

# **Greater Hartford Region Summit on Choices in Education**

Partnering with the Regional School Choice Office

January 15, 2010

**WELCOME!**

# Creation of Regional School Choice Office Under Sheff vs. O'Neill Phase II Stipulation

- 1996 – CT State Supreme Court held that Hartford public school students were racially, ethnically, and economically isolated in violation of the CT Constitution
- Phase I Stipulation (2003) & Phase II Stipulation (2008)
- Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP):goals, implementation methods, and measurements of success
- Regional School Choice Office (RSCO): Information Center for School Choice Programming that supports Sheff in the Greater Hartford Region

# What is the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO)?

- A single portal (“one-stop shopping”) for families and students in the Greater Hartford region
- Marketing and outreach
- Common application and unified lottery
- RSCO Information Sheet

# Current RSCO partners

- Plaintiffs
- Capitol Region Education Council
- Hartford Public Schools
- CT State Department of Education
- Additional program partners:
  - Goodwin College
  - CT Technical High School System
  - Suffield's Regional Agriscience Center
  - Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill

# Programs supported by RSCO

- Interdistrict Magnet Schools (26)
  - 10 Early Childhood and Elementary Schools
  - 7 Middle and High Schools beginning in grade 6
  - 9 High Schools beginning in grade 7, 9, or 10
- Open Choice
- Charter School (1)
- CT Technical High Schools (4)
- Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Programs and Centers (1)

# What are Interdistrict Magnet Schools?

- State funded public schools designed to voluntarily reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation
- Students are admitted by lottery
- For RSCO supported magnet schools, students apply via the common application and are accepted through a random unified lottery
- Schools have specialized themes
- 4 new magnet schools planned for 2010-2011

# What is Open Choice?

- Provides a choice of K-12 educational programs for students enrolled in public schools
- Hartford public school students attend public schools in 29 participating suburban school districts
- Students from surrounding districts attend select Hartford Public Schools
- Approximately 1,250 current participants, increasing annually

# What are Charter Schools?

- Approved by the state, governed by a local board
- Provide small-scale educational programs managed by a governing board consisting of teachers, parents/guardians, and other community stakeholders
- Accepts students from the local school district and surrounding districts
- Currently Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill is the only Sheff charter

# What are CT Technical High Schools?

- Students learn a trade while earning a high school diploma
- Regional schools
- In some instances, students can earn college credits
- Currently 4 schools are Sheff participating: Cheney, Goodwin, Prince and Vinal

# What are Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Centers?

- Located in comprehensive high schools
- Include instruction in agricultural science and technology
- Students spend part day in the comprehensive high school and part day in the specialized program
- Suffield Regional Agriscience Center at Suffield High School is a Sheff program partner

# The Exciting News and The Challenge

- The Exciting News: Students in the Greater Hartford Region have many public school choice options to meet their educational needs.
- The Challenge: Providing students and families with information about all of the options available to them

# **We Need Your Help!**

- Families interact with and trust agencies, organizations, and schools in their own communities
- We need you! Help us make families in the Greater Hartford Region aware of their public school choice options

# How Can We Work Together To Help Families....

- Level of Interest in Participation Form
- Level One – Information: Inform families of RSCO options (Catalog & Brochures)
- Level Two – Information and Assistance: Level One, *plus* technical assistance (computer and internet access for applicants)
- Other – Make a recommendation based on your population, resources, and mission
- Open Choice – support districts and schools receiving students, and participating families

**Contact us for more information:**

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**THANK YOU!**