

Six to Six Magnet School Advocacy 2017



Overarching Key Messages-

- ✚ The State of CT must keep its promise to invest in the future of **all** children – regardless of their economic circumstances, backgrounds or zip codes.
- ✚ Meaningful education can only happen if **all** children have **equal access** to **all** schools - this includes magnet schools.
- ✚ **Every** child must have safe, reliable and free transportation to and from their school.
- ✚ We need to preserve our schools and give **all** children fair and open access to a great education.

<p align="center">Sustainable Funding for Magnet Schools [The Promise to Invest in the Future of ALL Children]</p>	<p align="center">Equal Access to Magnet Schools [Transportation Matters]</p>
<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CT has made a major investment in magnet schools. ○ In the past 12 years, the state has spent \$2.5 billion to build and operate magnet schools to give more students access to educational opportunities. 	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Magnet schools serve children from all over the state. ○ Local school districts are not required to transport children to magnet schools. ○ The State of CT currently funds magnet school transportation at \$1,300 per child for transportation. This amount falls short. ○ Families sacrifice their own money and time to transport their children to magnet schools.
<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From 2010-2015, the state did not provide funding increases for magnet schools – not even a cost of living adjustment. ○ The state will cut magnet school funding significantly – in 2016/17. [a 6.55% cut] ○ Lack of funding from the state means the burden of paying for magnet schools falls on the towns. ○ Reduced funding for magnet schools has the potential of forcing magnet schools and traditional schools to fight each other for resources. ○ Schools should not be forced to compete for funding. We should all be working together to help all children succeed. 	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The amount that the state reimburses magnet operators for bus transportation does not cover the cost. ○ Some families never apply to magnet schools because they are not able to drive their child to and from the school every day. ○ Other families are forced to withdraw their child from their magnet school because they cannot continue to provide transportation every day.

Action Alert	What is the Challenge Facing Children?	What are the Messages that Elected Officials Need to hear?
<p>Children attending magnet schools do not always have safe, reliable, free transportation.</p>	<p>All children do not have equal access to magnet schools because children do not <u>always</u> have safe, reliable, free transportation to and from school.</p>	<p>The current state reimbursement to magnet operators of \$1,300 per child does not cover the cost of bus service.</p> <p>Please keep the State of Connecticut's promise to students and their families: Invest in the future of all students – regardless of backgrounds and zip codes. Increase state funding for magnet school transportation, and make magnet schools accessible to all children who choose them.</p>
<p>Magnet schools are losing funding.</p>	<p>Magnet school funding is being cut by the state.</p> <p>The cuts will impact our magnet schools and their ability to continue providing meaningful education to children.</p>	<p>Please keep the State of Connecticut's promise to children and their families:</p> <p>Invest in the future of all children – regardless of backgrounds and zip codes.</p> <p>Please support continued funding <u>at current levels</u> for our magnet schools.</p>

Find your legislator at www.cga.ct.gov

Letter Example:

Dear Honorable (recipient's name),

My name is [insert name] and I am from [town]. I have a [son/daughter] who attends Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School in Bridgeport, a Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.) school . I am writing to ask you to please support the continued funding for our magnet schools.

First, let me thank you for your past support for funding for magnet schools in Connecticut. My child benefits greatly through the extraordinary opportunity s/he experiences every day at Six to Six Magnet School. [Personal example: How has your [son/daughter] benefited from Six to Six ?]

In these tight budget times, our magnet schools are at risk. Without sustainable funding, C.E.S. will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of *all* students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of closing the achievement gap and providing all students a chance not only to succeed but also to thrive. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options.

Thank you for reading my letter. Please reply and share with me how you will ensure that my child's school's funding will remain in place. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely, [Name]