

From: [Robert Morton](#)
To: [StateBoard_SDE](#)
Subject: Five year renewal of Capital Preparatory Harbor School
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This is the 2nd time I have appealed to this State Board of Education to request a five-year renewal for Capital Preparatory Harbor School, a social justice school. We have a culture in Capital Prep that defies that of your normal school culture. What do I mean by that? I am glad you asked. As a social justice school, our students are not only challenged to excel academically but they are also challenged to be socially responsible; to respect their neighbors and their environment. Our students learn discipline, self-respect and self-determination. They are taught that they matter; that they have a divine purpose to fulfill and it can only be limited by themselves. Since our last meeting to request the renewal of our charter we have added a lower school, grades K-8.

At the time of our 1st charter renewal request, we were preparing to graduate our 1st high school class. Since that time, we have graduated every Senior and every senior has been accepted at more than 1 college. We have graduated 11 in 2017, 25 in 2018 and 33 in 2019 and we are graduating 40 in 2020. Every one of those students has been accepted in college. Every senior graduate of Capital Preparatory Harbor School has been accepted into a college. We even had a student that graduated from Housatonic Community College with an associate degree prior to her graduation from Capital Preparatory Harbor School. In the most recent class, the class of 2020, every one of them was accepted by a college by November of last year and by the end of January of this year there were 247 acceptances to college which represents 6.5 acceptances per student.

We have been accused of cherry-picking students, however, if you see the initial MAP test scores of many of the students that we accept via the lottery you would be hard pressed to make that assumption. Many of the students come into the school, as many as four grades behind in reading and we back-fill, up to as late as the junior year and they graduate with acceptance into college. It has been proven that students who come into the school at an early age test higher than those who come into the school in the latter years of their elementary and high school grades. It has also been proven that those who come into the school at any grade level and remain to graduate, do, over time, attain grade level and surpass grade level as they progress through the grades.

If we have a deficiency, it would be in the area of teacher certification. And I say, **if** we have a deficiency, because it can be proven that teacher certification does not equate to being or even becoming a good teacher. I agree we need rules and regulations to maintain order and most importantly to promote the education of our students, however, if the rules and regulations don't provide the desired result; providing the best education for our students, then the rules and regulations need to be changed to facilitate the best possible education for our students. Professor Ignacio Estrada said, "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn," and that is what Capital Preparatory Harbor School has been doing since its inception. The public education system that services the students in Connecticut's major metropolitan areas is failing our students and you only need to look at the test scores, while Capital Preparatory Harbor School exceeds all of them without your required percentage of certified teachers; how is that? Are the certified teachers failing or are the uncertified teachers over performing? What I am sure about is, the students at Capital Preparatory Harbor School are all graduating and are all attending college and are all socially responsible students when they leave Capital Preparatory Harbor School.

So, I implore you to grant Capital Preparatory Harbor School a five-year renewal.

Member of the Board of Managers

Morton's Mortuary, Inc.
Robert Morton, Manager
25 Margaret E. Morton Lane
Bridgeport, CT 06607
v: (203) 576-0326
f (203) 330-9446

robert@mortonsmortuary.com

<http://mortonsmortuary.com/>

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