



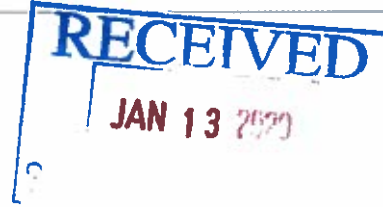
Peter C. Young Building

350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 | Phone 203.498.6800 • Fax 203.498.6890

January 2, 2020

Mr. Robert F. Gilbert
Woodbridge Board of Education
40 Beecher Road South
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Dear Mr. Gilbert:



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 2020-2021 school year. I am requesting that your district report this information to us at ACES by **February 1, 2020** 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 2020-21 (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, 2020** to Lynn Bailey at 350 State St. North Haven, 06473, or fax it to **203-643-2058**. 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. Timothy Howes, Assistant Executive Director of Services & Budgeting
Lynn Bailey, Project Coordinator of Choice & Regional Transportation

Peter C. Young Building

WWW.ACES.ORG

Area Cooperative Educational Services • The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut.
ACES does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation.