

IX.C.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:**  
May 3, 2017

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report for the 2016-17 school year, dated April 10, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this third day of May, Two Thousand Seventeen.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** May 3, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Racial Imbalance Report

**Introduction**

Pursuant to Section 10-223e-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (“Regulations”), attached is the Racial Imbalance Report dated April 10, 2017, which lists the schools that are racially imbalanced and the schools that have impending imbalance. The Bureau of Data Collection, Research and Evaluation compiled the report based on enrollments as of October 1, 2016. A copy of this report is provided in Exhibit A.

Under Connecticut law, racial imbalance exists when the proportion of minority students for any school exceeds twenty-five percentage points more than the comparable proportion for the school district. For all grades of a given school, the total number of minority students enrolled in the same grades throughout the school district is divided by the district-wide total student enrollment in such grades, and the resulting percentage is the comparable proportion for the school district. If a school is identified as racially imbalanced, the board of education must file a plan to correct the imbalance with the State Board of Education (“SBE”). Impending racial imbalance exists when the proportion for a school falls outside a range from fifteen percentage points less to fifteen percentage points more than the comparable proportion for the school district.

Section 10-226e-3 of the Regulations requires the SBE to provide notice to any board of education having jurisdiction over one or more schools that the SBE has determined to be racially imbalanced. Local boards so notified must file plans to correct racial imbalance in those schools within one hundred and twenty days of the notice. The SBE must also provide notice to any local board of education that has one or more schools deemed to have impending racial imbalance, pursuant to Section 10-226e-4 of the Regulations.

**Racially Imbalanced Schools – New**

This year there are two schools identified with racial imbalance that did not appear on the 2016 report.

- Claude Chester School in Groton; and
- Church Street School in Hamden.

Claude Chester School in Groton was first identified as racially imbalanced in 2014. For the past two years, it was categorized as having impending imbalance with an imbalance of 21.84 in 2015 and 24.29 in 2016. Pursuant to the racial imbalance plan approved by the SBE on January 7, 2015, the Groton Board of Education applied for school construction funding pursuant to Section

10-286h of the Connecticut General Statutes to build a new middle school, which will allow the district to reconfigure its elementary schools, several of which have been identified as racially imbalanced or with impending imbalance in recent years. Groton is expecting the Department of Administrative Services to respond to its application in the near future.

Church Street School in Hamden was first identified as racial imbalanced in 2012. The Hamden Board of Education (“Hamden Board”) submitted a plan to correct racial imbalance, which was approved by the SBE on December 5, 2012. This plan involved the redistricting of certain students currently living in the Church Street School attendance zone to Helen Street School at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year. While this redistricting reduced the imbalance at the school, it is now imbalanced again. It is important to note that Helen Street School is very close to being identified with an absolute imbalance of 24.98.

### **Racially Imbalanced Schools – Continuing Imbalance**

The schools that continue to be racially imbalanced this year are:

- Charter Oak Academy in West Hartford;
- New Lebanon School in Greenwich;
- Hamilton Avenue School in Greenwich; and
- McKinley School in Fairfield.

In March 2013, the West Hartford Board of Education (“West Hartford Board”) made a presentation to the SBE regarding its intention to expand Charter Oak International Academy (“Charter Oak”) through a school construction project, which it has recently completed. The West Hartford Board expects that such expansion will allow more students outside the school’s attendance zone to enroll in the magnet program. In addition, the absolute imbalance at Smith School this year has decreased so that the school is now in impending imbalance. It is anticipated that the expansion will take several years to have an impact on the racial imbalance statistics at Charter Oak. We will continue to monitor West Hartford’s progress in this endeavor.

New Lebanon School (identified in 2006) and Hamilton Avenue School (identified in 1999) in Greenwich continue to be racially imbalanced. Most recently, the SBE approved the Greenwich Board of Education’s amendment to its plan on July 9, 2014. Pursuant to this amendment, the Greenwich Board of Education is in the process of implementing a school construction project, which will allow the district to increase the number of students who may attend the International Baccalaureate Program at the New Lebanon School. In addition, the Hamilton Avenue School has adopted a new theme designed to attract more students from outside the school’s attendance zone.

In February 2013, the SBE approved the Fairfield Board of Education’s amendment to its plan to address racial imbalance at McKinley School. The amended plan expanded the opportunities for McKinley parents to enroll their children in preschool programs at other elementary schools but the racial imbalance persisted. Most recently, the SBE directed the Fairfield Board to submit a revised amended plan for McKinley School in January of 2017. Under the SBE’s January 2017 resolution, the Fairfield Board must submit its revised plan on or before May 4, 2017.

**Follow-up Activities**

A staff member from the Department will notify the Hamden Board of the racial imbalance at Church Street School and request that the Hamden Board submit a plan to correct such imbalance within 120 days of the notification, in accordance with the applicable regulation. We will also maintain contact with the superintendents of the districts with racially imbalanced schools with plans in place to monitor the implementation of their respective plans and recommend further action to the SBE if necessary.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 10-226e-4 of the Regulations, the SBE shall notify the local board of education having jurisdiction of a school district which includes one or more schools with the status of impending imbalance. The racial imbalance report indicates that there are 26 schools with impending racial imbalance. (See Exhibit A.) As in previous years, the Department will also send each local and regional board of education the racial imbalance status for each of those schools within its jurisdiction. Providing this information on an annual basis allows each local board of education to take measures to avoid having one or more of its schools identified as racially imbalanced or with impending imbalance.

Prepared by:  
Laura L. Anastasio, Attorney  
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

Approved by:  
Peter Haberlandt, Director  
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

# EXHIBIT A

# UNAUDITED DATA FILE

## Connecticut State Department of Education

2016 Public School Enrollment By Racial Imbalance Categories Where School Total > 100, Excluding CTHSS, Inter-District Magnet and Charter

Imbalance is determined pursuant to CGS §10-226e-3 and §10-226e-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, comparing school proportions with the district proportions of students in the same grade.  
**Note: Bold-faced fonts indicate the greater of the district or school minority percentage figures for each school.**

Facility Code	Reporting District	School	District % Minority	School % Minority	Schl. Total	Absolute Imbalance
<b>a) Imbalanced: 25% and greater imbalance</b>						
0570611	Greenwich School District	New Lebanon School	39.37%	<b>79.38%</b>	257	40.01
1550511	West Hartford School District	Charter Oak International Academy	42.98%	<b>73.20%</b>	444	30.22
0510611	Fairfield School District	McKinley School	23.21%	<b>53.23%</b>	449	30.02
0570511	Greenwich School District	Hamilton Avenue School	39.50%	<b>69.02%</b>	397	29.52
0590311	Groton School District	Claude Chester School	45.68%	<b>71.48%</b>	298	25.79
0620211	Hamden School District	Church Street School	62.34%	<b>88.09%</b>	319	25.75

\* The reporting districts include all students in schools, programs and out-placed facilities.

\* Diverse Schools are defined by Section 10-226e-1(9) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: when a school district has a district minority population of fifty percent or more, and the school has a school minority population of at least twenty-five percent but less than seventy-five percent, the district is excluded from the requirement of filing a racial imbalance plan for that school.

\* Source Data: Public School Information System October 2016

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Facility Code	Reporting District	School	District % Minority	Dist. Total	School % Minority	Schl. Total	Absolute Imbalance
<b>b) Impending Imbalance: Less than 25% and greater than 15% imbalance</b>							
0620411	Hamden School District	Helen Street School	62.34%	3014	87.32%	347	24.98
1551711	West Hartford School District	Smith School	42.98%	4414	66.67%	372	23.69
0571111	Greenwich School District	Parkway School	39.50%	4339	18.75%	256	20.75
0570911	Greenwich School District	Old Greenwich School	39.50%	4339	19.31%	435	20.19
1190411	Rocky Hill School District	Myrtle H. Stevens School	46.31%	1248	27.21%	555	19.11
0591911	Groton School District	Northeast Academy Elementary School	45.68%	2189	26.67%	390	19.02
0771211	Manchester School District	Verplanck School	62.75%	3060	81.54%	390	18.79
0340611	Danbury School District	Morris Street School	66.07%	5423	84.68%	372	18.61
0592011	Groton School District	Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School	45.87%	2387	64.46%	377	18.58
1380411	Stratford School District	Franklin School	59.71%	3673	77.26%	277	17.55
1550611	West Hartford School District	Duffy School	42.46%	4195	25.00%	488	17.46
1460111	Vernon School District	Lake Street School	44.53%	1628	27.41%	270	17.13
1550411	West Hartford School District	Bugbee School	42.46%	4195	25.48%	420	16.98
1030211	Norwalk School District	Brookside Elementary School	69.74%	5483	85.75%	456	16.00

\* The reporting districts include all students in schools, programs and out-placed facilities.

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\* Source Data: Public School Information System October 2016

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Facility Code	Reporting District	School	District % Minority	Dist. Total	School % Minority	Schl. Total	Absolute Imbalance
0771011	Manchester School District	Robertson School	62.75%	3060	78.73%	362	15.98
0620111	Hamden School District	Shepherd Glen School	61.35%	2823	77.26%	321	15.91
0840711	Milford School District	Meadowside School	28.58%	2456	44.11%	297	15.52
1030811	Norwalk School District	Kendall Elementary School	69.98%	5209	85.47%	537	15.50
1260911	Shelton School District	Mohegan School	29.45%	1766	14.13%	269	15.32
1190511	Rocky Hill School District	West Hill School	46.85%	1302	62.15%	724	15.30
0540711	Glastonbury School District	Naubuc School	29.78%	2411	45.01%	351	15.23
1431311	Torrington School District	Vogel-Wetmore School	37.33%	2111	52.49%	461	15.17
1550211	West Hartford School District	Braeburn School	42.46%	4195	27.43%	350	15.03

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