



News Release for March 22, 2011

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Achieve Hartford! Reminds Parents of March 31 Deadline for Choice Applications

Applications are Due for the 2011-12 School Year that Starts in August

Achieve Hartford! today urged parents to make sure they fill out a Choice application for each child by the deadline - Thursday, March 31 - to begin preparing for the next school year.

“The clock is ticking toward this deadline, and Achieve Hartford!’s Choice Education Program is continuing to provide assistance to parents,” said Achieve Hartford! Education Programs Director Paul Holzer. “To assist parents in making a great choice for their child, Achieve Hartford! has held almost 80 Choice Education sessions throughout the city - and our parent advisers will continue to be available until the deadline, to help with the application.”

Parents are welcome to call Achieve Hartford! at 860-244-3333 or to email Community Programs Coordinator/ Parent Organizer Lourdes Fonseca at Lourdes.fonseca@achievehartford.org to arrange for assistance with the application.

For children who will be going on from the highest grade at their present school, or who are entering kindergarten, the process guarantees enrollment at one of the parent’s top four choices. Options available to get assistance with the application include the following:

- Parents can schedule an appointment at the Achieve Hartford! office, 221 Main Street.
- Achieve Hartford! parent choice advisers also will be at the Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) Youth Center-South offices, 331 Wethersfield Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, and at Blackwell Memorial AME Zion Church, 680-682 Blue Hills Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 30.
- Achieve Hartford! and Hartford Public Schools staff will be available to assist with the application from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 26th, at Naylor Elementary School, 639 Franklin Avenue.
- Using the *SmartChoices* digital guide at www.smartchoiceshartford.org, Achieve Hartford! helps parents compare test scores, commuting distance, bus information, and other school characteristics. In addition, the Hartford Public Schools’ choice website, including application information, is online at www.hpschoice.org.

Achieve Hartford! is an independent, nonprofit organization of business and community leaders that focuses on student achievement and supporting effective and sustained school reform in the Hartford Public Schools. For more information on choice and Achieve Hartford!, please visit www.AchieveHartford.org.