



Project Name: *LEAP (Leaders for Equity & Achievement through Partnership)*

Project Director: *Dr. Ryan Donlon*

E-mail: rdonlon@learn.k12.ct.us

Telephone: *(860) 434-4800, ext. 132*

Number of Schools Served: *Four*

Number of Students Served: 2,500

Year 1 Funding: \$1,311,705

Connecticut is recognized as a state of many contradictions: extreme wealth/deep poverty; wide racial diversity/significant minority group isolation; large divides between student achievement/failure. Additional contradictions exist in eastern Connecticut with neighboring districts and schools identified as “out of balance” according to state equity laws. To address these issues and mitigate potential sanctions from the state, *LEAP* will expand choice through the development and support of a consortia of four(4) intra-district magnet schools across eastern Connecticut with the dual goal of reducing minority group and socio-economic isolation, as well as increasing student achievement in the participating schools over the five-year project. *LEAP* represents a range of regional opportunities for public school students, including a focus on inquiry and transdisciplinary learning opportunities through the development of deep relationships with community partners. *LEAP* will support the development and opening of two new intra-district magnet schools and two new inter-district magnet schools, all with the goal of creating high-quality and rigorous learning opportunities for students within diverse communities. All schools will be **whole-school programs**, emphasizing rich, theme-based curricula. The proposed MSAP-funded schools are as follows:

Magnet School	Magnet Theme	New/Revised/Type
<i>Goodwin University Early Childhood Learning Center (PreK) [Rocky Hill]</i>	Technology-Enhanced Language & Literacy	New; Inter-district
<i>The Friendship School (PK-K) [Waterford]</i>	Addition of Museum Studies	Significant Revision; Inter-district
<i>Marine Science Magnet High School (9-12) [Groton]</i>	Addition of: Career & College Pathways	Significant Revision, Inter-district
<i>Goodwin University Magnet Industry 5.0 High School (9-12) [East Hartford]</i>	Technologies for the Future	New, Inter-district

LEAP will provide engaging, rigorous, and innovative magnet themes proven to draw diverse families across district and community lines. The landscape of current and proposed magnets will offer students and their families clear and high-quality choices and opportunities as they progress throughout their public school experience. These new/significantly revised magnet schools, in partnership with higher education, and an educational service center will offer a quality educational experience that fosters inclusion, high expectations, and a commitment to lifelong learning.