

CREC LEGISLATIVE Priorities



1 SUPPORT EQUITABLE MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING REQUEST:

Preserve the \$12M RESC Magnet grant for FY27 with a focus on fully implementing the four year phase in of the Student Centered Funding Model for RESC Magnet Schools, benefiting all CT districts and schools including the 16 Sheff magnet schools and two programs, managed by CREC, serving 9,000+ urban and suburban students.

- RESCs Lack Taxing Authority: Unlike traditional school districts, RESCs do not have a local tax base to cover rising costs or budget deficits.
- Alternative Solution - If \$12M is not maintained in the budget, the existing 58% local district tuition cap must be removed or modified, which would place significant strain on local district budgets and jeopardize educational equity.

Benefits to Districts:

- Ensures Fair & Complete Funding for ALL Public Schools
- Expands Resources Based on Growing Student Needs
- Reduces Racial and Economic Gaps in Student Funding
- Keeps Pace with Inflation and is Responsive to Rising Education Costs

2 INCREASING EDUCATOR DIVERSITY (IED):

Establish an annual \$1.5M line item within the State Department of Education budget with specific language for the CT Teacher Residency Program “managed by the RESC Alliance” to support school districts in Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) and special education certifications.

Benefits to Districts:

- Diversifies the Educator Workforce
- Invests in Hands-on Training for Long-term Teacher Retention
- Reduces the Educator Workforce Shortage



2026 CREC Legislative Priorities



CREC Member District

CREC Magnet Schools

FACTS ABOUT CREC MAGNET SCHOOLS

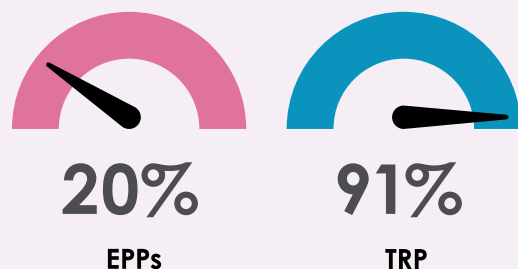
- On behalf of the State, CREC manages 16 Sheff Magnet Schools and two programs in response to the landmark Sheff-v-O'Neill Civil Rights case.
- Serve 9,000+ urban and suburban students from 70 towns across Connecticut.
- 100% of families and 88% of students reported positive ratings for connectedness on the National School Climate survey.
- 91% of students graduated on time in 2025, exceeding the statewide rate of 89%.
- 88% of students participate in college level coursework.

FACTS ABOUT INCREASING EDUCATOR DIVERSITY

The CT Teacher Residency Program (CT TRP):

- Is the ONLY CT program requiring districts to provide a living wage and benefits to residents and also offers mentoring and support.
- Has placed nearly 178 teachers of color in over 40 districts since 2019.
- Has 94% of alumni still teaching.
- Offers a new SPED certification with 83% of residents identifying as BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color).

Candidates of Color who completed programs in 2023-2024:



According to EdSight, CT TRP consistently has 90%+ BIPOC candidates, while other Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) have less than 40%.