



Peter C. Young Building

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

January 2, 2020

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.

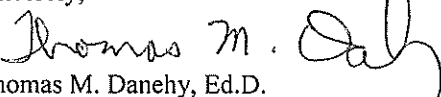
As required by law, I am contacting ACES member districts to determine the number of seats that will be available for Open Choice students in the 2020-2021 school year. I am requesting that your district report this information to us at ACES by **February 1, 2020** so that we may complete the lottery 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

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WWW.ACES.ORG

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ACES Region

**Report of NEW Spaces/Seats for Open Choice
2020-2021 School Year**

School District Derby Board of Education

School	Grades with vacancies*	# of vacancies*

***ONLY REPORT VACANCIES FOR STUDENTS NEW TO OPEN CHOICE IN 2020-2021
(*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) 643-2058



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2018-2019
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 459 students were enrolled in 55 Open Choice participating schools during the 2018-2019 school year. Of the 459 student profiles distributed, 417 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 417 (91%) student profiles were completed by school staff members and received by ACES Open Choice by **May 9, 2019**. 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**.

Attendance:

Student attendance at school is an important element to academic success. During the 2018-2019 school year the majority of students, **86%**, were stated to have average to above average attendance in school.

Awards/Honors:

Out of the **417** profiles received, several schools reported awards or honors achieved by Open Choice students. The following table details the information as it was reported:

2018-2019

Type Of Award/Honor	Reported Number
Honors	48
World Languages	28
Awards	33
AP classes	11
Other awards	28

Standardized Test Results:

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 **120** students in **Math**. The majority of students scored on **level 1**. With **ELA**, results were recorded for **128** 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 **18-19** school year.

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