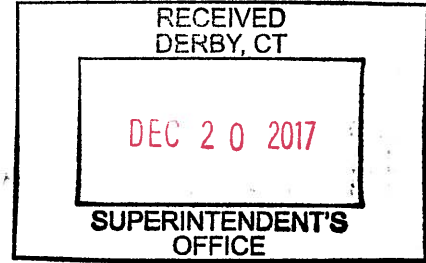




December 8, 2017

Dr. Matthew Conway
Derby Board of Education
35 Fifth Street
Derby, CT 06418



Dear Dr. Conway:

As you know, the Open Choice program has done wonders over the years in helping to address the educational needs of the youth in our area. For students in less diverse settings, Open Choice has helped them not only to appreciate the diversity that they will later experience in the work force, but also to broaden their knowledge of students of other cultures and backgrounds. For students in other areas, the program has made for greater equity throughout the area as all students have access to high standards in education.

We would like to expand the numbers of seats available in our region, so that more students will have the opportunity to attend schools of their families' choice, and that more districts will experience the benefits of a more diverse student population. To assist this expansion, the CT State Legislature has allocated additional transportation funds, a per pupil Choice grant award of \$3,000 per student, and an increase in the multiple student grant award to districts which enroll students in the Open Choice program.

As required by law, I am contacting ACES member districts to determine the number of seats that will be available for Open Choice students in the 2018-2019 school year. I am requesting that your district report this information to us at ACES by **February 1, 2018** so that we may complete the lottery and placement process early enough to obtain student records before the end of the school year. Enclosed is a form for you to report **NEW** available seats for 2018-19 (*additional to any seats currently occupied by Open Choice students in any of your district's schools*).

We appreciate your continued commitment to this program which impacts schools, students and their families in such a positive way. Enclosed is a summary of survey data on ACES Open Choice students which highlights Choice student and family performance/participation during last school year.

Please return the enclosed completed form by **Feb. 1, 2018** to Lynn Bailey at 350 State St. North Haven 06473, or fax it to **498-6891**. Please do not include half-day kindergarten seats in your report of available seats. It is not feasible for us to transport students to half-day programs.

If you have any questions about this form or the Open Choice program, please call Lynn Bailey at 498-6843.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Danehy, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Enc.

c. Evelyn Rossetti-Ryan, Ed.D., Chief of Marketing & Operations
Lynn Bailey, Open Choice Coordinator

"Innovators in Education"

The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut

Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 • Phone 203.498.6800 • Fax 203.498.6890 • www.aces.org

ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.



ACES Region
Report of NEW Spaces/Seats for *Open Choice*
2018-2019 School Year

School District Derby Board of Education

School	Grades with vacancies*	# of vacancies*

***ONLY REPORT VACANCIES FOR STUDENTS NEW TO OPEN CHOICE IN 2018-2019**
(*additional* to any seats currently occupied by Open Choice students in any school in your district).

Signature of Superintendent _____ Date _____

Copy additional forms as needed.

Please return form by February 1 to:
Lynn Bailey, 350 State Street, North Haven CT 06473
FAX: (203) 498-6891

"Innovators in Education"



**2016-2017
Open Choice Student Profile
Narrative Report**

The goal of the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) Open Choice Program is to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation and to increase academic achievement. Families in the Greater New Haven area are given options to enroll their children in schools with openings in a variety of grade levels. ACES is one of three regional educational service centers which oversee this effort. One objective for ACES Open Choice is to collect and report data from participating districts regarding the overall success or needs of students enrolled in the program. At the time student profiles were distributed approximately **462** students were enrolled in **58** Open Choice participating schools during the 2016-2017 school year. Of the **462** student profiles distributed, **454** profiles were received back. Through the use of student profiles, each school was asked to describe each student's performance using a scale of **1** to **3** or **N/A** with:

- 1-indicating below average-needs additional help**
- 2-doing as well as "average" student in receiving district**
- 3-indicating above average-no additional help needed**
- N/A-Not Applicable**

A total of **454 (98%)** student profiles were completed by school staff members and received by ACES Open Choice by **May 15, 2017**. Data was compiled from specified categories: **Academic Performance, Special Education, Student Participation in School Life, Student Conduct, Parent Involvement, Attendance, and Awards/Honors and Standardized Test Results**. Additionally, general comments and other information related to each student were collected. The following information details indicators of success results based upon information reported from each participating school.

Academic Performance:

Students' academic performance was measured in 4 subject areas: **Language Arts/English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies**. In each academic area the majority of Open Choice students were reported to have achieved academic success on **an average level**.

Special Education Students:

For this area of measured performance, school staff was asked to make note of any exceptionality that applied to each student. The disabilities specified were: **Intellectual Disability, Emotional Disability, Specific Learning Disability, Speech and Language Impairment and Other Health Impairment**. Out of the **454** received profiles, **62** students were identified as special education students. The highest reported disability was **Specific Learning Disability**. The majority of these students were reported as receiving **resource** support.

Students Participation in School Life:

Open Choice Students partake in school life in a variety of ways. Schools were requested to account for each student's level of participation in both **Afterschool** and **School/Community Activities**. Though each school's reported level of student participation varied, **67%** of students were reported to participate in afterschool activities, and **72%** of students were reported to participate in school/community activities.

After school transportation is **currently** available for CHOICE middle and high school students.

Student Conduct:

Contributing schools were asked to report **student behaviors on the bus, and school**. Despite long bus rides to and from school, **67%** of student **bus conduct** was reported at an **average to above average** level, while **4%** of the responses generated a rating of **below average**. **80%** of students' **school conduct** level was reported as **average to above average**, and **7%** were rated **below average**.

In addition, the measure of suspensions and expulsions was also recorded. Out of **454** returned profiles, **4%** of students attending schools through ACES Open Choice were reported to have **been suspended** during this school year. At the time data was collected, **100%** of CHOICE students had not been expelled during the school year.

Parent/Guardian Participation in School Life:

The level of **parental participation** at schools participating with Open Choice was also surveyed. Approximately, **68%** of parents were reported to participate in **school functions** on an average to above average level. **91%** were reported to **attend teacher/parent conferences**. Despite noted transportation challenges and the various distances parents travel to get to and from their child's CHOICE school, reported levels of parent participation increased this school year.

Attendance:

Student attendance at school is an important element to academic success. During the 2016-2017 school year the majority of students, **89%**, were stated to have average to above average attendance in school; an increase from last year.

Awards/Honors:

Out of the **454** profiles received, several schools reported awards or honors achieved by Open Choice students. The following table details the information as it was reported:

2016-2017

Type Of Award/Honor	Reported Number
Enrolled in AP Courses	12
School Based Awards	28
Honors/High Honors	58
Student of The Day/Week/Month & Other	37
World Language	24

Standardized Test Results:

Results of the **Connecticut Master Test (CMT)** were reported by school principals, teachers or staff at participating ACES Open Choice 6th and 9th grade students. Of the **454** student profiles received, staff members provided test results for **55** students. Profiles recorded student levels of achievement in **science**. The CMT scores shared indicated that **the majority of students scored in the goal range for all academic areas**.

The **Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)** was administered to 11th grade students to assess their **science skills**. Of the 454 student profiles received, staff members provided test results for **39** students. The CAPT scores shared from students attending ACES Open Choice High Schools indicated that **the majority of students scored in the proficient range for all academic areas**.

A section was provided on the Student Profile Report for the **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)** in the areas of **Math** and **English Language Arts (ELA)** for students in grades 4 through 9. Results were reported for **125** students in **Math**. The majority of students scored on **level 1**. With **ELA**, results were recorded for **124** students and most students scored on **level 2**.

Conclusion:

One of the most challenging issues the state of Connecticut faces is the increasing disparity regarding school achievement of different racial and economic groups. The ACES Open Choice program aims to improve the educational achievement of its enrolled students and to support family choice.

Based upon the information received, the majority of the ACES Open Choice students have been socially and academically successful while attending their receiving schools during the 16-17 school year.

Additional comments by reporting school staff; regarding students overall performance, included, but were not limited to:

- Student is a happy child. She is very integrated in the community.
- Student is a pleasure to have in class. She is polite, respectful, and very hard working.
- Student has made tremendous reading growth this year. He began at a DRA 2 and is now a 10.
- Based on the information available, student is a well-rounded with a very supportive family. He is destined to do well.
- Attitude towards school is changing. Much more positive and excited about learning.
- Student is on target to graduate in June and will attend a 4-year university. Has applied to 8 schools.
- Student is a sweet and hard-working student. She takes her studies seriously and is very respectful to both peers and adults. She is a pleasure to have in class.
- Student's attendance may result in a loss of credit, thus prohibiting him from graduating. We hope this is not the case.
- Wonderful insight & strong writing ability, but mood impacts her performance.

The data received and reported in this document describes the status of ACES Open Choice students as recorded by teachers, counselors and school staff who assist in their education. Though challenges and obstacles were noted, it appears that the majority of students are doing well. ACES Open Choice will continue to support the students, families and educators that participate in the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Alers

ACES Open Choice
Family/School Liaison