



GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL

ConnCAN

**ConnCAN 2012 Legislative Priorities
January, 2012**

Governor Malloy has declared 2012 “The Year for Education Reform.” That rallying cry will only be successful if Connecticut’s education community works together to take advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity. We must bring about meaningful reforms with urgency, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to what’s best for our students. That starts with two core priorities: **Excellent Educators** and **Fair Funding**.

Excellent Educators: The most important building block, in every classroom and in every school, is great educators. All kids deserve great teachers and principals, every year – and we need policies that support all educators to be their best. In 2012, policy makers should:

- Establish a **strong state model educator evaluation system** that includes student achievement growth as a significant factor and requires every educator to be evaluated every year.
- Ensure that **all staffing decisions, including layoffs/reductions in force, are tied to evaluation results.**
- **Require districts to report** numbers of teachers in each performance category.
- Establish a **master teacher status** for teachers who consistently excel on evaluations.
- Ensure that **teachers cannot earn tenure unless they achieve satisfactory evaluation results.**
- Require that **tenure status be reviewed every five years** and that **teachers keep tenure only when they have satisfactory evaluations.**
- Allow all teachers, tenured or not, to be **dismissed based on poor evaluation results**, and shorten the dismissal timeframe.
- **Fix binding arbitration** by requiring binding arbitration decisions to account for students’ best interests.
- **Grant certification to teachers and administrators based on their demonstrated effectiveness on the job**, not on seat time or course credits.

Fair Funding: All of our public school students need a funding system that treats them fairly and consistently, starting with an effective and transparent school funding system and common accounting system for districts. In 2012, policy makers should:

- **Create a weighted student funding system** that accounts for every public school student in every public school and provides extra funds for students with greater learning needs.
- Implement a mandatory **common chart of accounts for all districts** to create accountability and transparency for our precious school dollars.
- Encourage districts to adopt **student-based budgeting at the district level** to ensure funds go directly to the schools and students who need it most.
- **Create an innovation fund** that would allow districts to expand successful options or create new high-quality options so that no student is stuck in a failing school.