

CREC Enfield Centering Excellence Consortium
Abstract

The Centering Excellence project is a collaboration between the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and Enfield Public Schools. The grant will fund significant revisions at 4 CREC schools and one Enfield school that participates in the Open Choice program.

With the resources made available through this grant, recruitment and marketing plans will be designed and implemented to increase the size and diversity of the schools' applicant pools. The project schools will, through focused and on-going professional learning, coaching, and material resources, establish themselves as Centers of Excellence (CoE) in areas related to their magnet themes. Funding will be provided for professional learning from experts such as PBLWorks and Focused Schools and for teacher leaders at each school who will provide ongoing support for the implementation of school initiatives. The schools' exemplary implementation of their particular areas of focus will provide opportunities for other schools - locally and nationally - to learn from their experiences and successes. The schools' CoEs will be as follows:

School	Center of Excellence
Enfield PK STEAM Academy	Technology Integration in Early Childhood Education
Academy of Science and Innovation	Interdisciplinary Project Based Learning
Academy of International Studies	Action Learning
Academy of Computer Science and Engineering Middle School	Computer Science Education in Middle School
Academy of Computer Science and Engineering High School	Computer Science Education in Secondary Schools

MSAP requires grantees to undergo a research study to inform magnet school best practices. Our research partner, National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA, will conduct research on the impact of universal participation in computer science classes in grades 9 and 10 at the Academy of Computer Science and Engineering High School on academic performance in English language arts and mathematics. The application is intended to increase the viability of the schools in support of the efforts of the Regional School Choice Office at the CT State Department of Education to meet the state's responsibilities under Sheff v. O'Neill.