

# NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

Dr. Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner

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Contact: Tom Murphy 860.713.6525

## **State Department of Education Reports that State has Met Second Year Goals of Sheff Stipulated Agreement**

**Twenty Seven Percent of Hartford's Minority Students are Learning in Diverse Settings**

(HARTFORD, CONN.) – State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan today announced that the State has met the second-year goals of the Phase II stipulated agreement under the State Supreme Court Order in the Sheff v. O’Neill case. The agreement is designed to reduce racial and economic isolation in Hartford and in public schools throughout the Hartford region.

“We are pleased to report that through the cooperation and hard work of many educators and staff throughout the region and the active participation of thousands of students, the second year goal has been achieved,” said McQuillan. Today, more than 27 percent of Hartford’s resident minority students are receiving their educational experience in a diverse classroom. This is a significant step forward, but we have more work to do in the coming years to meet the requirements of the Court Order.”

This year’s goal translates into over 5,200 Hartford-resident minority students receiving their education in a variety of school choice options including magnet schools, a charter school, public school choice and other regional programs, including the Connecticut Technical High School System and Agricultural Science and Technology Programs. This is the second consecutive year that the State has met the goals of the Phase II Agreement including last year, when 19% of Hartford-resident minority students were educated in a reduced racial isolation setting. Hartford has approximately 23,000 students, of which 21,730 are minority students.

The Commissioner pointed out that magnet schools represent the largest enrollment with more than 3,200 Hartford-resident minority students. Public school choice, which places Hartford students in suburban classrooms, enrolled more than 1,200 Hartford minority students this year. (See chart next page.)

HARTFORD MINORITY STUDENTS IN REDUCED RACIAL ISOLATION SETTINGS IN 2009

Interdistrict Magnet Schools	3,266
Open Choice	1,239
Reverse Choice (Naylor School)	531
Charter Schools	87
CT Technical High Schools	94
Agricultural Science & Tech Programs	<u>39</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,256</b>

Starting next year (2010-11), the State moves from an annual percentage goal to performance benchmarks based on student demand. Through the utilization of a common application process, the State shall examine the demand for seats in reduced-isolation settings by Hartford-resident minority students based on the number of Hartford-resident minority applicants for a Voluntary Interdistrict Program for the next school year.

In November of Year 4 (2011-12), the State will evaluate the number of Hartford-resident minority students on a waitlist for a Voluntary Interdistrict Program to determine the degree to which existing programs and planned new programs meet demand for seats in reduced-isolation settings by Hartford-resident minority students.

If less than 65% of the demand for seats in reduced-isolation settings by Hartford-resident minority students is met, then the State, in consultation with the Regional School Choice Office, will amend the Comprehensive Management Plan, and take action to plan and provide additional capacity for seats in reduced-isolation settings.

In 2012-13, the final year of the Agreement, the State is required to meet 80% of the demand for a reduced racial isolation educational setting, as measured by the number of students choosing and enrolling in racially integrated schools or, if below the 80% benchmark, meet a minimum standard of 41 percent of Hartford's minority students in reduced racially isolated settings.

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