



NEWS

Connecticut State Department of Education and the Regional School Choice Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 10, 2015

Contact: Abbe Smith 860.713.6525

Big Dreams Start Here at the Regional School Choice Office

Regional School Choice Fair Saturday, Nov. 14

Second fair of lottery application season to feature programming for Grades PK to 12

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – November 10, 2015 -- Want to explore the many great opportunities for your child's education within the Greater Hartford region? Want to speak with staff and families that work at or attend a magnet school or the Hartford Region Open Choice Program? Bring the family to the second regional school choice fair of the 2016-17 lottery application season on **Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Metropolitan Learning Center, 1551 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield.**

Families planning to attend may sign up in advance online for this fair at RSCO's web site (www.choiceeducation.org). Look for the 'Sign Up In Advance!' link under 'News & Events' on the main page.

Important notes about RSCO and the lottery:

- The **2016-17 on-time lottery application period opened October 15, 2015 and closes on Friday, January 29, 2016.**
- There are approximately **43 magnet school options** with specialized themes available; Hartford and suburban students may apply.
- The **Hartford Region Open Choice Program** is a separate option on the RSCO lottery application. Students apply to attend a non-magnet public school outside of their hometown. Once enrolled, Hartford residents may attend school in their Open Choice district through high school graduation.
- The largest numbers of available seats tend to be in transition grades, particularly **prekindergarten, kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9.**

The fair will feature information about the wide array of options available to Hartford and suburban students entering pre-kindergarten through grade 12. RSCO partners include: the Capitol Region Education Council; Hartford Public Schools' Host Magnet Program; the Hartford Region Open Choice Program; Goodwin College's Early Childhood Magnet School and CT River Academy; the Connecticut Technical High School System; Bloomfield Public Schools' Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School and The Global Experience Magnet School; and East Hartford Public Schools' Connecticut IB Academy.

If you are new to this experience, there will be a video presentation to provide an overview of the RSCO lottery application process. After viewing the presentation, RSCO staff will be available to answer specific questions. Families will also have the opportunity to submit an online application for the 2016-17 RSCO

lottery. **The lottery is not first-come, first-served and families are encouraged to make an informed decision.**

“Our goal is to provide information and improve access for students throughout the region who choose to apply to public schools outside of their community,” said Glen Peterson, RSCO’s Division Director. “Through our four fairs held between October and January, as well as many scheduled school and program-based open houses and information sessions, families can learn about the schools and specialized programs in our region that emphasize exciting educational themes,” he adds.

For more information on school fairs, information sessions and open houses, please visit RSCO’s web site at <http://www.choiceeducation.org> or call RSCO’s Parent Information Center at 860-713-6990 weekdays (excluding state holidays) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Remaining RSCO School Fair Schedule, 2016-2017 Lottery

Saturday, November 14, 2015

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Metropolitan Learning Center

1551 Blue Hills Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Snow Date & Time: Sunday, November 15, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

This fair will feature RSCO programming for Grades PK-12

Saturday, December 5, 2015

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Connecticut River Academy

9 Riverside Drive

East Hartford, CT 06118

Snow Date & Time: Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 1-4 p.m.

This fair will feature RSCO programming for Grades PK-12

Saturday, January 9, 2016

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Conard High School

110 Beechwood Road

West Hartford, CT 06107

Snow Date & Time: Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This fair will feature RSCO programming for Grades PK-12

####

“The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education’s nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-807-2101. Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov.”

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER