

Rocky Hill – CREC Partnership

Overview

For more than two years, the Town of Rocky Hill and the CREC have been working together to formulate a plan to increase the number of Open Choice students enrolled in Rocky Hill Public Schools and to find a permanent location in Rocky Hill for an interdistrict magnet school.

The Plan

- Rocky Hill Public Schools, the Town of Rocky Hill, and CREC are partnering to construct two schools on a single site in Rocky Hill (specific location to be determined).
- The proposal includes a new intermediate school (grades 4-5), serving approximately 400 students from Rocky Hill, while also enrolling 30 Hartford-resident students (15 students per grade). Hartford students would enroll through the Open Choice Program and be selected through the state's Regional School Choice Office lottery.
- The sister school on the shared campus would serve as the permanent home of the CREC Academy of Aerospace And Engineering Elementary School (grades K-5), a Sheff interdistrict magnet school with total planned enrollment of approximately 700 students.

Impact on Open Choice Enrollment

- The addition of a new intermediate school in Rocky Hill would serve to alleviate overcrowding in the town's two existing K-5 elementary schools. This would immediately allow for **an additional 90 students to enroll in the Open Choice Program and attend school in Rocky Hill.**
- In subsequent years, the Rocky Hill Board of Education has committed to accepting 15 additional students in the Open Choice Program, with each incoming kindergarten cohort. By the 2023-24 school year, Rocky Hill would enroll 15 students in the Open Choice program at each grade level (K-12). This would bring the **total enrollment of Hartford-resident minority students to 195, comprising 7.1% of the total student enrollment of Rocky Hill Public Schools.**

Planned Open Choice Enrollment Increases:

School Year	Grades K-3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12	Total	OC as % of total enrollment
2014-15	0	0	19	11	30	1.2%
2015-16	0	3	16	25	44	1.8%
2016-17	0	3	18	33	54	2.2%
2017-18	60	30	21	41	152	6.0%
2018-19	60	30	29	48	167	6.6%
2019-20	60	30	37	44	171	6.6%
2020-21	60	30	45	44	179	6.8%
2021-22	60	30	45	49	184	6.9%
2022-23	60	30	45	54	189	7.0%
2023-24	60	30	45	60	195	7.1%

Statewide Impact

- The proposed partnership between the Rocky Hill Board of Education and CREC would be an important component of satisfying the requirements established by the *Sheff v. O'Neill* Settlement Agreement, **without building additional magnet schools.**
- The partnership would mark the first time that a suburban school district has entered into a joint construction venture with CREC in order to increase the number of Hartford students with access to integrated educational settings