

ERN

CONNECTICUT

We are progressives committed to educational equity and opportunity in our public schools. We support elected leaders who are champions of public education, providing policy expertise and advocacy.

ABOUT US:

The state chapter of a national organization, ERN CT is a 501(c)(3) that operates as a think tank and policy advocate, promoting great educational opportunities and achievement for all by increasing equity, protecting civil rights, and strengthening the social safety net.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- All children have the right to attend excellent public schools that are free of bias or violence, meet their individual needs, promote their talents, and provide them with the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.
- The needs of all students and families must be at the center of the dialogue about how to improve public schools.
- Schools and educators must have the resources to offer excellent academic opportunities and to address the needs of all students, particularly the most vulnerable.

OUR 2020 POLICY PRIORITIES

Fair Access to High Quality:

- **Expand the Open Choice program**, which allows students to attend school in any participating district within the region in which they reside. This program increases shared services, empowers parents, and helps districts with declining enrollment.
- Incentivize municipalities to build **affordable housing** by distributing increases school construction reimbursements.

Students Prepared For the Future:

- **Hold institutions of higher education accountable** when they have low completion rates for underrepresented populations.
- Increase **mentorship** for low-income students and students of color as they prepare for post-K12 experiences.
- **Enhance teacher and administrator preparation** to support K-12 academic success, with a focus on literacy.

Healthy Schools for All:

- **Remove non-medical exemptions** to school immunization requirements—because all parents have a right to know that their children are in safe and healthy classroom environments.
- Make the **Excess Cost Grant for special education** more stable and predictable for districts.

Public School Choice:

- Establish a **single funding formula** for all districts and all types of public schools, including magnets and charters.
- Advocate for a renewed RFP process to **open additional charter schools** in the state next year.
- **Address overcrowding** in Danbury by opening the Danbury Prospect School in 2020, whose charter was approved by the State Board of Education in 2018.



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