

Public Forum

Comprehensive School Choice Plan

December 12, 2022

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Connecticut State Department of Education

Sheff Settlement – Comprehensive School Choice Plan (CCP)



A LITTLE SHEFF BACKGROUND FOR CONTEXT

- In 1996, the Connecticut Supreme Court issued its decision in *Sheff v. O’Neill* and ordered the legislature to fashion a remedy to racial and ethnic segregation in Hartford schools
- Starting in the late 90s, Connecticut began measures to meet its obligations under the *Sheff* ruling through **voluntary interdistrict magnet schools and the Open Choice Program**
- As of 2021, nearly 18,500 students from the Hartford area attend magnet schools, including around 8,600 Hartford resident students. An additional 2,300 Hartford area students are enrolled in Open Choice



Benefits of Diverse Educational Settings

The Goal of the *Sheff* case and resulting settlement is to provide access to quality integrated schools, defined as socioeconomically diverse and racially and ethnically diverse.

Benefits:

- Academic/Cognitive Benefits
- Civic and Social-Emotional Benefits
- Economic Benefits

Source: The Century Foundation, available at <https://tcf.org/content/facts/the-benefits-of-socioeconomically-and-racially-integrated-schools-and-classrooms/#easy-footnote-bottom-12>



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Key Components

- Includes a Comprehensive School Choice Plan (CCP) as the roadmap to the state's long-term plan for meeting Demand and supporting a sustainable system of integrated education
- Ends active Court jurisdiction in *Sheff v. O'Neill* case – a case filed in 1989 and decided in 1996
- Provides a mechanism for enforcement through a 10-year permanent injunction, triggered by a motion by plaintiffs for noncompliance with specified material terms
- State commits to meeting 100% of Demand by Hartford-resident minority students for a reduced isolation setting as a goal (measurable Demand commitment of a 95% Placement Percentage)
- State commits to significant funding to meet Demand, innovate programming, reformulate schools, and support educational equity



Sheff Settlement – Phase V Approval Process

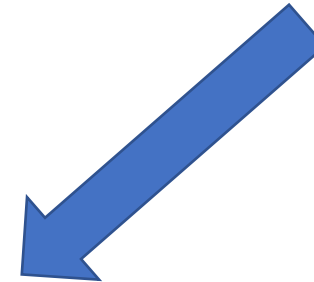
The Superior Court entered preliminary approval of the PI and CCP on January 27th



The Attorney General submitted the PI and CCP for approval by the General Assembly after the start of the session



The General Assembly had 30 days to approve or reject the agreement



General Assembly approved the agreement by operation of law on March 17th by taking no action within 30 days



The Court approved the Agreement as an Order of the Court on March 21st



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

State Commitment to Key Actions

- The CCP includes 42 state commitments
- Roadmap to meeting Demand and supporting a sustainable system of quality, integrated education
- The Commitments are broken down into 8 categories:
 - A. Demand
 - B. Funding
 - C. School Reformulation
 - D. Program Expansion
 - E. Assessment and Evaluation
 - F. SDE Structural Changes
 - G. Qualitative Enhancements
 - H. Terminating Court Jurisdiction



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Demand

- **Commitment:** Meet the Demand of Hartford students who want a quality, integrated educational experience
 - Goal is 100% Met Demand
 - Measurable Commitment is 95% Placement Percentage
- **Demand Definition:** “Demand” includes on-time and late Hartford-resident minority applicants who selected:
 - Open Choice AND/OR
 - CTECS AND/OR
 - Magnet Schools (or at least 2 magnet schools if magnet schools only)

Demand Schedule

- Assess Demand for information purposes:
 - 2023-24
 - 2024-25
 - Every 3 years after each Met Demand Commitment year
- Met Demand Commitment
 - 2025-26: Meet entry grade Demand (pk3, pk4, KG, 6th, 9th)
 - 2028-29: Meet entry and non-entry grade Demand
 - 2031-32: Meet entry and non-entry grade Demand



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Key Actions to Meeting Demand

- Expanding seats for Hartford-resident students:
 1. Implement an Expansion Plan based on proposals by magnet operators
 2. Leverage existing physical capacity to increase enrollment of Hartford students
 3. Expand Open Choice based on enrollment incentives
 4. Expand Hartford student enrollment at Howell Cheney and EC Goodwin to 30% Hartford students
- Reformulation of magnets to create a sustainable system of quality, integrated education options
- Maximize SES diversity
- Implement a cohesive and uniform marketing campaign



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Magnet Expansion

Some of the new expanded programs include:

- Dual Language magnet at Dwight-Bellizzi, starting with PK4 and KG
- Hartford Prekindergarten Magnet Schools, PK3 and PK4 expansion
- Early Literacy and Technical High School magnets operated by Goodwin
- Retheming of Two Rivers and Civic Leadership to computer programming
- Expansion of prekindergarten at existing magnets through the CREC Preschool at 123 Progress Drive
- Half-day program Early College Advanced Manufacturing Pathway™ (ECAMP™) magnet at Goodwin University for seniors to gain dual-credit



Sheff Settlement – Phase V Magnet Expansion

- Expansion depends on Demand
- Total Potential Hartford Seats to meet Demand
 - Nearly 800 by 2023-24
 - Nearly 2,000 by 2025-26
 - Between about 2,200 and 2,800 by 2028-29
- SDE will make ongoing seat adjustments as necessary to meet Demand



*All seats reflect estimated seats over 2020-21 enrollments

Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Open Choice and CTECS Expansion – As Needed

Expansion depends on Demand

Open Choice Expansion

- 200 Hartford seats by 2023-24
 - 300 Hartford seats by 2025-26
 - 450 Hartford seats by 2028-29
- Increase of 50 seats per year, beginning in 2024-25

*over 2020-21 enrollment

CTECS Expansion at AI Prince, EC Goodwin and Howell Cheney

- 20 Hartford seats by 2023-24
- 40 Hartford seats by 2025-26
- 80 Hartford seats by 2028-29



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Magnet School Expansion/Reformulation – Funding

Funding	Description	Implementation Year
Operating and transportation grant for capacity expansion	Fund expanded capacity to meet demand	FY22
\$12.6M spread evenly over 3 years	Reformulate schools to meet compliance goals. Grants up to a maximum of \$2M	FY23-FY25
\$150,000	Grant to schools with historic challenges to meeting diversity for increasing diversity of applicant pool	FY23-FY25
\$300,000	Contract with consulting company for magnet theme coaches	FY23-FY24
\$7.8M spread evenly over 2 years	Increase extracurricular programming, up to maximum of \$300,000.	FY23-FY24
\$6.8M spread evenly over 3 years	Increase sports programming, up to a maximum of \$400,000	FY23-FY25



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Magnet Reformulation

- Key focus of the CCP is human and fiscal investment to support compliance with diversity goals
- CCP allocates \$12.6M in funding for reformulation plus \$300,000 for magnet coaches, \$7.8M for extracurricular programming and \$6.8M for athletics
 - Retheming and program enhancements as part of reformulation
 - Extracurricular and athletic programming are a priority
 - Human and fiscal support varies based on school grouping
- SDE will lead support teams to develop reformulation plans in collaboration with operators/schools based on 3 school groupings
 - Group 1: Schools with diverse enrollment
 - Group 2: Schools on the margins in meeting diversity goals
 - Group 3: Schools with historical challenges to meeting diversity goals



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Open Choice Expansion – Funding

Annual Funding	Description	Implementation Year
\$150,000 ASSG	Activities for family engagement and to promote acceptances	FY22, annual grant
\$150,000 ASSG	Educational enhancements	FY22, annual grant
\$750,000	Bonus to be shared among the districts, up to \$5,000 pp, for enrolling 5 or more additional students at the entry grade in the same school over the prior fiscal year. Specifically includes HPS	FY23, annual grant
\$750,000	Bonus to be shared among the districts, up to \$5,000 pp, for increasing enrollment by at least 20% over the prior fiscal year. Specifically includes HPS	FY23, annual grant
\$2,000 pp	Increase to attendance grant across all funding tiers. Specifically includes HPS	FY23, annual grant
\$400,000	Educational advocates	FY22, annual grant



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Open Choice Expansion – Other Terms

- SDE revised the academic and social support grant for 2022-23 to streamline the process and build in performance metrics to incentivize retention, student and family engagement, educational advancement and graduation
- SDE will develop a revised policy for late buses after surveying OC districts regarding student participation in weekend and summer extracurricular activities
- SDE will meet with OC districts twice per year to address challenges, marketing and student supports
- SDE will collaborate with DOH on the implementation and evaluation of the Voucher Program, and seek to replace any OC seat reallocated through the Voucher Program to a new Hartford family
- SDE will provide guidance to districts on the requirements for Special Education supports and reimbursements under OC statutes
- SDE will enter a consulting contract to provide OC districts with inclusion programming and professional development



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Open Choice Expansion – Other Terms

- Core planning framework for sustainable *Sheff* system
- Formed in January
- Meets once per month
- Includes representatives from SDE, CREC, Hartford, Goodwin plus the plaintiffs' representative and appropriate experts, as needed

Role of Group:

- Analyze enrollment to plan to meet Demand
- Assess existing choice options in *Sheff* ecosystem (academic and extracurricular programming, themes, transportation, town participation, pathways, grade configuration, themes, geography, etc)
- Make recommendations for reformulation
- Analyze SES protocols and recommend adjustments
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Open Choice incentives
- Review the evaluation of the Housing Voucher Program



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Other Key Terms

Assessment

- Regularly assess applicant data to:
 - Inform marketing strategies
 - Identify and target underrepresented populations
- Disaggregate data and make it publicly available
- Meet with Hartford to assess facility capacity and enrollment trends and support Hartford planning
- Evaluate transportation impact on decision-making and efficiencies

Other Key Terms

- SDE will host public forum in 2022 to explain the CCP
- RSCO will host 3 fairs per year
- Magnet placements will continue through October 1 and OC and CTECS placements will continue through December 1



Sheff Settlement – Phase V

Permanent Injunction

- Ends court jurisdiction except to enforce order for noncompliance with stipulated material terms
- Stipulates that the PI and CCP address the Supreme Court's findings in *Sheff v. O'Neill*
- Effective for 10 years
- Plaintiffs must notify the state of noncompliance before motioning court, with the opportunity to cure

General material terms:

- Meet Demand in a measurable assessment year (2025-26, 2028-29, 2031-32)
- Maximize socioeconomic diversity to meet diversity goals
- Implement a cohesive and uniform marketing plan
- Make disaggregated achievement data publicly available on an annual basis
- Follow the reformulation process articulated in the CCP
- Provide data and information to plaintiffs
- Implement the financial commitments from CCP



New RSCO Application

Goals

Increase transparency and support informed decision making.

New Features

- Priority summary and flags
- Interactive map on school/district selection page
- Comprehensive school information
- Past Seat Availability
- Embedded FAQs
- Waitlist indicator

[Welcome to EnrollWise \(ct.gov\)](https://www.rSCO2.ct.gov/)
<https://www.rSCO2.ct.gov/>



New RSCO Application

Summary of eligible priorities.

[Dashboard](#) / [Test Student](#)

6th Grade Magnet Schools Application

Status:  Not Submitted

[View Priorities](#)

Deadline

Application Open

Key Dates

→ [Applications Open: 12/05/2022](#)

→ [On-time Deadline: 02/28/2023](#)

[Application Help](#)

FAQs, providing clear information on the placement rules.



New RSCO Application

Priority flag

Distance from home

Number of first choice applicants and seats available for the prior year.



Betances STEM Magnet School

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

★ Enrolled Sibling Priority

5, 6, 7, 8

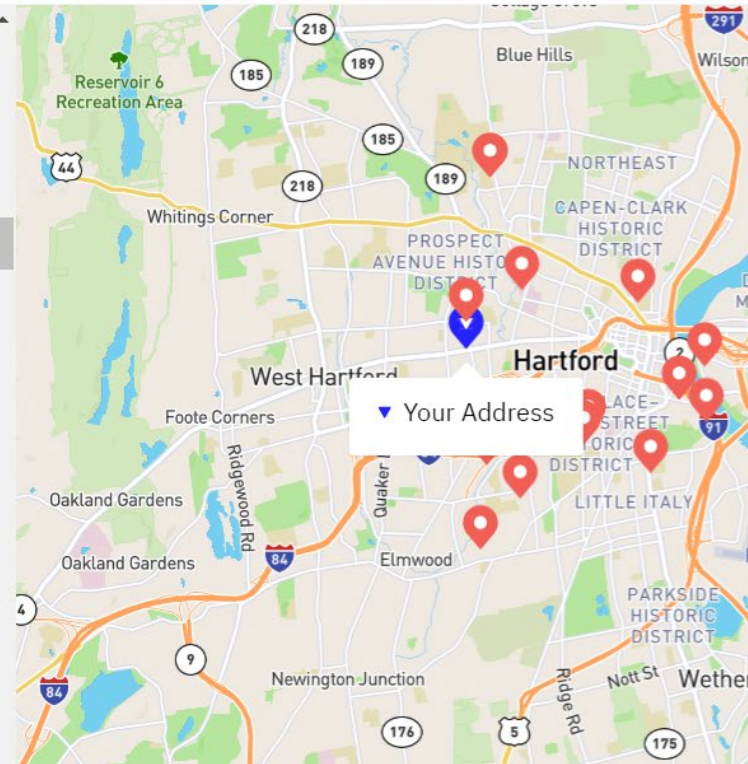
253 Students

400 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, CT

2.4 miles away

Past Seat Availability

Add to Application +



Map showing school locations in relation to home address.



New RSCO Application – Waitlist Process

A new process to increase the chance a placement.

- Waitlist indicator for current selections that updates in real time
- Ability to view the waitlist size of all schools/districts and add up to five new selections

Waitlist Indicators

- SMALL** Small (green) indicator means a good chance of an offer if seats are available
- MEDIUM** Medium (yellow) indicator means an offer is unlikely in the next round of placements
- LARGE** Large (red) indicator means a placement is unlikely

