



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: November 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Student Recruitment for Choice Programs and Specialized Schools

The Connecticut State Department of Education (“CSDE”) is reissuing this correspondence to reinforce the important legal requirement that districts provide “full access” to district students for recruitment purposes to specialized schools¹ and school choice programs. This law exists to afford students access to educational options that may be beneficial to them. Therefore, it is important that districts facilitate this access to the maximum extent feasible as outlined in the letters from prior years, available here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2021-22/Student-Recruitment-for-Choice-Programs-2021.pdf>

In implementing this requirement, please note the following points:

- While school representatives ordinarily would be able to communicate with prospective students and families through an in-person presentation, the pandemic continues to present school communities with unique challenges. Therefore, as noted in last year’s communication, for the duration of the pandemic/endemic, districts must give specialized school representatives opportunities to either enter district buildings and access students to provide in-person information within appropriate schedules during and after school, or afford such representatives access to students and their families for a remote experience.
- Districts additionally should provide information to prospective students/families through means that do not require physical access to the school facility (e.g., virtual fairs, “live chats,” brochures, informational handouts, etc.).
- Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220d has long required that districts provide information relating to specialized schools on the district website, and this requirement remains in place. Effective July 1, 2022, however, this law also specifically provides that districts must require school counselors to provide information to middle and high school students and families relating to the availability of vocational, technical, technological and postsecondary education and training at the technical education and career schools, as well as agricultural science and technology education centers. This information also must be published on the school district website. In addition to providing general information about programs on the district website, school districts can use the following links for these purposes:

¹ The term “specialized schools” is used here to refer to the collection of interdistrict educational opportunities pertinent to the legislation, which include the following: technical education and career schools, regional agricultural science and technology education centers (“ASTE”), interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools and interdistrict student attendance programs.

- Interdistrict magnet schools and Open Choice:
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Services/K-12-Education/School-Choice/Regional-School-Choice>
- Charter schools: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Charter-Schools/Charter-Schools>
- Technical education and career schools: <https://www.cttech.org/>
- Regional agricultural science and technology education centers:
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Agricultural-Science-and-Technology-Education>

Thank you for your attention to these issues. If you have questions regarding this subject, please contact CSDE staff attorney Matthew Venhorst at matthew.venhorst@ct.gov.