



For Immediate Release:

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CSDE Recognizes Districts Selected to Receive USDA's U.S. Healthier School Challenge Award

(Hartford, CT) — The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) announced today that 40 schools have been certified by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) *HealthierUS School Challenge* (HUSSC) to receive USDA's Silver and Bronze Awards. According to the USDA, these Connecticut schools join a very select group of 1,504 schools throughout America that are certified as HUSSC schools and only 1 percent of the schools in the nation have qualified to date.

The HUSSC is a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. It supports First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign by recognizing schools that are creating healthier school environments through their promotion of good nutrition and physical activity.

"The HUSSC encourages schools to strengthen their focus on nutrition, healthy eating and physical activity during the school day. It spotlights and recognizes those schools that emphasize wellness which further facilitates the Department's and the State Board of Education's initiatives in promoting a school environment that supports students' health and learning," said Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor.

The goal of the HUSSC is to improve the health of the Nation's children by creating a healthier school setting. To help meet the goal, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) identifies schools that have made changes to their National School Lunch Program by:

- improving the quality of the foods served;
- providing students with nutrition education; and
- providing students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

These goals have a clear link to improved student achievement outcomes such as increased attendance, improved standardized test scores and better classroom behavior.

The USDA will award each of the following Connecticut schools \$500 per school achieving the Bronze status and \$1,000 per school achieving the Silver status for the HUSSC. To meet the Bronze status, a school must be enrolled as a Team Nutrition School, offer reimbursable lunches that demonstrate the principles of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and meet USDA nutrition standards, provide nutrition education to students, provide students opportunities to engage in physical activity, adhere to guidelines established by the FNS for all foods served/sold in schools, and implement a Local Wellness Policy. In order to reach the Silver status, the school must meet all of the above Bronze requirements and maintain an average daily participation for reimbursable lunches of at least 60 percent (of school enrollment) for elementary and middle schools and at least 45 percent (of school enrollment) for high schools.

HUSSC Silver Awards

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School – New London
C.B. Jennings Elementary School – New London
Harbor Elementary School – New London
Nathan Hale Elementary School – New London
Regional Multicultural Magnet School – New London
Winthrop Elementary School – New London

HUSSC Bronze Awards

Brookside Elementary School – Norwalk
Hurlbutt Elementary School – Weston
Miller-Driscoll School – Wilton
Deans Mill School – Stonington
West Broad Street School – Pawcatuck
West Vine Street School – Pawcatuck
Davenport Ridge Elementary School -
Stamford
Hart Magnet Elementary School - Stamford
Julia A. Stark Elementary School - Stamford
K.T. Murphy Elementary School - Stamford
Newfield Elementary School - Stamford
Northeast Elementary School - Stamford
Rogers International Elementary School -
Stamford
Roxbury Elementary School - Stamford
Springdale Elementary School
Stillmeadow Elementary School - Stamford
Toquam Magnet Elementary School -
Stamford
Westover Magnet Elementary School –
Stamford
Whiting Lane Elementary School – West
Hartford

Braeburn Elementary School – West Hartford
Bristow Middle School – West Hartford
Bugbee Elementary School – West Hartford
Charter Oak International Academy – West
Hartford
Conard High School – West Hartford
Duffy Elementary School – West Hartford
Edward W. Morley Elementary School – West
Hartford
Eric G. Norfeldt Elementary School – West
Hartford
Henry A. Wolcott Elementary School – West
Hartford
King Philip Middle School – West Hartford
Mary Louise Aiken Elementary School – West
Hartford
Sedgwick Middle School – West Hartford
Smith Elementary School – West Hartford
Webster Hill Elementary School – West
Hartford
William Hall High School – West Hartford

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