

WE \neq REST

WE WILL NOT REST

'09

ANNUAL REPORT



GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL

connCAN

WE ~~≠~~ REST

WE WILL NOT REST, '09



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ANNUAL REPORT

START HERE

ConnCAN is proud to present you with our 2009 Annual Report. ¶ **WE=REST** is about a single banner year, but it's also about five years of growth and accomplishment. It's about individual advocates, but it's also about the power of this movement. It's about discrete moments, but it's also about the big picture. It's about taking time to read and reflect, but it's also about rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. ¶ And like ConnCAN itself, this Annual Report is greater than the sum of its parts. You'll notice neon yellow shapes throughout the cards that follow. Piece together the pages and these shapes will create a large mosaic that contains a unique image and web URL (here's a hint to help you assemble the puzzle: the final mosaic will be 4 × 13). Visit the URL for a special surprise. Enjoy!

CONTENTS

1.	THE BEGINNING	3
2.	OUR VISION	8
3.	WHAT WE DO	11
4.	GETTING RESULTS	16
5.	RESEARCH → ACTION	23
6.	WHAT'S NEXT	31
7.	TAKE ACTION	37
8.	THE ORGANIZATION	42

OPERATOR KEY

- = EQUAL TO
- ≠ NOT EQUAL TO
- + PLUS
- () MULTIPLIED BY
- > GREATER THAN
- < LESS THAN
- ∞ INFINITY
- ()ⁿ TO THE POWER OF
- △ CHANGE

DEMOGRAPHICS \neq DESTINY



1.

THE BEGINNING

DEAR FRIENDS,

There is much to celebrate! Thanks to your support and the outstanding and persistent efforts of the talented and dedicated ConnCAN team, we've accomplished all of the goals we set out to achieve in 2009! ¶ Our work to grow **Connecticut's public charter schools** prevented the tragedy of half-completed, high-performing schools. Instead, we ensured that more than 1,000 additional students will be on the path to college over the next two years. ¶ Our work to advance **teacher quality** ushered through the most significant overhaul of state teacher certification laws in more than 20 years. Thanks to this new legislation, Teach For America will continue growing in our state and many more aspiring math and science teachers will reach the classrooms where they are most needed. ¶ And our work to open up **stores of data** to the public furthered the kind of transparency and accountability we need to fix our public schools. ConnCAN is already scrutinizing this newly accessible data on which schools have consistently achieved the greatest gains and we look forward to sharing the analysis in the coming months. ¶ We know that ConnCAN's achievements this year wouldn't have been possible without your passion and your support. So please accept our profound gratitude. ¶ While it is appropriate to celebrate our success in 2009, we are painfully aware that there is much more to be done before *all* of Connecticut's children receive an excellent education and the achievement gap is eliminated. Now more than ever, we are committed to this goal and look forward to working together to reach this worthy aim.

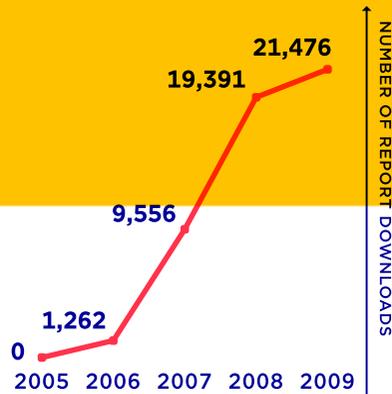
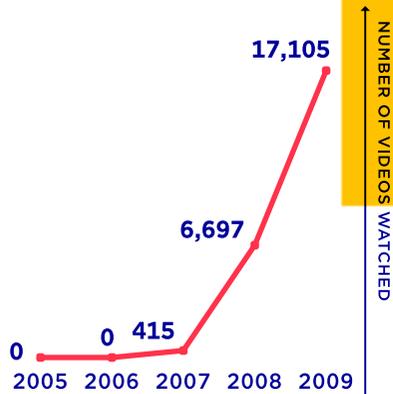
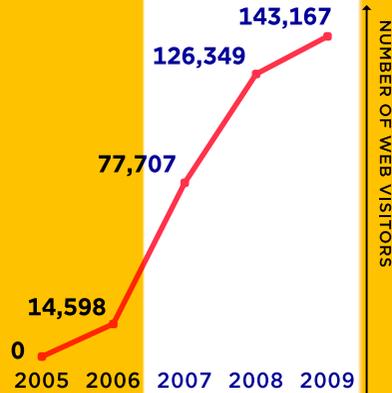
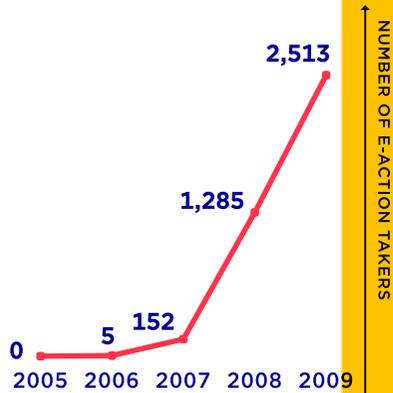
BRIAN OLSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

We have much to celebrate on **our fifth anniversary**—as this annual report communicates in many dimensions. ¶ Looking at the scale of the challenges still ahead of us, it's easy to feel daunted by how much remains to be done in pursuit of our mission: great public schools for every Connecticut kid. In the state with the largest achievement gap in the nation, well over 100,000 students are way behind, not prepared for college and life. And even our highest performing students are over a year behind the top 10% of students in leading states like Massachusetts. It is no exaggeration to say that **the very future of our state is at stake**. ¶ Yet the scale of the challenge is itself a powerful source of inspiration. Connecticut has a rich legacy of helping lead the nation through some of our most far-reaching movements for social change, from the abolitionists to the suffragettes. Our country and our state are indeed capable of the most profound transformation when we come together to demand it. After all, when my own grandmother turned eighteen, neither she nor any other woman in America had the right to vote. ¶ Realizing the promise of great schools for all is absolutely within our reach. I'm **proud and inspired** that so many thousands of people across Connecticut and the United States are already working together to make this vision a reality. This is how we change the world...

ALEX JOHNSTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CONNCAN AT FIVE

THE BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT



CONVENTIONAL WISDOM: "WE WILL NOT REST" EDITION

- 
TEACHERS
 Alt. pathways like TFA mean more great teacher in urban classrooms.

- 
STATUS QUO
 Nobody thinks 50th out of 50 states is good enough anymore.

- 
CHOICES
 Lots more kids attending great charters and other public schools of choice.

- 
CLOSED DOORS
 Public driving public policy.

- 
HARTFORD
 CT's capital city secured best urban achievement gains 3 years running.

- 
NEW HAVEN
 New teacher contract passed and Alex Johnston appointed to Board of Ed.

- 
FUNDING SYSTEM
 Still just as unsustainable and ineffective as ever.

- 
APATHY
 Eyes are opened and CT citizens energized about closing the achievement gap.

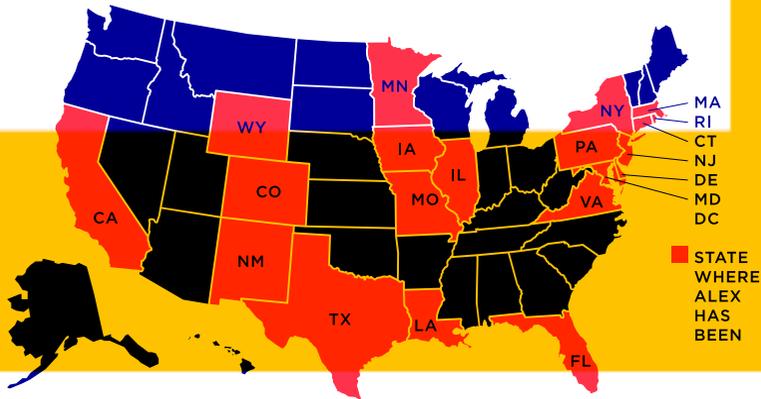
- 
ACHIEVEMENT GAP
 Progress made, but still worst in the nation.

- 
POLITICAL WILL
 30,000 citizens demanding change = growing political leadership.

YOU ARE THE MOVEMENT: EDUCATION REFORMERS ACROSS CT



WHERE HAS ALEX JOHNSTON BEEN INVITED TO SHARE THE CONNCAN STORY?



CONNCAN'S ROI, 2005-2009: 3,300% RETURN ON INVESTMENT

NEW PUBLIC FUNDING FOR EDUCATION REFORM

\$170,800,871



TOTAL CONNCAN EXPENDITURES

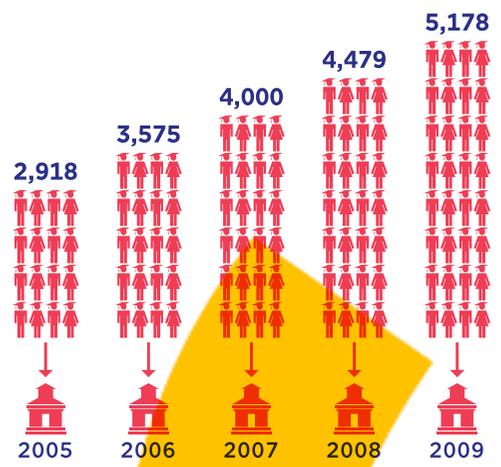
\$5,150,000



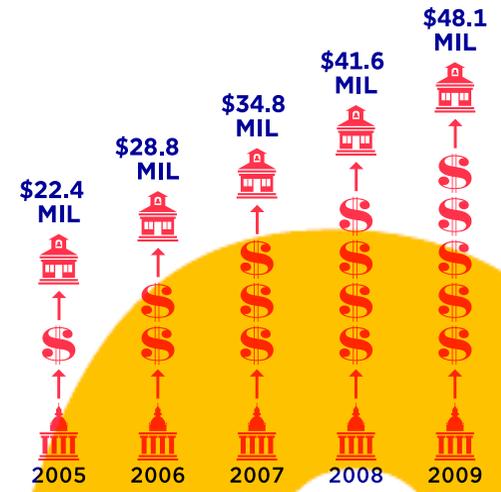
FIVE YEARS OF CHARTER ADVOCACY AND CHARTER GROWTH



PER-PUPIL CHARTER FUNDING, 2005–2009
**\$1,608 INCREASE
 IN FIVE YEARS**



STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS, 2005–2009
**NEARLY DOUBLED
 IN FIVE YEARS**



STATE FUNDING FOR CHARTERS, 2005–2009
**215% INCREASE
 IN FIVE YEARS**

> ACHIEVEMENT
< POVERTY



OUR VISION

THOSE WHO INSIST WE'LL NEVER FIX AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNTIL WE FIX POVERTY HAVE IT EXACTLY BACKWARDS.

WE WILL
NEVER
FIX POVERTY
UNTIL
WE FIX
OUR
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY CONNECTICUT CHILD,
REGARDLESS OF RACE, ETHNICITY OR CLASS,
HAS ACCESS TO A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE MISSION

Connecticut's achievement gap—the persistent and significant disparity between the academic achievement of low-income and minority children and their white, middle-class peers—is the most urgent social and economic problem facing our state. ¶ We have the largest achievement gap between rich and poor kids in the nation, and we're paying the price for our failing public schools. Connecticut ranks close to last in the country for job growth. We spend more on prisons than on higher education. ¶ But Connecticut, and the entire nation, was built on the promise of

universal education for all. Public schools are the cornerstone of our democracy, and our future is inextricably linked to the education of our children—all of them. ¶ In the tradition of Connecticut's great advocacy movements, from the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association to Harriet Beecher Stowe and the abolitionists, **ConnCAN is building a new movement of concerned citizens advocating to fundamentally reform our public schools through smart public policies.**

Δ (PUBLIC POLICY) = Δ (PUBLIC SCHOOLS)



THE PRINCIPLES

GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY
GREATER FLEXIBILITY
GREATER CHOICE

Getting state policy right can transform the way we educate Connecticut's children. This doesn't mean trying to write every best practice into state law, but instead advancing **three fundamental, self-reinforcing principles that work together to reward success, discourage failure and raise the quality of everything in between:**

GREATER CHOICE

Achievement gaps stem from a calcified education system resistant to the innovations of educators and the desires of parents. Expanded parental choice better aligns school options with diverse student needs and injects a grassroots level of accountability into the system.

GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

Parental choice provides one important type of feedback, but it is much more powerful when connected to strong, data-driven accountability. We need to dramatically expand public awareness of school performance, ground teacher and principal evaluations in student results and close chronically failing schools.

GREATER FLEXIBILITY

In order for greater choice and greater accountability to translate into greater student achievement, America's educators need to have far greater flexibility to pursue excellence. This means removing obstacles to new school creation, expanding alternative pathways for teachers and principals, letting principals make staffing decisions and connecting funding to student needs without excessive top-down restrictions.

**“CONNCAN IS PROBABLY THE MOST
EFFECTIVE STATE-BASED
EDUCATION ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION.”**

Education policy is particularly complicated in CT with a legacy of strong local control (e.g., the state provides less than 40% of funding). But ConnCAN has boiled the problem down to a simple and powerful mission: We will not rest until every child in our state, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, has access to a great public school.”

—Tom Vander Ark's blog, February 26, 2009

THE MODEL

RESEARCH & POLICY
COMMUNICATION & MOBILIZATION
ADVOCACY FOR POLICY CHANGE

ConnCAN is a platform for Connecticut citizens to speak up for kids effectively. ¶ Without the right policy climate, great schools will continue to elude Connecticut's most disadvantaged children. ¶ To close Connecticut's gaping achievement gap, a new ethos of reform must permeate state government, the education establishment and the wide community of citizens. ¶ **We don't build schools or train teachers. Instead, ConnCAN runs results-oriented advocacy campaigns.** The three pillars of our work are:

RESEARCH & POLICY

ConnCAN's original reports and briefs provide the in-depth analysis of public education in Connecticut that is the foundation for our policy recommendations. Our online tools, such as School Report Cards, which assign a letter grade to every public school in the state, and the SmartChoices web site, which provides a simple, user-friendly guide for navigating Hartford's all-choice public school system, serve as essential resources for parents and help drive and shape the conversation on Connecticut's public schools.

COMMUNICATION & MOBILIZATION

ConnCAN creates informed citizens with a commitment to commonsense education reform through a combination of media work, electronic communications and social networking, publications, on-the-ground community organizing, partnerships with like-minded civic and community groups and events. Then, we make it easy for Connecticut's growing cadre of education reform advocates to take impactful action through our e-advocacy system.

ADVOCACY FOR POLICY CHANGE

Grounded in our research and policy work, ConnCAN's expert staff teams with our citizen advocates and key state officials to develop and enact concrete, meaningful education reforms through both legislative and administrative action.

30,000 STRONG

THE MOVEMENT

KIDS+TEACHERS+PARENTS+PRINCIPALS+INNOVATORS+ENTREPRENEURS+
DEMOCRATS+REPUBLICANS+INDEPENDENTS+LEADERS+PHILANTHROPISTS+
ACTIVISTS+ADVOCATES+SUPERINTENDANTS+SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS+
POLITICOS+RESEARCHERS+PUBLIC POLICY EXPERTS+ PROFESSORS+
WRITERS+JOURNALISTS+BLOGGERS+TECHIES+NEIGHBORS+**YOU**
= **CONNECTICUT'S EDUCATION REFORM MOVEMENT**

EDUCATION = FREEDOM



MIND THE GAPS CAMPAIGN

OUR MOST AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN TO DATE:
TWO LAWS PASSED
CHARTER FUNDING INCREASED

In 2009, ConnCAN advocated for three commonsense school reforms: teacher quality, education transparency and support for high-performing public charter schools. **In this past year's tough budget climate, we asked legislators in Hartford to *Mind the Gaps* in student achievement—and they listened.** In a year when nearly every program in Connecticut was at risk of cuts and advocates across the spectrum were pulling out all the stops, the *Mind the Gaps* campaign rose above the noise and drove the agenda. The campaign passed two laws and secured an against-the-tide funding increase:

MIND THE GAPS

ON TEACHERS

Public Act No. 09-1 is the most significant overhaul of Connecticut teacher certification laws in more than 20 years. This law improves teacher quality by doing three crucial things: allowing experienced teachers from other states to teach in Connecticut, keeping Teach For America on a path to growth, and removing roadblocks keeping excellent math and science candidates out of the classroom.

ON DATA

Public Act No. 09-241 makes available to nonprofits and universities stores of previously concealed longitudinal student achievement data, which tracks the performance of individual students over time, for independent analysis and dissemination to the broader public. Until the passage of this law, the Connecticut State Department of Education collected this invaluable information, but would not release it.

ON CHARTERS

In the midst of an \$8 billion state budget deficit, ConnCAN secured more than \$20 million of additional funding to expand the state's high-performing public charter schools and avoid the tragedy of high-performing, half-completed schools.

MIND THE GAPS

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE: HOW IDEAS BECOME LAWS

07 JANUARY

Connecticut's 2009 legislative session begins.

05 FEBRUARY

ConnCAN launches *Mind the Gaps* campaign with web site www.mindthegaps.org, video and blog.

11 FEBRUARY

Appropriations Committee hearing on public charter school funding: over 400 supporters turn out wearing bright blue "Mind the Gaps" t-shirts; Within two weeks of launch, ConnCAN's *Mind the Gaps* campaign attracts coverage from NBC30, the *Hartford Advocate*, *The Hour* blog, *Flypaper*, the *Connecticut Post*, Fox 61, WTIC radio, and WSHU, the NPR affiliate in Fairfield.

23 FEBRUARY

Education Committee hearing for House Bill No. 6491: "An Act Concerning Longitudinal Studies of Student Achievement."

27 FEBRUARY

ConnCAN Chief Executive Officer Alex Johnston participates in a panel at the Center for American Progress: "Realizing the Promise: How State Policy Can Support Alternative Certification Programs."

10 MARCH

President Obama unveils ambitious education plan.

16 MARCH

Education Committee hearing for House Bill No. 6654: "An Act Establishing a Resident Teacher Certificate."

01 APRIL

Both data and teacher certification bills unanimously pass out of the Education Committee and onto the General Assembly.

02 APRIL

Press conference and rally in support of public charter schools on north steps of State Capitol Building: over 500 students, parents, teachers, principals and advocates turn out to thank legislative champions.

22 APRIL

McKinsey & Company puts out a powerful new report on the costs of the achievement gap: "Existing gaps impose the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession—one substantially larger than the deep recession the country is currently experiencing."

23 APRIL

Alex Johnston participates in town hall-style meeting, "A Principal Story," on CPTV and WNPR.

05 MAY

ConnCAN Chief Operating Officer Marc Porter Magee begins the *Campaign Update* video series with "How We're Going to Win."

11 MAY

Marc's second *Campaign Update* video, "Teachers, Teachers, Teachers."

18 MAY

Marc's third *Campaign Update* video, "Information is Power."

26 MAY

Marc's final *Campaign Update* video, "It's Time to Stand Up."

03 JUNE

Last day of 2009 legislative session; Following ConnCAN's early morning "Nail-Biter" advocacy e-mail, which prompted over 500 advocates to write their Representative in the span of just 120 minutes, the data bill passes! But session ends—Legislature does not pass a budget and charter school funding left hanging in the balance.

04 JUNE

"A Victory and a Setback" advocacy e-mail announces the passage of the data bill and the 11th hour filibuster of the teacher certification bill.

05 JUNE

Rick Green writes must-read column in *Hartford Courant* on this filibuster: "Petty Partisanship Sinks Plan for Better Schools."

19 JUNE

Special legislative session called; Big win in the special session—teacher certification bill passes with strong bipartisan support!

22 JUNE

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan applauds Hartford district's reform plan and its role for charter schools in keynote address at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools conference.

26 JUNE

Legislature proposes restoration of public charter school funding in their latest budget proposal.

30 JUNE

In absence of budget agreement, Governor Rell issues Executive Order to run the state government on a month-by-month basis. Includes instruction to State Department of Education to allow for all the planned grade growth at the state's charter schools.

14 JULY

Governor Rell signs both data and teacher certification bills into law!

02 SEPTEMBER

After a three month impasse, Connecticut finally has a budget, which includes all of the charter funding we advocated for in the *Mind the Gaps* campaign.

**VICTORY!
MINDS THE GAPS
CAMPAIGN IS
3 FOR 3!**

2009: BY THE NUMBERS

148,028

people visited
www.conncan.org

62,963

people visited the School
Report Cards section
of www.conncan.org

30,900

people in ConnCAN's database

23,950

people received the quarterly
ConnCAN Compass newsletter
in their mailboxes

21,410

reports downloaded
from www.conncan.org

15,342

people received
our monthly e-newsletters

13,440

people joined ConnCAN's
education reform movement

13,092

views on ConnCAN's
YouTube channel

7,113

advocacy e-mails sent
by ConnCAN members

5,499

posts by ConnCAN staff
to Yammer, our internal
news feed

4,000

flyers distributed for the
Hartford Board of Education
Candidate's Forum

3,600

turnout phone calls made
for the Hartford Board of
Education Candidate's Forum

2,040

people completed searches
on the SmartChoices web site

1,941

people took action by writing
to their elected officials

1,683

views of the *Mind the Gaps*
campaign video

1,510

School Finance in Connecticut
issue briefs downloaded

1,253

people received our monthly
Research Roundups in their
e-mail inboxes

1,203

NCTQ reports downloaded

1,147

people received our weekly
Education News Roundups in
their e-mail inboxes

1,086

*The State of Connecticut Public
Education* reports downloaded

872

people watched the Brookside Elementary School (Norwalk) *Success Story* short film

823

people watched the High Horizons Magnet School (Bridgeport) *Success Story* short film

500+

activists turned out in bright blue "Mind the Gaps" t-shirts for key legislative hearings

466

constituents wrote their elected officials to get the data bill moving on the last day of session

263

people followed ConnCAN on Twitter

184

people were ConnCAN fans on Facebook

150

State Representatives cast a "yay" for the data bill

150

voters turned out for the Hartford Board of Education Candidate's Forum

146

citizens e-mailed to protest 11th hour filibuster of the teacher certification bill

140

contributors to ConnCAN

116

Democrats in the House and Senate voted "yay" for the teacher certification bill

46

Republicans in the House and Senate voted "yay" for the teacher certification bill

46

Education News Roundups published

23

strategic partners worked with ConnCAN on behalf of education reform

22

press releases & media advisories issued

21

Mind the Gaps campaign action e-mails sent to our base

12

e-newsletters published

12

Research Roundups published

5

passionate education reformers joined ConnCAN's Board of Directors

1

invitation extended to (and accepted by) ConnCAN CEO Alex Johnston to join the New Haven Board of Education

1

ConnCAN alumna, Danielle Smith, started a new education reform group: the Connecticut chapter of the Black Alliance For Educational Options—CT BAEO

0

Senators cast a "nay" vote for the teacher certification bill or the data bill

INFORMATION = POWER



A circular graphic with a blue border. Inside the circle, the number '5' is written in a large, bold, blue font. Below the '5' is a red horizontal line. Underneath the red line, the text 'RESEARCH -> ACTION' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The background of the circle is white.

INFORMATION EQUALS POWER

REPORTS AND ANALYSIS

You can't solve a problem if you don't know the facts. That's why at ConnCAN, everything begins with research. By digging into the issues, we arm citizens with data about Connecticut's public schools so they can be effective advocates.

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS ONLINE SCHOOL RESEARCH TOOL

Each year, ConnCAN assesses all 1,000+ Connecticut schools and 160+ school districts to show how they're meeting the needs of all of their students so that Connecticut citizens find out what the achievement gap looks like in their own backyard.

62,963+ PEOPLE VISITED
THE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS
SECTION OF WWW.CONNCAN.ORG

SUCCESS STORY SCHOOLS SHORT FILMS

There are public schools all across Connecticut leading kids on a path out of poverty. Each year ConnCAN identifies and profiles the state's top-performing urban schools to show what's possible.

VIEWED:
872+ BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, NORWALK
823+ HIGH HORIZONS MAGNET
SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT
794+ THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
AT ROGERS MAGNET, STAMFORD

“... **THE EXCELLENT** WORK CONTINUES
WITH CONNCAN'S SUCCESS STORIES.”

They've put together 3-minute videos on the state's 15 top 'gap-busting' charters, magnets, and traditional public schools. Not only are the videos refreshing and encouraging, but you also get the clear sense of why the schools are succeeding. They share a set of critical characteristics that lead to improved student learning....Kudos to ConnCAN. Keep it up.”

—Fordham Institute's **Flypaper**, March 27, 2009

SMARTCHOICES WEB SITE

Developed in partnership with Trinity College and Achieve Hartford!, SmartChoices (smartchoices.trincoll.edu) offers Hartford parents a vital tool to help choose from dozens of public school choices under Hartford Superintendant Steven Adamowski's "all-choice" plan. It is the first web site to cut through the maze of factors influencing this choice by providing a one-stop-shop for comparing the schools for which children are eligible.

**2,040+ PEOPLE USED THIS TOOL
MAURY POVICH PROMOTED
SMARTCHOICES VIA PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT TWO YEARS IN A ROW**

HUMAN CAPITAL IN HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

ConnCAN teamed up with the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) to research and report on staffing policies at Hartford's public schools, resulting in the original study *Human Capital in Hartford Public Schools: Rethinking How to Attract, Develop and Retain Effective Teachers*.

**1,203+ REPORTS DOWNLOADED FROM
CONNAN'S WEB SITE SINCE APRIL**

SCHOOL FINANCE IN CONNECTICUT ISSUE BRIEF

This issue brief examines how our school finance system has evolved—and why it's still under-serving our kids. Closing the achievement gap is about improving teaching and learning, but it's also about money: teachers and principals must be paid, books must be ordered and facilities must be built. How our schools are financed can play a major role in student achievement.

**1,510+ BRIEFS
DOWNLOADED
SINCE JUNE**

MAPPING SCHOOL FINANCE ILLUSTRATED MAPS

These original maps show how Connecticut distributes money among school districts, how much is spent and how it stacks up against the national average. They provide a fresh look at our school finance system and demonstrate why it's under-serving our kids.

**894+ MAPS
DOWNLOADED
SINCE JULY**

THE TAB REPORT

The tab for our K-12 schools is Connecticut's largest public investment at more than \$7 billion per year. But the tangle of funding disguises how money flows and why our school finance system does little to produce dramatic gains for kids. *The Tab: How Connecticut Can Fix Its Dysfunctional Education Spending to Reward Success, Incentivize Choice and Boost student Achievement* offers a plan to change that.

**5,000 REPORTS
DISTRIBUTED
IN NOVEMBER
AND DECEMBER**

“WHY, WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO RUN THIS STATE,
CAN'T WE AT LEAST DO A **BETTER JOB**
OF FUNDING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS MORE EFFICIENTLY?”

I'm not saying we should spend less than the \$7 billion we pour into public education. I'm saying let's make sure the students who need the money are getting it. In a recent report, the school reform group Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now points out that when students leave a school district to attend a magnet school, the state pays twice—to the tune of more than \$186 million per year... Meanwhile, it is nearly impossible to track the 'tangle of funding that disguises how money flows,' the ConnCAN folks note. When we are faced with shutting down essential after-school and day-care programs because of budget cuts, this sort of spending is hard to swallow.”

—Rick Green in the **Hartford Courant**, December 16, 2009

BREAKING NEWS ANALYSIS REPORTS, INTERVIEWS, CHARTS, ETC.

ConnCAN keeps the education establishment on its toes and makes sure that citizens stay in the know by providing real-time analysis of breaking news. When new High School Graduation Rate data, CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test) or NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) scores are released, ConnCAN is there to weigh in.

DOWNLOADED:
**906+ HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION RATE REPORTS**
631+ NAEP REPORTS
748+ CMT CHARTS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

This annual publication offers a systematic look at how well our public schools are educating *all* of our children. Our research sheds light on both the successes and challenges in our state's public schools and examines the underlying patterns in student achievement data.

1,086+ REPORTS DOWNLOADED

(PUBLIC SCHOOLS) ∞



6.

WHAT'S NEXT

2010: A PREVIEW THE RACE IS ON. ARE YOU IN?

OURRACETOTHE TOP.ORG

This year, nearly all fifty states are competing head-to-head for \$4 billion in federal money through the U.S. Department of Education's *Race to the Top* competition. Who will win? States that most effectively reform their education policies to put kids first. Here in Connecticut, that means truly measuring effectiveness for teach-

ers and principals, implementing world class standards, creating alternative certification pathways for superstar principals and fixing our charter school funding system so that money follows the child. *Race to the Top* is the largest amount of discretionary funding ever allocated for education reform. It's our opportunity to make real progress for all of Connecticut's students. **It's our "moon shot."** And with your help, ConnCAN's *Our Race to the Top* campaign will build the political will to leverage the competition for fundamental change in Connecticut's public education system.

CAMPAIGN GOALS FOR OUR RACE TO THE TOP:

- 1 MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS
- 2 WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS
- 3 SUPERSTAR PRINCIPALS
- 4 MONEY FOLLOWS THE CHILD

2010 CAMPAIGN GOALS

1 MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

Connecticut needs an excellent teacher in every classroom and an excellent principal in every corner office. To get there, we must first accurately measure the progress students are making in our schools. Right now we have a lot of snapshots of how students are doing at any one time, but we don't have a trusted system to benchmark their progress against clear expectations for their grade. Connecticut needs a better data system that both measures this growth and links it to teachers and principals. This new system will allow us to begin to both measure the effectiveness of teachers and principals and the programs that train them.

2 WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS

To make the most of these new measurements of effectiveness, we need loftier goals to strive towards in our public schools. Connecticut needs to take our academic standards for students to the next level, such as the ability to develop a thesis in English or prove a theorem in Math. These goals must be internationally benchmarked to prepare Connecticut students to compete in the global economy. Connecticut has already signed on to national Common Core Standards Initiative but we must commit to actually implement these new standards by August, 2010.

2010 CAMPAIGN GOALS

3 SUPERSTAR PRINCIPALS

Connecticut needs outstanding leadership in our public schools. That means creating alternative pathways for outstanding classroom teachers to become principals. Just like Teach For America created an alternative pathway for some of our most promising college graduates to teach in urban public schools, programs like New Leaders for New Schools can do the same for Connecticut's principal corps.

4 MONEY FOLLOWS THE CHILD

Connecticut's antiquated school finance system has become fiscally unsustainable. It is high time that we begin the transition to a commonsense, transparent, funding system where money follows children based on their learning needs. This year we have an important opportunity to begin these financial reforms—and an urgent need to start with our state's high-performing charter schools because of *Race to the Top's* special emphasis on leveraging the growth of these schools as part of statewide strategies for education reform.

2010: A PREVIEW THE “OTHER” CAMPAIGN

IN 2010, CONNECTICUT WILL ELECT A NEW GOVERNOR

ConnCAN will work to put education reform front and center in the 2010 governor’s race. Every candidate will have to answer to thousands upon thousands of education reformers—to you—because this movement will not rest until every Connecticut child has access to a great public school. And along the way, we will be building consensus around the solution to our state’s broken school finance system so that **the new governor can get serious about money following kids from their very first day in office.**

“CONNCAN-DO: A FORMER CRITIC JOINS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION JUST IN TIME FOR SCHOOL REFORM.

“An organization once seen as critical of New Haven public schools now has a seat at the table—literally. **Alex Johnston**, who heads ConnCAN, or the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, has been appointed to the Board of Education just days after the teachers’ union voted overwhelmingly to ratify a contract that would allow school reform efforts to move forward. ¶ Johnston and ConnCAN have made it their mission to highlight the educational disparities in a state with one of the highest achievement gaps, and to point out the state’s inaccurate graduation rates. In the past, talking about these issues earned scorn from the mayor and the Board. But now that New Haven Mayor John DeStefano is pushing forward with education reform, City Hall has embraced Johnston’s constructive criticism by inviting him to join the Board.”

—**New Haven Advocate**, October 21, 2009

(CONNGAN + YOU)

> (YOU ALONE)



TODAY/ TOMORROW

Tomorrow's Connecticut is a state where no matter how humble your background, you receive an excellent public education. It's a safe state, where prison sentences give way to college degrees. It's a state whose students graduate with the skills to compete globally, propelling our economy to new heights. **Today's Connecticut** is a state where the children most dependent on our public schools all too often get the least effective education. It's a state with the largest achievement gap in the country, where our low-income students' math skills are on par with the developing world. It's a punitive state, where we spend more on jails than higher education. It's a state whose economic future is in peril.

WHAT STANDS BETWEEN TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S CONNECTICUT?

YOU.

BUT YOU CAN ACT NOW

GO TO CONNCAN.ORG TO

JOIN THE MOVEMENT We can't remake our public schools without you. Become a ConnCAN member so we can keep you up-to-date with timely advocacy actions and information. **LEARN THE FACTS** Learn about the problems in our public schools by reading our reports and materials. Then be a part of the solution. **SPREAD THE WORD** We can't fix our schools if nobody knows they're broken. Help build Connecticut's education reform movement by becoming a fan on Facebook, following us on Twitter or e-mailing your friends with ConnCAN's *Tell-a-Friend* tool. **TELL YOUR STORY** Make the case for the power of public schools. Have you witnessed Connecticut's achievement gap? What is your wish for our public schools? Why are you an education reformer? **CONTRIBUTE** We can fix poverty by fixing schools. ConnCAN needs your support to make sure that every child in Connecticut, regardless of race, ethnicity or class, has access to a great public school. Make your voice heard by giving to ConnCAN (and it's tax-deductible too).

- 1 JOIN THE MOVEMENT
- 2 LEARN THE FACTS
- 3 SPREAD THE WORD
- 4 TELL YOUR STORY
- 5 CONTRIBUTE

**“[MAURY] POVICH
BECAME INTERESTED IN HELPING [CONNCAN]
AFTER VISITING AMISTAD ACADEMY IN NEW HAVEN THIS FALL.**

Seeing the school's success inspired him to get involved with public education reform in Connecticut. Alex Johnston [...] went down to New York to meet with him, told him about the efforts in Hartford and together they came up with the PSA idea.”

—Hartford Courant blog, January 8, 2009

CONNCAN \neq REST



CONNCAN WILL NOT REST

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STAFF

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ALEX JOHNSTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Before helping to found ConnCAN, Alex Johnston directed operations at the New Haven Housing Authority, working as a member of the management team tasked with turning the agency around from the brink of receivership. A graduate of Harvard University, Alex received a D. Phil. in politics from Oxford's Lincoln College on a Rhodes Scholarship, where he studied the impact of government funding on non-profit service providers. Alex serves on the state commission charged with developing Connecticut's P-20 data system, is a member of the National Charter School Resource Center Advisory Board and sits on the New Haven Board of Education.

LISA WHITFIELD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES & OPERATIONS

Before joining ConnCAN, Lisa Whitfield worked as a corporate legal office manager. Prior to that, Lisa was director/educator of the Business Management Program for a college-level proprietary school. She is a graduate of the University of New Haven.

MARC PORTER MAGEE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Marc worked in Washington, D.C., as research director of the Partnership for Public Service, founding director of the Progressive Policy Institute's Center for Civic Enterprise, and as a contributing editor of the policy journal *Blueprint*. He is co-editor, with Will Marshall, of the book *The AmeriCorps Experiment and the Future of National Service* (PPI) and serves as an advisory board member of the Edwin Gould Foundation. Marc is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University.

KAREN RUTZICK, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Before joining ConnCAN, Karen worked in Washington, D.C. as communications manager for the Save Darfur Coalition. Previously, Karen was a staff correspondent for National Journal's Government Executive Magazine and a desk assistant for the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Karen is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication.

RONALD JARRETT, VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Ronald Jarrett was deputy director of information services for New York State Senate Minority Leader (now New York State Governor) David Paterson. In this position, Ron managed grassroots and organizational campaigns supporting state legislation. Previously, he was an editor at Atria Books/Simon & Schuster. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Ron received a J.D. from Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

ADENA SILBERSTEIN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Before joining ConnCAN, Adena studied American Jewish History at New York University, where she is a doctoral candidate. She also worked as an editorial intern at the New Haven Register. Previously, Adena was a senior fellow at the American Jewish Committee. She is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University and a Wexner Graduate Fellow.

JESSICA STRAM, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

Prior to her arrival at ConnCAN, Jessica was a public policy intern for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, where she conducted research for their national anti-bullying legislative campaign. Jessica earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and her master's degree in public policy and administration from Southern Connecticut State University.

ALLISON PELLICCIO, E-ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE

Before joining ConnCAN, Allison worked as E-Organizer for Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, where she managed communications with PPC's database of supporters. She is a Connecticut native and graduated from Fairfield University in 2003 with a degree in Political Science.

TORI TRUSCHEIT, RESEARCH & POLICY MANAGER

Before joining ConnCAN, Tori Truscheit taught in New York City through Teach for America. She then taught at Elm City College Prep, an Achievement First public charter school in New Haven. Tori graduated from Yale University and received a master's degree in teaching from Pace University.

LOURDES FONSECA, COMMUNITY RELATIONS ASSOCIATE

Before joining ConnCAN, Lourdes Fonseca was a community organizer at Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART). Prior to that, Lourdes worked at the Hartford Board of Education for seven years, where she was most recently a family resource aide. Lourdes earned her child development associate credential at Goodwin College in East Hartford.

NEW ADDITIONS IN 2010

SARAH GANLEY, ASSISTANT TO THE CEO & COO

CLAIRELISE RODRIGUEZ, ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Olson, *Chairman of the Board*
 Andy Boas
 Sarah Greenhill

Will Heins
 John N. Irwin III
 Michael M. Kassen

Erika Long
 Gary Lubben
 Art Reimers

Bruce Ritter
 Jonathan Sackler
 Chris Shumway

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 Ron Howard
 Catherine Viscardi Johnston
 Jeffrey Klaus
 Kevin Knight
 George Knox III
 Konrad "Chip" Kruger
 Dr. Richard C. Levin
 Dr. Julia M. McNamara

Len Miller
 Dr. Cheryl Norton
 Anthony P. Rescigno
 Dr. Theodore Sergi
 Reverend Eric B. Smith
 Richard Sugarman
 Allan B. Taylor
 Tom Vander Ark

CONNCAN CONTRIBUTORS: 2009

Anonymous
 Achieve Hartford!
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 David & Susannah Bailin
 Kenneth Bartels & Jane Condon
 Morgan Barth
 Raymond Bell
 Richard Bentley
 Ethel Berger
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 Lee Ann & Duane Bollert
 Courtney Bourns
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 Foundation, Inc.
 John Bullock
 James Burns
 Peter Butler
 The Louis Calder Foundation

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 Susan Carney & Lincoln Caplan
 Susan Caplan
 Joseph Cassetti
 Renee Chotiner & Stuart Gardner
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 Lisa Whitfield
 Robin Woods
 Elaine Wyden
 Yannix Management, LP
 Leonard Zimmerman

THANK YOU!

FINANCIALS

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc. (ConnCAN) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of ConnCAN's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. ¶ We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of ConnCAN's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis,

Independent Auditors' Report
O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP
Accountants and Consultants
One Stamford Landing, Stamford, Connecticut 06902

To the Board of Directors
Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc.
November 11, 2009

evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. ¶ In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc. as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

2008

2007 50

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE						
Contributions	1,353,432	25,000	1,378,432	833,810	400,748	1,234,558
Interest income	4,706	—	4,706	10,559	—	10,559
Realized loss on sale of donated securities	(36,051)	—	(36,051)	—	—	—
In-kind contributions	2,400	—	2,400	4,100	—	4,100
Other income	10,170	—	10,170	8,168	—	8,168
Net assets released from restriction	261,609	(261,609)	—	25,000	(25,000)	—
Total Revenue	1,596,266	(236,609)	1,359,657	881,637	375,748	1,257,385
EXPENSES						
Salaries and related expenses	837,320	—	837,320	646,243	—	646,243
Empowering parents	34,461	—	34,461	36,415	—	36,415
Driving policy change	70,652	—	70,652	37,097	—	37,097
Informing the public	150,205	—	150,205	96,391	—	96,391
Staff training and development	41,047	—	41,047	30,364	—	30,364
Occupancy	79,817	—	79,817	55,999	—	55,999
Professional fees	67,816	—	67,816	27,235	—	27,235
Travel	26,292	—	26,292	21,972	—	21,972
Equipment and maintenance	28,188	—	28,188	15,017	—	15,017
Telephone	10,534	—	10,534	10,378	—	10,378
Insurance	8,920	—	8,920	4,306	—	4,306
Office supplies	24,164	—	24,164	15,465	—	15,465
Dues and subscriptions	1,363	—	1,363	601	—	601
Depreciation expense	9,701	—	9,701	13,341	—	13,341
Miscellaneous expenses	5,449	—	5,449	5,309	—	5,309
Total Expenses	1,395,929	—	1,395,929	1,016,133	—	1,016,133
Change in Net Assets	200,337	(236,609)	(36,272)	(134,496)	375,748	241,252
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	453,536	400,748	854,284	588,032	25,000	613,032
End of year	653,873	164,139	818,012	453,536	400,748	854,284

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

2008

2007 51

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets	\$ (36,272)	\$ 241,252
<i>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities</i>		
Realized loss on donated securities	36,051	—
Donated securities	(256,031)	(33,920)
Discount to present value on contributions receivable	(5,991)	6,852
Depreciation	9,701	13,341
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</i>		
Contributions receivable	142,600	(382,600)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,588	4,702
Prepaid expense	1,523	835
Deposit	—	(1,500)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(104,831)	(151,038)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Sale of donated securities	253,900	—
Purchase of equipment	(12,902)	(25,928)
Net cash from investing activities	240,998	(25,928)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	136,167	(176,966)

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Beginning of year	429,695	606,661
End of year	565,862	429,695

THIS \neq END

THIS IS NOT THE END

CREDITS

Adena Silberstein, Editor
Keiko Hiromi, Student Photography
Marc Porter Magee and Adena Silberstein, Staff Photography
house9design.ca, Art Direction and Design
Imprimerie L'empreinte, Printing

Special thank you to the Achievement FirstBridgeport Academy
and the Macdonough Elementary School for hosting the photo shoots.

We hope you enjoyed reading this Annual Report as much as we enjoyed creating it! But it's not over yet: now it's time to get to work.

STEP 1

Piece these cards together: Create a mosaic that contains a one-of-a-kind image and special web URL for you to visit (here's a hint to help assemble the puzzle—the final mosaic will be 4 × 13).

STEP 2

Make your voice heard: Take action during ConnCAN's 2010 *Our Race to the Top* campaign.