

# ERN | CONNECTICUT

We're progressives who are committed to building educational equity and opportunity in our public schools. We're developing a pipeline of leaders to improve public education so that it better serves students and families.

## ABOUT US

ERN CT is an organization that supports elected leaders who are champions of public education, providing policy expertise and advocacy.

Together, we advance ideas and practices based on democratic values--with a goal of increasing equity, protecting civil rights and the social safety net, and promoting great educational opportunities for all--as part of realizing the American Dream.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- All children have the right to attend public schools free of bias or violence, schools that meet their individual needs, promote their talents, and provide them the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.
- Progressives, who fight for social safety net issues and the protection of civil rights, must make improving public education a key priority and moral imperative.
- Conversations about how to improve public schools should be centered around the needs of students and families.
- Schools and educators must have the resources to offer excellent academic opportunities and to address the needs of our most vulnerable students.

# OUR 2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

## Recruit and Retain Educators of Color:

Students in public schools should see adults of color as educators and role models. Although 46% of the student population in CT is made up of students of color, 91% of our educators are white. We should **promote diversity** in the education workforce through:

- **Recruitment** of public school students to the teaching profession.
- **Preparation and induction** programs that set teachers up for success.
- Incentives to **place and retain** excellent teachers of color in our public schools.
- Timely execution of the **MTR Policy Oversight Council's recommendations**.

## Build Career Pathways for Students:

CT should invest in dual-track programs that have a proven record of providing students with flexible and personalized opportunities for **success in college and career**.

- An example is the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (**PTECH**) model.
- Such programs should leverage **partnerships** between secondary schools, post-secondary schools, and business/industry.

## Establish Greater Resource Equity:

Building on progress made in the 2017 budget, CT should continue to pursue a more **equitable and transparent** education funding system. This plan should include:

- A **single funding formula** for all districts and types of public schools.
- A progressive model to ensure students and schools with the **greatest needs** are receiving sufficient resources.
- A new plan to **fund special education** that can be predictable and cost-effective for communities, while maintaining our state and federal obligations.

## Explore Costs and Benefits of Consolidation

CT public school enrollment is decreasing, and some of our many school districts can no longer afford to provide students with the comprehensive programming they deserve. We should:

- Pursue hard conversations about whether **consolidating** resources in small district is a solution.
- Support **incentives** that encourage shared services and consolidation.