonus 10 students/school: \$14,000

Tier II Bonus: \$4,000

Total: \$557,250



OPEN CHOICE

Tolland Scenario #4, 4%

Assume 104 students, 10 in kindergarten, 60 in other elementary grades, 34 in middle school. 104 students = 4% of the total Tolland enrollment of 2,577.

Attendance Grant: $104 \times \$8,000 = \$832,000$

Early Beginnings Grant: $10 \times \$4,500 = \$45,000$

Academic & Social Support Grant: $70 \times \$575 = \$40,250$
 $34 \times \$900 = \$30,600 + \$115,000$ (over 3%)

Bonus 10 students/school: \$20,000

Tier II Bonus: \$4,000

Total: \$971,850



RSCO TRANSPORTATION

The Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) coordinates transportation for approximately 14,000 students to over 195 different schools, covering 43 school districts. RSCO contracts with CREC to manage over 800 routes to reputable bus companies.

- ☐ Bus Policies & Procedures
 - ☐ Policy on inclement weather
 - ☐ Late buses
 - ☐ Bus Monitors
 - ☐ Bus Conduct
 - ☐ Delayed Transportation in the beginning of the school year
- ☐ Bus stops
 - ☐ Students must arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled stop time
 - ☐ Centralized and neighborhood bus stops
 - ☐ Delayed Transportation
- ☐ Pick-up/drop off policy
 - ☐ Students in grades pre-K through 3 must be picked up by a parent or guardian
- ☐ Contact Information
 - ☐ Email: transportation@crec.org
 - ☐ Website: www.crec.org/transportation

The CREC Transportation Office is located at 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford
The office is open 5 AM – 8 PM, Monday – Friday.





CONTACT INFORMATION

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