



NEWS

Connecticut State Department of Education and the Regional School Choice Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2016

Contact: Abbe Smith, SDE Director of Communications
(860-713-6525)

The Connecticut State Department of Education's Regional School Choice Office (RSCO)

Regional School Choice Fair Saturday, Dec. 3

Second fair of lottery application season to feature programming for Grades Pre-K to 12

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – November 30, 2016 -- 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 2017-18 lottery application season on **Saturday, December 3, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Connecticut River Academy, 9 Riverside Dr., East Hartford.**

During fair hours, interested families may take advantage of tours offered at two RSCO magnet schools also located on the Goodwin College campus: Riverside Magnet School (offering Grades Pre-K to 4) and Pathways Academy of Technology and Design (Grades 9-12).

About RSCO and the lottery:

- The **2017-18 lottery application period opened Tuesday, November 1, 2016 and closes on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.**
- 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 **Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 6 and Grade 9.**

The fair will feature information about the wide array of options available to Hartford and suburban students entering Grades Pre-K through 12. RSCO partners include: the Capitol Region Education Council; Hartford Public Schools' Host Magnet Program; the Hartford Region Open Choice Program; Goodwin College's Riverside Magnet School and Connecticut River Academy; the Connecticut Technical High School System; Bloomfield Public Schools' Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School and 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 2017-18 RSCO lottery. **The lottery is not first-come, first-served; 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 November and February, 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, and to apply online, please visit RSCO’s Web site at <http://www.choiceeducation.org>. Call RSCO’s Parent Information Center at 860-713-6990 weekdays (excluding state holidays) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. with questions.

RSCO School Fairs, 2017-18 Lottery

- All fairs feature RSCO programming for Grades Pre-K to 12

Saturday, December 3, 2016

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Connecticut River Academy

9 Riverside Drive

East Hartford, CT 06118

Snow Date & Time: Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, January 21, 2017

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Academy of Science and Innovation

600 Slater Road

New Britain, CT 06053

Snow Date & Time: Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, February 11, 2017

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Conard High School

110 Beechwood Road

West Hartford, CT 06107

Snow Date & Time: Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

####

“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

