



# NEWS

Connecticut State Department of Education and the Regional School Choice Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2016-17 RSCO Lottery On-Time Application Deadline Monday, February 29, 2016

(HARTFORD, CT) – February 24, 2016 – The Connecticut Department of Education’s Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) would like to remind parents, grandparents, and guardians of children entering prekindergarten to Grade 12 that this is the final week to submit an on-time application for the 2016-17 RSCO lottery.

The RSCO lottery offers Hartford and suburban students an opportunity to apply to high-quality public school choice options:

- **Magnet school** options include approximately **43 magnet schools** with specialized themes; Hartford and suburban students may apply; and
- **The Hartford Region Open Choice Program**, 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.**

On the RSCO lottery application, you may apply to the Hartford Region Open Choice Program and/or up to five magnet schools. Families are encouraged to make an informed decision, and options depend on the grade to which you are applying. A good place to start is RSCO’s Web site, which includes information on all programming offered through the RSCO lottery, as well as lottery policies.

To submit an online application, parents should visit RSCO’s website at <http://www.choiceeducation.org> and click on ‘Apply Now’ in the orange box on the site’s main page. On-time applications must be received no later than Monday, February 29, 2016.

Families seeking lottery application assistance can take advantage of the following resources (assistance available in English and Spanish):

- RSCO's Parent Information Center (State Office Building, Room 360, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford; 860-713-6990): call or visit weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; the Parent Center will also be open for extended hours, until 6 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 29;
- Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Central Office (111 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford; 860-247-CREC (2732)): call or visit weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and
- Hartford Public Schools (HPS) Welcome Center (960 Main St., Hartford; 860-695-8400): call or visit weekdays for application assistance between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; the HPS Welcome Center will also be open for extended hours, until 6 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 29.

The following lottery application assistance events are also scheduled:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.:** CREC Application Assistance & Appetizers Party at CREC Central Office (111 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford)
- **Thursday, Feb. 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.:** HPS Office of School Choice Application Assistance at Arroyo Recreation Center – food/snacks provided (30 Pope Park Dr., Hartford)
- **Thursday, Feb. 25 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.:** CREC Application Assistance & Appetizers Party at **Hartford Public Library (125 Albany Ave., Hartford)**
- **Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** Hartford Public Library/Downtown Branch (500 Main St., Hartford), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Children's Room
- **Monday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.:** Hartford Public Library/Downtown Branch (500 Main St., Hartford), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Children's Room

A list of other community-based RSCO satellite sites can be found on RSCO's Web site, under 'RSCO Satellite Sites and Information Centers.' Families should call these organizations first before visiting.

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