



NEWS

Connecticut State Department of Education and the Regional School Choice Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

2017-18 RSCO Lottery Application Deadline Is February 28

Final week highlights include RSCO fair at Conard High School, application assistance events

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – The Connecticut State Department of Education's Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) would like to remind parents, grandparents, and guardians of children entering prekindergarten through grade 12 that this is the final week to submit an on-time application for the 2017-18 RSCO lottery.

Highlighting the final week is the fourth and final regional school choice fair on **Saturday, February 25, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Conard High School, 110 Beechwood Road, West Hartford, CT.**

RSCO fairs feature information about the wide array of public school choice options available in the Hartford region and give families an opportunity to learn more about the lottery application process. Families can also speak directly to school and program representatives that partner with RSCO, including 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.

The RSCO lottery offers Hartford and suburban students an opportunity to apply to high-quality public schools of choice. The RSCO lottery application includes:

- approximately **45 interdistrict magnet schools** with specialized themes; and
- The **Hartford Region Open Choice** program, which is a separate option. Hartford and suburban students apply to attend a non-magnet public school outside of their hometown. Once enrolled, students may attend school in their Open Choice district through high school graduation.

The largest numbers of available seats are in entry/transition grades, particularly prekindergarten, kindergarten, grade 6, and grade 9.

The Connecticut State Department of Education conducts the RSCO lottery. To apply online, visit RSCO's website at <http://www.choiceeducation.org> and direct your browser to the *Apply Now or Log Back In* button. **On-time applications must be submitted by Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at midnight.**

Families seeking lottery application assistance can take advantage of the following resources, available in English and Spanish:

- RSCO's Parent Information Center (450 Columbus Blvd., Plaza Level, Hartford; 860-713-6990): call or visit weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.;
- Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Central Office (111 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford; 860-247-CREC (2732)): call or visit weekdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and
- Hartford Public Schools (HPS) Welcome Center (960 Main St., 1st Floor, Hartford; 860-695-8876): call or visit weekdays for application assistance between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In addition to the RSCO Fair at Conard High School on February 25, the following RSCO lottery application assistance events are scheduled:

- **Wednesday, February 22:** Goodwill Career Center, 315 New Park Ave., Hartford, 4-6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, February 22:** Hartford Public Library/Albany Ave. Branch, 1250 Albany Ave., Hartford, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, February 22:** Hartford Public Library/Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, February 22 through Friday, February 24; Monday, February 27 and Tuesday, February 28:** Family Resource Center, 444 Albany Ave., Hartford, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 23:** Hartford Public Library/Albany Ave. Branch, 1250 Albany Ave., Hartford, 2-4 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 23:** CRT, 170 Douglas St., Hartford, 1:30-5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 23:** Hartford Public Library/Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Friday, February 24:** Women's League Child Development Center, 1695 Main St., Hartford, 8-11 a.m.
- **Friday, February 24:** Hartford Public Library/Albany Ave. Branch, 1250 Albany Ave., Hartford, 2-5 p.m.
- **Friday, February 24:** Crayons and Numbers Preschool, 691 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- **Friday, February 24:** Hartford Public Library/Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, 2-5 p.m.
- **Saturday, February 25:** Hartford Public Library (Downtown), 500 Main St., Hartford, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Sunday, February 26:** Shiloh Baptist Church, 350 Albany Ave., Hartford, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Sunday, February 26:** Hartford Public Library (Downtown), 500 Main St., Hartford, 1-4 p.m.
- **Monday, February 27:** Little Angels Learning Center, 571 Farmington Ave., Hartford, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Monday, February 27:** Billings Forge Community Works, 227 Lawrence St., 2nd Floor, Hartford, 5-7 p.m.
- **Monday and Tuesday, February 27 and 28:** Hartford Public Library/Albany Ave. Branch, 1250 Albany Ave., Hartford, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- **Monday and Tuesday, February 27 and 28:** Hartford Public Library/Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Also, Hartford Public Library's Downtown Branch has scheduled two days of food and fun children's activities while you complete your RSCO lottery application:

- **Monday, February 27:** 500 Main St., Hartford, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 28:** 500 Main St., Hartford, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

A list of other community-based RSCO satellite sites can be found on RSCO's website under *Satellite Sites and Information Centers*. Families should call these organizations before visiting.

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