

The State Department of Education has recommended a budget that sets a course to continue and expand this progress. Its legislative package has several important changes being proposed for inclusion in the Governor's budget. We support these changes:

- An improved magnet funding formula that supports the new Hartford host magnet schools
- A phased-in increase in transportation funds that will shorten bus rides for magnet school students
- A more realistic per pupil reimbursement system that supports Hartford students attending suburban schools and provides incentives to take more students in the Project Choice Program
- ALSO, ask your legislators to HOLD ECS FUNDING HARMLESS as they pursue the State's plan. ECS, or the Education Cost Sharing grant, is a key vehicle for state funding of local schools that takes into account poverty and student need. In the past ECS has been adjusted and weakened to achieve other goals. Until overall state funding of education is more equitable, further tampering with ECS seriously jeopardizes many magnet gains.

Connecticut's voluntary two-way integration system is a national model. It is extremely important that in this difficult session our lawmakers hear from their constituents that integrated education matters to them.

Take action to protect quality, integrated education for ALL children.

1. Click [here](#) to find your state Representative and Senator.
2. Write and call them both today to ask ECS be held harmless and to express your support for the SDE's legislative and budget proposals.

Sheff programs use the very best educational practices in pursuit of quality, integrated education for **all** children. We need to make sure our public education system fulfills its Constitutional obligations, and creates a workforce that can compete in the emerging global economy.