

# OPEN CHOICE

... Knowledge Through Diversity



**Greater Hartford Region Open Choice Program**



## Open Choice Makes a Difference

The Greater Hartford Region Open Choice Program (formerly Project Concern) is part of a statewide choice program that offers Hartford students the opportunity to attend public schools in suburban towns, and suburban students the opportunity to attend public schools in Hartford, at no cost to the student's family. The goal of the Open Choice Program is to improve academic achievement, reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation and provide all children with a choice of high quality educational programs.

Research studies show that students in integrated schools are more likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, and graduate from college. The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) is one of four agencies in Connecticut that manages an Open Choice program.

## Students/Families

There is one common factor among all children in the Open Choice Program: *Their parents want them to have the best possible education.* Family involvement is a key factor in each child's success.

Our multi-lingual Open Choice team works closely with school districts to help support students and their families. Together, we can help your child participate in a rewarding, diverse educational experience that will prepare him/her for a successful future.

Once your child is accepted into the Open Choice Program, he/she can remain in the program until graduation from high school. However, if you are a Hartford resident and you move out of Hartford, your child will no longer be eligible to participate in the program. If you are a suburban resident and you move, your child may not be able to participate, dependent upon where you move.





Regional School Choice Office (RSCO)  
Phone: (860) 757-6188  
[www.choiceeducation.org](http://www.choiceeducation.org)



Greater Hartford Region Open Choice Program  
Capitol Region Education Council  
Phone: (860) 524-4010  
[www.crec.org/choice](http://www.crec.org/choice)

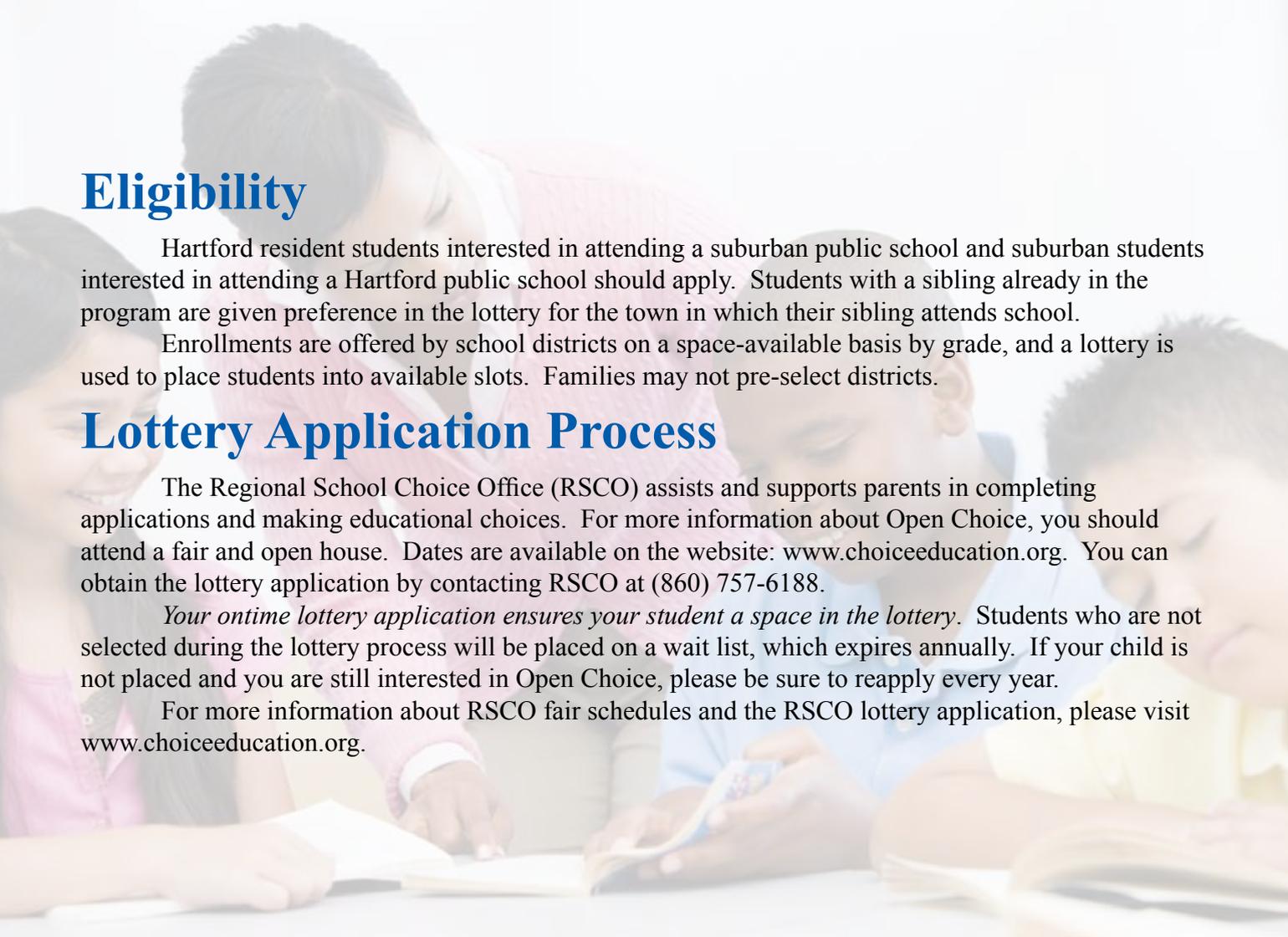
**Look inside to learn about the Greater Hartford Region Open Choice Program, an exciting option for your child's education. Please visit [www.choiceeducation.org](http://www.choiceeducation.org) for additional information about RSCO Fair dates and application deadlines.**

# Facts About Open Choice

- ❖ Participation in the Open Choice program is by choice. As of 2010, approximately 1,300 Greater Hartford Open Choice students attend school in 29 districts in more than 130 schools.
- ❖ The program is open to children in kindergarten through grade 12.
- ❖ Hartford resident students may apply to attend public schools in the surrounding suburbs. Suburban students may apply to attend a public school in Hartford.
- ❖ Transportation is provided at no cost to families who live in Hartford. Transportation may be provided for suburban students who attend Hartford schools. Children who reside outside of the Greater Hartford area may apply, but may not receive transportation if accepted into the program.
- ❖ Open Choice serves all children, including gifted and talented, English language learners, and special needs students.
- ❖ The majority of Open Choice graduates attend post secondary education programs, including four-year colleges such as Northeastern University, Howard University, the University of Connecticut, Clark University, the University of Hartford, and Johnson & Wales University.

## Participating Open Choice Districts

The Greater Hartford Region Open Choice districts include Avon, Berlin, Bolton, Bristol, Canton, Cromwell, East Granby, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Newington, Plainville, Portland, Region 10 (Burlington and Harwinton), Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southington, Suffield, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.



## Eligibility

Hartford resident students interested in attending a suburban public school and suburban students interested in attending a Hartford public school should apply. Students with a sibling already in the program are given preference in the lottery for the town in which their sibling attends school.

Enrollments are offered by school districts on a space-available basis by grade, and a lottery is used to place students into available slots. Families may not pre-select districts.

## Lottery Application Process

The Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) assists and supports parents in completing applications and making educational choices. For more information about Open Choice, you should attend a fair and open house. Dates are available on the website: [www.choiceeducation.org](http://www.choiceeducation.org). You can obtain the lottery application by contacting RSCO at (860) 757-6188.

*Your ontime lottery application ensures your student a space in the lottery.* Students who are not selected during the lottery process will be placed on a wait list, which expires annually. If your child is not placed and you are still interested in Open Choice, please be sure to reapply every year.

For more information about RSCO fair schedules and the RSCO lottery application, please visit [www.choiceeducation.org](http://www.choiceeducation.org).