

Sheff v. O'Neill

Phase II Stipulation & Order

Status As Department Enters Year 3

Overview

- State and Plaintiffs agree to Phase II Stipulated Agreement in April 2008 ;
- Goal of Agreement is to meet 80% of demand of Hartford-resident minority students for an integrated educational setting by 2012-2013;
- State achieved interim goals of 19% in Year 1 (2008-09) and 27% in Year 2 (2009-2010);
- Beginning in Year 3 (2010-2011) move to the Demand Model. To keep measuring our progress in placing Hartford-resident minority students in an integrated educational setting the CMP includes an interim percentage goal of 35% or 7,117 students for Year 3. This is not a goal set by the court;
- Year 3 acts as a “test” year for the State to develop an initial measure of demand and establish a protocol for placing Hartford minority students on a Comprehensive Demand Waitlist;
- Year 4 (2011-2012) is the first year state uses the Demand Model and must accommodate at least 65% of Hartford-resident minority students’ demand for seats in a reduced-isolation setting or the State in consultation with the Regional School Choice Office partners must amend the Comprehensive Management Plan;
- By Year 5 (2012-2013) the State must satisfy at least 80% of demand or have 41% of Hartford-resident minority students being educated in a reduced isolation setting.

Critical Components of Phase II Stipulation

1. Creation of a Sheff Office reporting directly to the Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Education;
2. Creation of a Comprehensive Management Plan to guide the State's efforts in meeting its obligations under the latest agreement;
3. Creation of a Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) to implement the operational aspects of the Comprehensive Management Plan. This office will soon become a Bureau within the Department. Recruitment for a Bureau Chief is underway.

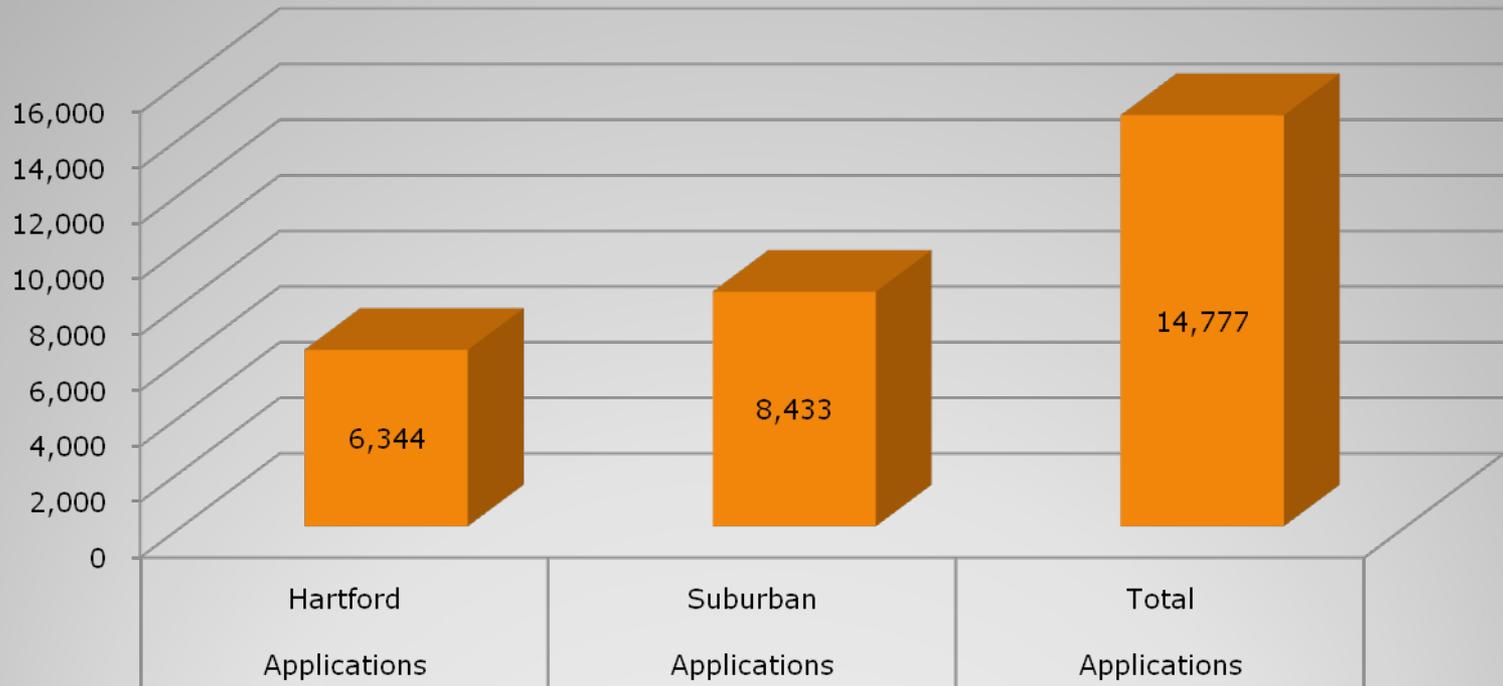
2010-11 RSCO Lottery & Application Process

The RSCO is responsible for holding a lottery to place students in the Greater Hartford Region in Magnet Schools, Charter Schools, and the Open Choice program for the purpose of complying with the Phase II Stipulated Agreement. The timeline for application is as follows:

- Application period for the 2010-11 school year opened on November 14, 2009.
- Brochure is available in English and Spanish.
- Application is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Somali-Bantu, and Bosnian.
- Close of on-time application period was February 11, 2010.
- Late applications were accepted until May 1, 2010, but were not included in the lottery. (Late applications automatically go to the bottom on the on-time applicant waitlist by date/time of receipt.)
- March 20th and 21st the lottery was held for all Hartford-area magnet, charter and open choice seats.

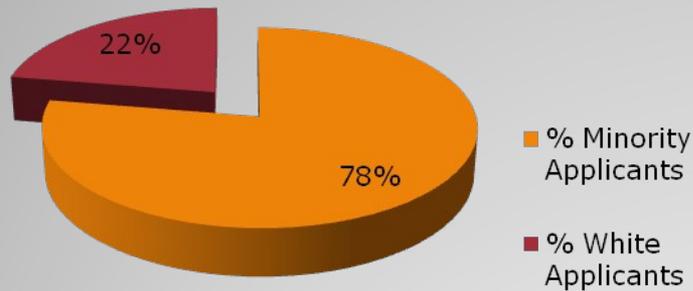
Application & Lottery Process

School Choice Applications 2010-2011 School Year

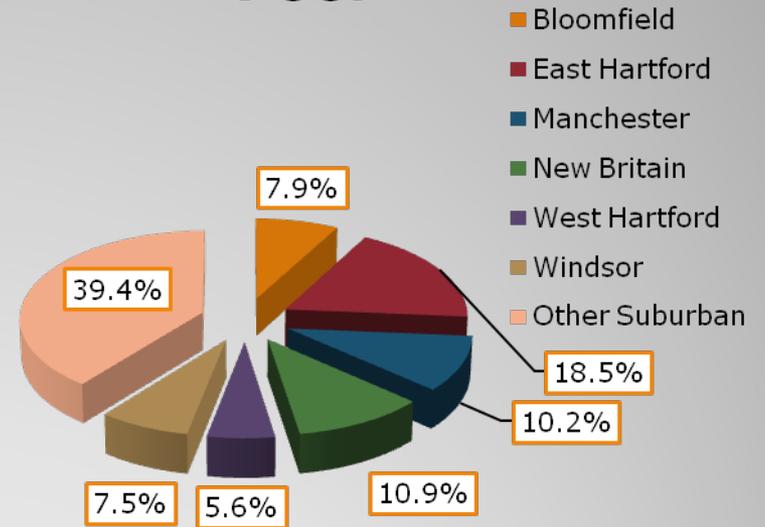


2010 Application Statistics

Racial Make-up of Applicant Pool

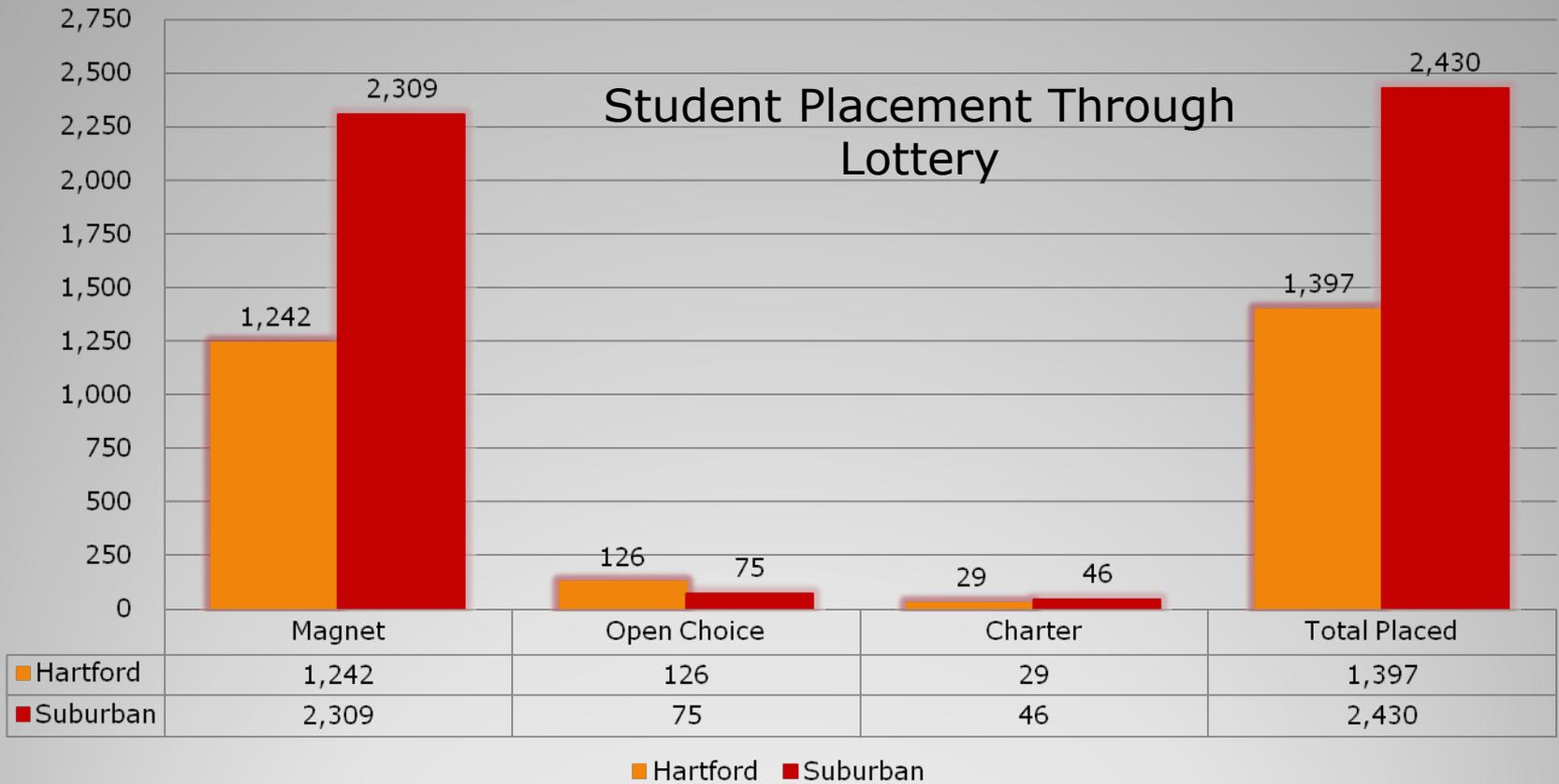


Suburban Applicant Pool



2010 Application Statistics

Student Placement Through Lottery



2010 Placement Statistics

The Demand Model

Demand Pool is defined as....

The number of Hartford-resident minority students who apply to either (a) Open Choice, or (b) at least three Voluntary Interdistrict Programs that meet the Desegregation Standard at the time of application

Desegregation Standard is defined as...

The lesser of the Sheff Region's aggregate minority percentage enrollment plus thirty percentage points or 75%. The standard is calculated annually but in no event shall it exceed 75%.

Demand Model - Definitions

Met demand is calculated based on...

Measuring the percentage of Hartford-resident minority students on a Comprehensive Demand Waitlist for a seat in a Voluntary Interdistrict Program that meets the Desegregation Standard

The Comprehensive Demand Waitlist will include Hartford-resident minority students who:

- Applied for Open Choice or at least 3 Voluntary Interdistrict Programs that meet the Desegregation Standard; and
- Were not offered a seat in any such program to which they applied for the upcoming school year; and
- Meet all the program eligibility requirements; and
- Indicate their intent to be placed on the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist.

Demand Model - Calculation

1. Met Demand = $100\% - \text{Unmet Demand}\%$
2. Unmet Demand % = $\frac{\# \text{ of Hartford-resident minority students on the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist}}{\text{the Demand Pool}}$

**Demand Model Calculation –
Cont'd.**

In late March 2010, RSCO sent parents/guardians a letter notifying them of their child's placement status.

- If offered placement a Placement Response Form needed to be completed and returned to RSCO by a date specified in the letter.
- If Placement Response Form was not received by the time specified in the notification letter then student was notified that they had been Administratively Declined and seat was made available to next child on the waitlist.
- If the child was not offered a placement, then he/she is required to return the Waitlist Request Form to RSCO by June 30, 2010 to retain his/her waitlist number and remain eligible for a placement opportunity if a seat becomes available. For forms returned after June 30, 2010 the applicant will receive a new waitlist number on a rolling basis based upon receipt of the form.
- For families convenience the notification letter included a postage prepaid, pre-addressed envelope to return either the Placement Response Form or the Waitlist Request Form.
- As students decline placement the next applicant on the waitlist will be notified of their placement.

2010 Process for Placement

- Hartford-resident minority applicants who return the Waitlist Request Form by June 30, 2010 and meet the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist criteria will be flagged and recorded on the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist.
- Applicants who do not return the Waitlist Request Form within two weeks of the initial notification, will receive a postcard reminder and email reminder, if available, concerning return of the Waitlist Request Form.
- After 4 weeks from the initial notification mailing, RSCO staff, will contact non-responsive families by telephone to remind them to return the Waitlist Request Form.
- Applicants who return the Waitlist Request Form after June 30, 2010 will not be included on the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist but will be included on functional waitlists for placement purposes.
- Hartford-resident minority applicants on the Comprehensive Demand Waitlist who receive a placement offer through October 1, 2010, whether they accept or not will be “met demand” for the purposes of the demand calculation.
- Applicants will be continually reminded through all marketing materials to return Waitlist Request Forms by June 30, 2010.

Protocol for Inclusion in Comprehensive Demand Waitlist