

■ Frequently Asked Questions

1. *How does the lottery system work?*

- Families who wish to apply to a CREC school can do so by visiting the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) website at www.choiceducation.org. Each year, RSCO holds fairs for prospective families to obtain information about CREC Magnet Schools. CREC also holds open houses so that families can tour and become acquainted with the facilities and teachers at each school. The application allows families the option of applying to multiple schools in the order of their preference.
- First round notices for children who have been accepted in the lottery system for a specific school are mailed in April. If schools have additional space available after the first round of acceptances, families may be notified of that vacancy and are provided with the option to accept attendance. Students are asked to fill out the *Placement Response Form* to accept or decline placement in a specific school or program.

2. *CREC students come from many cities and towns around the state. How do students get to their school every day?*

- CREC is the transportation vendor for the Connecticut State Department of Education's Regional School Choice Office (RSCO). The transportation office supports school districts with transportation needs including out of district van transportation, management services, consulting services, regionalization planning, or brokering work through its current vendors.
- CREC makes recommendations to the regional transportation system that helps encourage and support the participation of Hartford and suburban students in Greater Hartford choice programs.
- CREC primarily contracts with five bus companies: First Student, Dattco, Rainbow, Access, and Transportation Management Solutions.
- CREC brought more than 13,000 students daily to schools in the Greater Hartford area during the 2015-2016 school year.
- CREC coordinates more than 800 daily routes to more than 180 schools.
- RSCO's transportation zone covers more than 1,100 square miles and includes 43 towns.
- CREC has a fully-trained 50-person call center and 200 bus monitors supporting its transportation services.

3. *CREC's Construction Services Division builds many new schools to meet demand. What happens if a school is not ready by the time the school year begins? Where are students taught while a new school is being built?*

- We are constantly renovating older schools and building brand new facilities to meet the demand for CREC's exceptional educational opportunities. Our Construction Services Division typically completes projects ahead of schedule and under budget.

- When a CREC school first opens, it is sometimes housed in temporary space until CREC secures a location for the school's permanent location. While the permanent location is being identified and built, CREC enhances the temporary location so that it is a state-of-the-art school building. As a school adds on new grades, occasionally the temporary space may have to change in order to accommodate the growing size of the school.
 - If we are notified that a new school must be built, but it may not be ready in time, CREC provides temporary space to accommodate the needs of the teachers and students. Our Transportation Division ensures that busing to the temporary location is smooth during that transition.
4. *CREC also provides a whole host of services for schools, businesses, and individuals. What are those services and who provides them?*
- CREC's divisions provide services to school districts, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and individual professionals in and outside of Connecticut. CREC's divisions are:
 - Community Education
 - Construction Services
 - Communications and Development Office
 - CREC Magnet Schools and Hartford Region Open Choice Program
 - Operations
 - Student Services
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Technical Assistance and Brokering Services
 - Transportation Services
 - Data Analysis, Research, and Technology
 - These services include:
 - Ongoing professional development workshops for educators
 - High-quality educational programs for students in preschool through grade 12 through 17 interdistrict magnet schools
 - Construction, operations, and facilities services
 - Customized educational programming for public school districts
 - Cooperative purchasing and other business services
 - Specialized educational programs and facilities for students with hearing impairments, special needs, and a variety of other physical and behavioral challenges
 - Preschool and care programs for infants and their families
 - Innovative partnership programs that help adults develop job-ready skills
 - On-site technology services for schools and towns
 - Transportation services