

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

HARTFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
*7 community schools;
plan to phase in district-wide*



www.hartfordschools.org

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ Hartford Public Schools
- ◆ Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- ◆ City of Hartford's Office for Youth Services and Department of Health and Human Services
- ◆ United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
- ◆ Achieve Hartford!
- ◆ LEAD AGENCY PARTNERS
- ◆ Catholic Charities
- ◆ COMPASS Youth Collaborative
- ◆ The Village for Families & Children

RESULTS

Hartford Community Schools increased their state test scores by 5.6 points from 2009 to 2010. This represents twice the district's average increase over the last year, and 15% growth since 2008.

As community schools typically take several years to begin to show results, it is greatly encouraging that Hartford Community Schools have shown such impressive early results.

BACKGROUND

In 2007 Hartford's Mayor and Superintendent convened The School Community Partnership to act as the planning body for the development of community schools in Hartford. In 2008, five schools were selected as the first cohort of Hartford Community Schools. In the spring of 2011, two additional schools will be developed as community schools. A policy framework is also being established to plan for the evolution of all district schools as community schools.

LEADERSHIP

A Leadership Team comprised of the Superintendent, the Mayor, and the Presidents of the Hartford Foundation and United Way provide guidance and policy support for the development of Hartford Community Schools. Their designees serve on a School Community Partnership group, along with school and lead agency representatives and other community stakeholders, to oversee implementation. In 2008, the Board of Education adopted a Community School policy outlining the model and a framework for implementation.

A director of Hartford Community Schools coordinates the work at a district level, including oversight of development, training and evaluation efforts. A lead agency is selected to partner with individual schools, each of which has a full-time Community School Director who works in partnership with the principal to implement the range of programs and supports offered at the school.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Hartford Community Schools provide a range of on-site supports that provide a holistic approach to well-being and development for children, their families and the wider community. These include:

- ◆ **Health Services** - medical, dental and vision screening services as well as sports and recreational activities
- ◆ **Mental Health Services** - clinical services, case management, crisis interventions and specialized referrals
- ◆ **Youth Development/Out-of-School Time** - safe school buildings are open for extended days and hours, providing youth development and leadership programming, academic enrichment, homework help, tutoring, recreational, cultural and summer school programs
- ◆ **Life-Long Learning** - adult education opportunities include English as a Second Language, GED courses, financial literacy and technology classes
- ◆ **Parent Enrichment/Engagement** - schools involve parents in meaningful ways through family dinners/PTO meetings, effective communication, parenting workshops, cultural events and school leadership and civic engagement opportunities
- ◆ **Community Engagement** - effective partnerships with private businesses and civic organizations promote the development of the community and stability of the neighborhood

