

Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now
2006-2007 Annual Report

Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now

2006–2007 Annual Report

**Raising Awareness, Empowering Parents, and Building Consensus for Change
to Close America's Largest Achievement Gap**



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Dear Friends,

The Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN) is now two years old, and it has been a fascinating journey. We've seen the creation of a team of outstanding professionals who are pursuing the organization's mission with the energy of youth and wisdom that belies it.

Over time, we will continue to learn and grow as an organization, but any observer would be amazed by what has been accomplished in two short years: the number and the quality of the studies produced, the tools and information that are empowering thousands of Connecticut parents, the bridges built between those committed to improving public education across our state, and the impact on the public discussion of the policy changes needed to ensure "Great Schools for All."

In 1776 Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence words that would become the ethical foundation of the nation: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We believe that in the 21st century, effective public schools are necessary to ensure equality of opportunity for every child and to guarantee "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" for every adult.

This belief is at the heart of ConnCAN's guiding vision: great public schools are not only necessary to fulfill our obligations to each other, but they are essential for the future success of our society. Great public schools are a matter of critical importance to the public good. No matter who you are in our state, this challenge is your challenge, too.

Powerful ideas for the public good attract wonderful people, and ConnCAN is blessed with more than its share among its board, advisory board, partners, staff and members. Thanks to all of you for joining us on this journey. The trip has just begun.

All the best,

Jonathan Sackler
Chairman





 Great Schools for All
ConnCAN
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Dear Friends,

In January 2005, leaders from Connecticut's business, higher education and civic communities came together to create the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN): a nonprofit organization designed to be a catalyst for the fundamental changes needed to move Connecticut from having the largest to having the smallest achievement gap in the nation.

Despite numerous educational efforts over the past decade, Connecticut's academic achievement gap has proven frustratingly constant. ConnCAN was established to overcome these barriers to progress and to help secure breakthroughs in student achievement—not through direct service programs—but instead by changing the environment in which these programs operate. This work takes three forms:


Raising awareness of Connecticut's achievement gap and its consequences, and highlighting the success stories of great public schools across the state.

Empowering parents to make informed choices and to serve as effective advocates for their children.

Building consensus for change that has an immediate impact in expanding access to great schools and moves us closer to the day when every child has the opportunity to attend a great public school.

As the projects and activities outlined in this annual report attest, the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of ConnCAN and its partners have resulted in some significant victories. Yet we know the struggle for "Great Schools for All" has just begun.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that in the coming years Connecticut becomes the first state in the nation to close its achievement gap by making certain that every child has access to a great public school.

Sincerely,

Alex Johnston
Executive Director

TO CLOSE CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP, THE LARGEST GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR STUDENTS OF ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE NATION. WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY CHILD IN OUR STATE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, OR SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, HAS ACCESS TO A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Mission

CONNCAN IS A STATEWIDE OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATION WITH AN ACTIVE MEMBER NETWORK OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ACROSS CONNECTICUT.

Who we are

What we believe

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IS THE MOST URGENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM FACING CONNECTICUT. THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW. ALL CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND, CAN ACHIEVE AT A HIGH LEVEL WHEN GIVEN ACCESS TO A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

SECURING "GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL" WILL REQUIRE REFORMING THE WAY OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK BY RAISING STANDARDS, GIVING SCHOOL LEADERS GREATER FREEDOM TO INNOVATE, AND PROVIDING PARENTS WITH MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICES.

EVERY CHILD WINS WHEN PARENTS CAN CHOOSE AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHERE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS COME TOGETHER TO PURSUE A SHARED VISION OF EXCELLENCE WHILE BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS.

What we do

RAISING AWARENESS OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE THAT HAS AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO GREAT SCHOOLS AND THAT MOVES US CLOSER TO THE DAY WHEN EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

EMPOWERING PARENTS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES AND TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

Great Schools for All

MMMM

THE "GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL" AGENDA

ConnCAN's "Great Schools for All" agenda is focused on five elements that together will create a flywheel of self-sustaining changes in the way Connecticut's schools are staffed, organized, and held accountable for results:

1. Guarantee that every low-income family in Connecticut has a choice of free high-quality preschools for their children to reduce the achievement gap before they enter school.
2. Triple the number of innovative new public schools in our urban districts so that children with differing needs have a wealth of high-quality options and so that new ideas for raising student achievement are given fertile ground in which to grow.
3. Dramatically expand the pipeline of teacher and principal "All-Stars" into city schools to place the highest-caliber educators in the areas of highest need.
4. Help districts implement best practices for raising achievement system-wide so that best practice becomes common practice in all our public schools.
5. Ensure much greater financial transparency and public accountability for results to track student progress better and to increase the resources that go directly to improving instruction.

These changes are designed to help usher in a sea change in Connecticut's public education system that transforms our state's achievement gap from the largest in the nation to the smallest by 2014.

"ConnCAN, in my opinion, has all the right emphases. It's just so logical that it's a little painful to realize that we don't have it already."

—Rep. Andy Fleischmann,
Co-Chairman, Education Committee

The ideas in ConnCAN's policy agenda represent leading edge ideas in school reform today. All the ideas have merit. Collectively, they represent a powerful agenda for change."

—Andrew J. Rotherham, Co-Director,
Education Section and author,
Eduworks.com

1. RAISING AWARENESS

OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES
OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

PROJECT:

STATE OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION:

Released Connecticut's first independent report on the state of its public schools in September 2006, entitled The State of Connecticut Public Education. Over 2,000 print copies have been distributed, 800 PDF copies have been downloaded, and the report has been cited in over 20 news reports.

RESULTS / NOTES:

This 24-page original research report, drawing upon the school and district report cards, provided a unique overview of school performance across Connecticut as well as analysis of the top 10 public schools and public school districts across five key performance categories: performance gains, most improved, low-income student scores, African American scores, and Hispanic scores.

SET 1. RAISING AWARENESS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. GATHER INFORMATION ON YOUR CHOSEN PROJECT.
2. NEATLY FILL IN THE SPACES PROVIDED THE BACK OF THIS CARD, MAKING SURE TO DIVIDE YOUR INFORMATION INTO THREE (3) SECTIONS:
(A) PROJECT TITLE,
(B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION, AND
(C) RESULTS AND NOTES.

1. RAISING AWARENESS

OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES
OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

PROJECT:

CONNCAN.ORG

DESCRIPTION:

Launched a cutting-edge interactive website in February 2006 that has emerged as the homepage for Connecticut's education reform movement with over 60,000 visitors, 300,000 page views, and 2,100 people registered to view exclusive website content.

RESULTS / NOTES:

ConnCAN.org has helped put parents, policymakers and the public at the center of the effort to close Connecticut's achievement gap. Anchored by its first-in-the-state ratings of Connecticut's 1,000 public schools, in its first 16-months ConnCAN's website has grown to include over 150 webpages across four core areas: school report cards, issues, action center and success stories.

CONNCAN ANNUAL REPORT FLASH CARDS



Preface by Alex Johnston, Ph.D.
Introduction by Marc Porter Magee, Ph.D.

State of Connecticut Public
Elementary & Middle Schools
Report Cards
A 2006 Report Card
an NCLB
an NCLB
School
the Ribbon



1. RAISING AWARENESS

OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES
OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

PROJECT:

GRADUATION RATES STUDY

DESCRIPTION:

Released a first-of-its-kind analysis of the gaps between official State Department of Education high school graduation rates and independent rates calculated by Education Week's Project Graduation in June 2007.

RESULTS / NOTES:

ConnCAN's analysis not only resulted in over 250 downloads in its first month, a story on NPR and articles in the New Haven Register, Stamford Advocate, Republican-American and Record-Journal, but it also jump-started a public policy discussion on how to improve the accuracy of Connecticut's graduation statistics.



Connecticut Graduation Rates Analysis June 2007

District	2004 CT-SDE Graduation Rate	2004 Education Week Graduation Rate	Gap
Manchester School District	93.7%	60.6%	33.1
Stafford School District	88.0%	56.8%	31.2
Middletown School District	93.5%	64.0%	29.5
Bloomfield School District	85.9%	57.9%	28.0
Hartford School District	62.6%	37.1%	25.5
Plymouth School District	92.4%	68.9%	23.5
Brookfield School District	99.5%	77.4%	22.1
East Hartford School District	88.7%	66.8%	21.9
Bethel School District	97.4%	75.7%	21.7
Rocky Hill School District	97.5%	76.4%	21.1
New Haven School District	74.8%	53.7%	21.1
Vernon School District	89.3%	68.4%	20.9
Putnam School District	81.5%	60.7%	20.8
East Haven School District	94.1%	74.4%	19.7
Griswold School District	88.8%	69.6%	19.2
Lebanon School District	96.0%	76.8%	19.2
Meriden School District	85.8%	67.4%	18.4
Norwalk School District	88.3%	70.1%	18.2
West Haven School District	92.7%	74.6%	18.1
Regional School District 06	92.0%	74.6%	17.4
Windham School District	77.4%	60.1%	17.3
Bolton School District	98.7%	81.8%	16.9
Waterbury School District	85.2%	69.0%	16.2
Danbury School District	86.5%	71.1%	15.4
Ansonia School District	89.9%	74.6%	15.3
Plainfield School District	70.0%	54.9%	15.1
New Milford School District	98.7%	84.8%	13.9
Derby School District	89.1%	75.6%	13.5
Windsor Locks School District	83.8%	70.6%	13.2
Seymour School District	90.1%	77.1%	13.0
Stamford School District	89.8%	77.0%	12.8
Windsor School District	90.5%	77.8%	12.7
East Windsor School District	88.2%	75.6%	12.6
Winchester School District	91.7%	79.1%	12.6
Westbrook School District	98.4%	86.1%	12.3
Regional School District 13	97.3%	85.0%	12.3
Coventry School District	93.7%	82.0%	11.7
	95.5%	84.5%	11.0
		86.1%	10.9



Western Magnet School
(#2 in CT for Low-income Students)



Hamilton Avenue
(#3 in CT: Most Improved)



Junior Academy
(#1 in CT: African American Scores)



Amistad Academy
(#1 in CT for Performance Gains)

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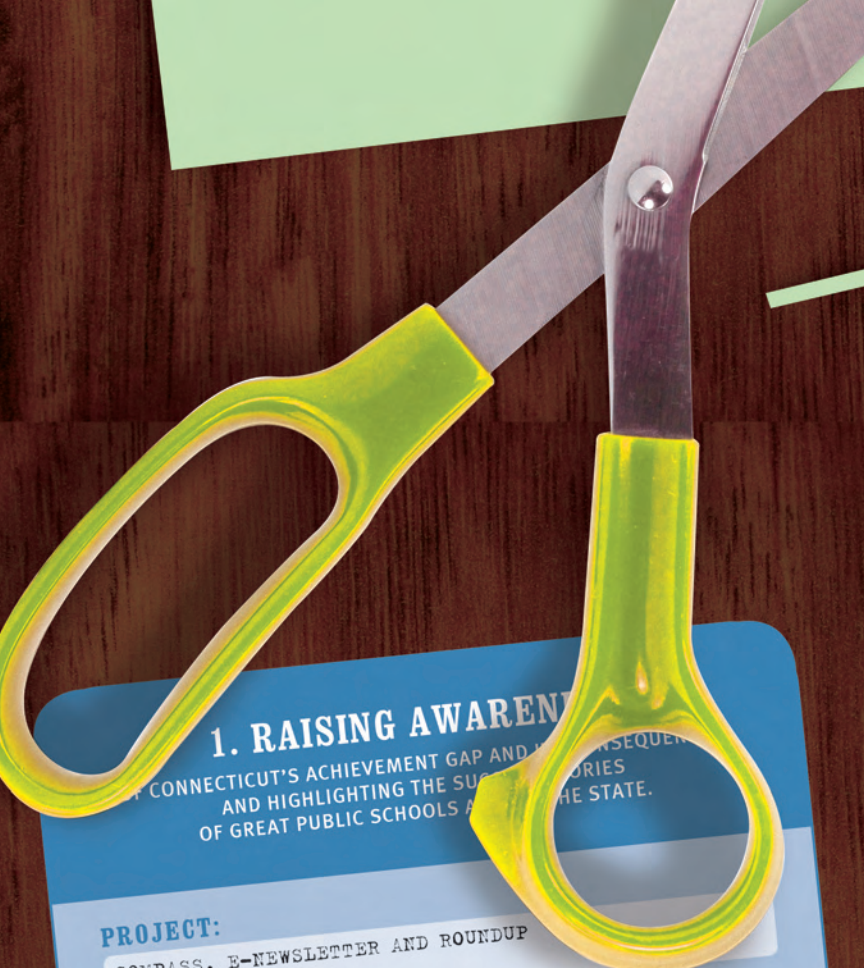
PROJECT:
SUCCESS STORIES

DESCRIPTION:

Published alongside The State of Connecticut Public Education report in September 2006, the Success Stories profiled high-performing schools composed of at least 75 percent minority and/or low-income students. Over 3,000 visitors have helped ensure that these lessons learned reached a wide audience across Connecticut and beyond.

RESULTS / NOTES:

In each of the eight Success Stories, innovative and committed administrators and educators were found to have brought a relentless focus on getting results for students. Common elements include individualized student learning plans, data-driven decision making, Saturday sessions, direct instruction techniques, and an overriding focus on recruiting passionate and talented teachers.



1. RAISING AWARENESS

OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

PROJECT:

COMPASS, E-NEWSLETTER AND ROUNDUP

DESCRIPTION:

Launched in the first half of 2007, ConnCAN's suite of communication vehicles have provided its members with three new windows on the world of Connecticut education: the Compass print newsletter, the ConnCAN E-Newsletter, and the Education News Roundup blog.

RESULTS / NOTES:

The twice-weekly Education News Roundup provides hundreds of readers a fast and easy way to stay in touch with education news from around the state. The monthly E-Newsletter provides more than 4,000 members with a concise review of the key education events from the past 30 days. Finally, the full-color Compass print newsletter provides over 7,000 readers with a quarterly review of the effort to close Connecticut's achievement gap.

1. RAISING AWARENESS

OF CONNECTICUT'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AND HIGHLIGHTING THE SUCCESS STORIES OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.

PROJECT:

MEDIA OUTREACH

DESCRIPTION:

Used timely news releases and outreach to media outlets across Connecticut to generate an unprecedented wave of stories about Connecticut's achievement gap and the breakthrough schools that are demonstrating how it can be closed.

RESULTS / NOTES:

ConnCAN's media outreach efforts have helped secure nearly 100 newspaper pieces (reaching a cumulative total of 8 million potential impressions with readers), 14 radio stories and 12 television stories since January 2006.

“Results of a recently released study show that two Norwalk schools that were reprimanded last year under the *No Child Left Behind Act* are also among those doing the best job of bringing minority and disadvantaged kids up to speed. So says the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, a New Haven-based organization that works to help close the achievement gap.”

THE ADVOCATE, JANUARY 12, 2007

SET 2. EMPOWERING PARENTS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. GATHER INFORMATION ON YOUR CHOSEN PROJECT.
2. NEATLY FILL IN THE SPACES PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THIS CARD, MAKING SURE TO DIVIDE YOUR INFORMATION INTO THREE (3) SECTIONS:
 - (A) PROJECT TITLE,
 - (B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION, AND
 - (C) RESULTS AND NOTES.
3. DISTRIBUTE THE CARDS TO CURIOUS PARTIES.



"Working parents can't make PTOs during the day to see what is really going on with their child, but they know that something isn't right. I personally have two children in the special education department. Being a member of the ConnCAN Action Team, I get information on the school system, and just knowing what is going on, knowing what the achievement gap is, has helped me."
—Denise Tillman, ConnCAN Action Team member

2. EMPOWERING PARENTS

TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
AND TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES
FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

PROJECT:

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

DESCRIPTION:

Launched a first-in-the-state school and district report card website (www.ctreportcards.org) with letter grades on the performance of more than 1,000 schools and 160 districts.

RESULTS / NOTES:

Since its launch in September 2006, the interactive report cards have provided more than 10,000 Connecticut parents and concerned citizens with a straightforward assessment of how well their child's public school is meeting the needs of all its students.



How to Make Sure Your Child Is Not Left Behind

A Connecticut Parent's Guide to Advocating for Equal Educational Opportunities

CONNECTICUT APPEASED
CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR ACHIEVEMENT NOW (CONNCAN)
CONNECTICUT STATE CONFERENCE OF NAACP BRANCHES
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW



Great Schools for All
ConnCAN



Connecticut Appleseed



pasos simples para de los SES:

ESCUELA DE SU HIJO Y AVERIGÜE
LOS REQUISITOS (TAMBIÉN
R A ESTA INFORMACIÓN
LINEA GRATUITA DE 24 HORAS
ESIBILE A LOS PADRES AL
22).

R DE TUTORÍA MEJOR
NECESIDADES DE SU HIJO.

ISTA A TODAS LAS
EN SUS TAREAS

no se quede atrás

Guía de los padres para promover oportunidades educativas equitativas

- ¿Cuáles son los grupos pequeños, individual o la computadora)?
 - ¿Puede ayudar el tutor si su hijo tiene discapacidades o está aprendiendo inglés?
 - ¿Hay transporte disponible para ir y venir del lugar donde
- PREGUNTE A SU DISTRITO ESCOLAR CÓMO FINANCIA LA OPCIÓN DE ESCUELA Y LOS SES, o pida que gaste más para responder a las necesidades de todos los estudiantes elegibles para la opción o para los SES.**
- CONTACTE AL DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN del Estado de Connecticut si no ha recibido notificación apropiada sobre los servicios de los SES.**
- Vea el modelo de la carta (Apéndice B) detrás de esta guía sobre cómo

TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
AND TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES
FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

PROJECT:

PARENT EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS AND PARENT GUIDEBOOK

DESCRIPTION:

Launched a parent empowerment initiative in April 2007 in cooperation with the Connecticut NAACP, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Connecticut Appleseed. Produced a 48-page parents guide entitled How to Make Sure Your Child is Not Left Behind.

RESULTS / NOTES:

ConnCAN held workshops in Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hamden, helping train 250 parent advocates. Five hundred print copies of the parent guide were distributed in English and Spanish, with an additional 500 PDFs downloaded from the ConnCAN website.



2. EMPOWERING PARENTS

TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
AND TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES
FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

PROJECT:

FREE TUTORING PROJECT

DESCRIPTION:

Conducted 72 supplemental educational services (SES) presentations and workshops for parents and provider organizations and distributed over 5,000 free tutoring brochures, helping more than double the number of students receiving free tutoring under NCLB in Bridgeport and Hartford.

RESULTS / NOTES:

Drawing upon surveys of Connecticut parents and partner organizations, ConnCAN teamed up with the Center for Children's Advocacy in an unprecedented campaign to overcome the information gaps that were preventing 90 percent of qualified children from getting the free tutoring to which they were entitled. The campaign served as a model for child advocates and service providers from as far away as Washington State.

2. EMPOWERING PARENTS

TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
AND TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES
FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

PROJECT:

ACTION TEAM

DESCRIPTION:

Launched in fall 2006 with an initial cohort of 24 parents. Conducted email and letter campaigns as well as rallies that brought over 500 parents to Hartford during key education hearings.

RESULTS / NOTES:

These dedicated parents share a common desire to take action on behalf of their kids and to bridge the divide that far too often separates concerned parents and educators. Working together, they have emerged as a powerful new voice for change.

"Our partnership with ConnCAN over the past year was the most rewarding. Thanks to our organizations' combined efforts in 2006, we achieved tremendous results in expanding access to free tutoring for thousands of Connecticut children in need."
—Emily Breon, Center for Children's Advocacy



SET 3. BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. GATHER INFORMATION ON YOUR CHOSEN PROJECT.
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3. DISTRIBUTE THE CARDS TO CURIOUS PARTIES.

3. BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR CH

THAT HAS AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO SCHOOLS AND MOVES US CLOSER TO THE DAY WHEN EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

PROJECT:

ISSUE BRIEFS

DESCRIPTION:

Created a suite of six issue briefs on key education topics, which have resulted in 3,000 distributed print copies, more than 2,000 online viewings, and over 1,500 PDF downloads.

RESULTS / NOTES:

The briefs put forward a concise overview of the key information needed to help raise the performance of our schools and created a reference library for more in-depth investigations.

3. BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE

THAT HAS AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO GREAT SCHOOLS AND MOVES US CLOSER TO THE DAY WHEN EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

PROJECT:

THE "GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL" PLAN

DESCRIPTION:

Launched the "Great Schools for All" plan with a 44-page policy report at a January 2007 news conference with the Speaker of the House and the co-chair of the Education Committee. Support for the ideas put forth in the plan came from a "who's who" of Connecticut organizations focused on closing the achievement gap, including Connecticut ACORN, Connecticut Appleseed, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Connecticut Parent Power, the Early Childhood Alliance, and the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice.

RESULTS / NOTES:

More than 2,000 print versions of the plan have been distributed, the PDF has been downloaded more than 800 times, and over 2,000 people have signed the "Great Schools for All" petition.



ConnCAN Issue Brief

The High Cost of

Is

Low-Performing Schools

Connecticut's achievement gap has consequences that quantify the terrible effects of the gap on students. We have measured the costs that illiteracy, low basic skills impose on our communities.

Each year Connecticut spends more than seven billion dollars on its 1,200 public schools. According to the Connecticut State Education Association, the state spends more than \$10,000 per student per year.

"Parents, educators, members of the business community, other non-profits and legislators were all at the Legislative Office Building last week lauding the plan designed by the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now."
—New Haven Advocate, February 1, 2007

3. BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE

THAT HAS AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO GREAT SCHOOLS AND MOVES US CLOSER TO THE DAY WHEN EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

PROJECT:

SPEECHES, PANELS, AND EXPERT TESTIMONY

DESCRIPTION:

Conducted more than 450 one-on-one meetings on the need for education reform, led over 30 presentations to community organizations, and provided expert testimony and speeches for more than a dozen forums.

RESULTS / NOTES:

ConnCAN's work is informed by an in-depth and ongoing outreach campaign to learn from the diverse experiences of Connecticut's 169 school districts and to bring the message of "Great Schools for All" into every community in the state.

“In a legislative season marked by school-reform notions ranging from worthless to wildly expensive, an advocacy organization called the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN) offers a refreshingly reasonable prescription for the state’s ailing public schools.”

REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN, MARCH 28, 2007

TEACHER RECRUITMENT. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS CHANGED TO HELP BRING TEACH FOR AMERICA TO CONNECTICUT, WITH 50 MEMBERS SERVING IN THE INITIAL 2006-07 CLASS AND 125 IN 2007-08.

NEW SCHOOLS. CAP LIFTED ON CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, CHARTER SCHOOL PER PUPIL FUNDING INCREASED BY 27 PERCENT, AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS INCREASED BY 65 PERCENT (FROM 2,600 TO 4,300). \$750,000 TO CREATE 12 "PILOT SCHOOLS" IN 2009, WHICH WILL HAVE AUTONOMY OVER BUDGET, STAFFING, GOVERNANCE, CURRICULUM AND THE SCHOOL CALENDAR. \$53 MILLION TO INCREASE THE MAGNET SCHOOL PER PUPIL SUBSIDY AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN MAGNET SCHOOLS.

HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL. \$36 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS TO EXPAND HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND \$5.5 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS TO DEVELOP A PRESCHOOL QUALITY RATING SYSTEM TO HELP PARENTS MAKE INFORMED CHOICES.

Elements of the
"Great Schools for All" agenda
Implemented to date

DATA SYSTEMS. \$6.4 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS TO ESTABLISH A LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR A SCHOOL RATING SYSTEM THAT MEASURES SCHOOLS BASED ON THE GAINS THEY ACHIEVE WITH THEIR STUDENTS.

ACCOUNTABILITY. \$3.8 MILLION TO SUPPORT 10 NEW PERSONNEL AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A NEW SYSTEM OF OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY. INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION TO TAKE ACTION TO RAISE STUDENT PERFORMANCE WHEN SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS FAIL TO MAKE PROGRESS BY DIRECTING THE TRANSFER AND ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS, RECONSTITUTING SCHOOLS AS CHARTER SCHOOLS, OR PROVIDING FUNDING SO THAT STUDENTS IN A FAILING SCHOOL OR DISTRICT MAY ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL IN A NEIGHBORING DISTRICT.

"I'm very proud to be standing here supporting 'Great Schools for All.' The plan outlines a number of proposals that deserve our consideration as part of an overall approach to achieve excellence in education."
— Rep. James A. Amann,
Speaker of the House



ALEX JOHNSTON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alex Johnston is charged with leading ConnCAN's effort to bring parents, educators, business-people, public servants and community leaders together in a common effort to make great public schools available to every child in Connecticut. He previously served as director of 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, he studied at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and received a D.Phil. in politics from Oxford's Lincoln College.

RONALD JARRETT, J.D.
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

MARC PORTER MAGEE, PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Marc Porter Magee oversees ConnCAN's research and policy work, media campaigns, and web projects. Prior to joining ConnCAN, he 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 in 2005 led the development of U.S. News & World Report's first ever ranking of government agencies. A graduate of Georgetown University, he received his Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University.

LISA WHITFIELD
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lisa Whitfield is the director of operations and also directs ConnCAN's Speaker's Bureau. Before joining ConnCAN, Lisa worked for more than a decade as a legal office manager and served for nine years as the director/educator of the business management program for a Connecticut college-level proprietary school. A graduate of the University of New Haven, Lisa is a member of the American Management Association, the Society for Human Resource Management and The Human Resource Association of Greater New Haven.

staff



JESSICA BONAFINE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER

As the government relations manager, Jessica is responsible for managing and executing government relations activities and advocating for ConnCAN's policies before state legislative bodies and agencies. Prior to joining ConnCAN, Jessica was the advocacy director for the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance and served as the clerk of the Appropriations committee and legislative aide to State Representative Denise Merrill. Jessica is a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University, majoring in sociology and public policy and government.

JESSICA BILBAO
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

As membership coordinator, Jessica helps build a network of active supporters for great schools, provides research and analysis, helps create and strengthen partnerships between community organizations, plans special events, and provides support for parents and children. Prior to joining ConnCAN, Jessica served as a youth development specialist for Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) of Hartford and as a program specialist for ASPIRA of Connecticut, where she managed youth leadership program operations in Hartford and Fairfield County.

DANIELLE K. SMITH
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

As the development and communications associate, Danielle manages fundraising initiatives and a number of key communications projects. A Connecticut native, Danielle attended Waterbury public schools from kindergarten through high school and is a graduate of Yale University in New Haven. While at Yale, Danielle served on the Dwight Hall Board of Directors, worked as assistant director and a 9th grade teacher in the Ulysses S. Grant program, and co-founded Sphere Inc. and SphereMagazine.com.

ALLISON PELLICCIO
OFFICE ASSISTANT

As office assistant, Allison is responsible for managing ConnCAN's database, its electronic communications with members, and its publication mailings. She also supports organizational operations through administrative activities and scheduling. Allison is a Connecticut native and graduated from Fairfield University in 2003 with a degree in political science. Before joining ConnCAN, she worked as an E-Organizer for Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, where she managed communications with its database of supporters.



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www.conncan.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF ADVISORS (page 1)

Paul Allaire
Former Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corporation
Former Chairman, Ford Foundation
Trustee Emeritus of Carnegie-Mellon University

Lorraine M. Aronson
Vice President and CFO, University of Connecticut
Director, Hartford Education Foundation
Former Connecticut Deputy Commissioner of Education

Dr. Phillip E. Austin
President, University of Connecticut
Board Member, MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance
Member, Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology

Timothy Bannon
Special Counsel, Purdue Pharma

Andy Bous—**BOARD MEMBER**
Principal, Carl Marks Management, LLC
Director, Bridgeport Public Education Fund

Cory Booker
Mayor, Newark, NJ
Board Member, the Black Alliance for Educational Options

Christopher Bruhl
President and CEO, The Business Council of Fairfield County (SACIA)
Director, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Corporation

Dr. William J. Cipes, Jr.
Former Chancellor, Connecticut State University System
Former Deputy Speaker and Finance Committee Chairman, Connecticut General Assembly
Former Secretary, Office of Policy and Management

Joyce Critelli
Co-Chairwoman, Children's Agency of Norwalk
Trustee, Norwalk Community College
Trustee, Critelli Family Foundation

Reverend Lindsay E. Curtis
Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Norwalk
Chairman, Norwalk Children's Foundation
President, NAACP Norwalk Branch

John M. Danielson
President and CEO, Chartwell Education Group
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Education
Director, Center for Education Reform

Jonathan T. Dawson—**MANAGING DIRECTOR**
Chairman and CEO, Dawson-Herman Capital Management
Co-Founder, New Beginnings Family Academy



"With this report ConnCAN follows in the footsteps of Delaware's Vision 2015 project. ConnCAN's report was spearheaded by a large, well-credentialed Board of Directors and Advisors and is clearly serious about school reform." —The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

 Great Schools for All
ConnCAN

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF ADVISORS (page 2)

Timothy Dutton

Director, Bridge Academy
President, Connecticut Charter School Network

Dr. Howard Fuller—SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Founder and Chairman, Black Alliance for Educational Options
Former Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools
Board Member, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Robert Furek

Director, MassMutual Financial Group
Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hartford Public School System

William Ginsberg

President and CEO, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Director, Regional Leadership Council

Stewart Greenfield

Founder and Former Chairman, Oak Investment Partners
Founder and Chairman, Alternative Investment Group, LLC

Dr. Janice M. Gruendel

Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Governor M. Jodi Rell
Member, Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness
Former Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services

Dr. Walter Harrison

President, University of Hartford
Director, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Director, The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education

Darrell Harvey

Co-CEO, The Ashforth Company
Chairman, The Business Council of Southwestern Connecticut (SACIA)

Marc S. Herzog

Chancellor, Connecticut Community College System
Member, National Council of State Directors, American Association of Community Colleges

Duane E. Hill

Founder and Partner Emeritus, TSG Capital Group
Former Vice President, J.P. Morgan and Co.
Chairman, City of Stamford Planning Board

Carlton L. Highsmith

Founder, President and CEO, Specialized Packing Group
Director, Quinnipiac University
National Board of Directors, I Have a Dream Foundation



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF ADVISORS (page 3)

Chandler J. Howard
 President and CEO, First City Fund Corporation
 Board Member, Connecticut Innovations
 Vice Chairman, Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology

Ron Howard
 Co-Chairman, Imagine Entertainment
 Awarded Best Director, Directors Guild of America, "Apollo 13"
 Awarded an Oscar, Best Director, "A Beautiful Mind"

John N. Irwin III
 Managing Director, Brookside International
 President, Achelis and Bodman Foundation
 Treasurer, Wildlife Conservation Society

Catherine Viscardi Johnston
 Partner, Midway Communications, LLC
 Former Executive Vice President, Condé Nast Publications, Inc.
 Co-Founder and Director, Harlem Village Academy and Leadership Village Academy

Michael M. Kassen—MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Former Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Neuberger Berman

Jeffrey Klaus
 Market President, Bank of America
 Education Committee Chairman, Regional Leadership Council

Kevin Knight
 Founder and President, The K Group
 Director, Cities In Schools, Norwalk

George Knox III
 Former Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Companies
 Director and Vice-Chairman, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
 Trustee, African American Experience Foundation

Kourad "Chip" Kruger
 Former Co-President and Co-CEO, Greenwich Capital Markets
 Co-Founder, Five Mile Capital Partners LLC

Dr. Richard C. Levin
 President, Yale University
 Director, Hewlett Foundation
 Chairman, AllLearn, a joint venture of Yale, Oxford, and Stanford universities

Dr. Julia M. McNamara
 President, Albertus Magnus College
 Chairwoman, Yale-New Haven Health Services Corporation
 Director, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Len Miller
 Partner, O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins
 Founder and Former Chairman, SoundWaters





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF ADVISORS (page 4)

Dr. Cheryl Norton

President, Southern Connecticut State University

Brian Olson—VICE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Co-Founder, Viking Global Investors
Chairman, Civic Builders

Anthony P. Rescigno

President, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director, Regional Leadership Council
Member of the Board, New Haven Public Education Fund

Jonathan Sackler—CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Founder and Managing Director, North Bay Associates
Director, Purdue Pharma

Vice Chairman, Micro Credit Businesses, Inc.

Dr. Theodore Sergi

Former Connecticut State Commissioner of Education
President and CEO, Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration

Reverend Eric B. Smith

Pastor, Adoni Spiritual Formation Center of New Haven
President, New Haven Reparations Coalition
Board Member, Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund

Richard Sugarman

Founder and President, The Connecticut Forum
Board Chairman, Connecticut Center for School Change

Allan B. Taylor

Partner, Day, Berry & Howard LLP
Chairman, Connecticut State Board of Education
Former Councilman, Hartford City Council

Nathaniel D. Woodson

Chairman and CEO, ULL Holdings Corporation
Director, NewAlliance Bank
Director, Yale-New Haven Hospital



"It has been especially refreshing to work with ConnCAN as an equally committed partner over the past year to devote the necessary manpower and fiscal resources behind our groundbreaking efforts to connect parents with much-needed education for school-age children."
— Cynthia Moore, OI Head Start, Bridgeport, CT

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	606,661	600,877
Investments	—	1,004
Prepaid expenses	3,358	
Property and equipment, net	17,927	13,329
Deposit	2,100	2,100
Total Assets	<u>630,046</u>	<u>617,310</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	17,014	10,218
Total Liabilities	<u>17,014</u>	<u>10,218</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	588,032	607,092
Temporarily restricted	25,000	—
Total Net Assets	<u>613,032</u>	<u>607,092</u>
	<u>630,046</u>	<u>617,310</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR ACHIEVEMENT NOW, INC.
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT



We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc. (ConnCAN) as of December 31, 2006 and 2005 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 the ConnCAN's internal control over financial reporting.

Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, 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, 2006 and 2005, 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
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
MAY 31, 2007

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STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	5,940	(32,466)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Donated securities	—	(1,004)
Depreciation	7,532	669
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	6,796	10,218
Prepaid expense	(3,358)	—
Deposit	—	(2,100)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	16,910	(24,683)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale of donated securities	1,004	—
Purchase of equipment	(12,130)	(13,998)
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	(11,126)	(13,998)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,784	(38,681)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Beginning of year	600,877	639,558
End of year	<u>606,661</u>	<u>600,877</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

	2006			2005
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted
	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE				
Contributions	761,045	25,000	786,045	424,333
Service fees	18,552	—	18,552	14,889
Interest income	16,944	—	16,944	8,866
In-kind contributions	2,276	—	2,276	—
Other income	3,937	—	3,937	2,231
Total Revenue	802,754	25,000	827,754	450,319
EXPENSES				
Salaries and related expenses	464,049	—	464,049	168,143
Research and public relations	196,894	—	196,894	231,786
Staff training and development	15,926	—	15,926	—
Occupancy	32,070	—	32,070	10,500
Professional fees	23,973	—	23,973	17,124
Conference and meetings	21,822	—	21,822	15,996
Travel	16,954	—	16,954	11,959
Dues and subscriptions	2,160	—	2,160	—
Equipment and maintenance	12,766	—	12,766	13,878
Telephone	7,196	—	7,196	5,278
Insurance	3,814	—	3,814	1,422
Office supplies	13,225	—	13,225	4,541
Depreciation expense	7,532	—	7,532	669
Miscellaneous expenses	3,433	—	3,433	1,489
Total Expenses	821,814	—	821,814	482,785
Change in Net Assets	(19,060)	25,000	5,940	(32,466)
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of year	607,092	—	607,092	639,558
End of year	<u>588,032</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>613,032</u>	<u>607,092</u>



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