

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Panasonic Foundation and Center for School Change Partner with Stamford Public Schools to Raise Student Achievement

The Connecticut Center for School Change and the Panasonic Foundation are pleased to announce they have selected the Stamford Public Schools as a partner in a systemic approach to expanding instructional leadership capacity. The partnership will focus on ensuring access and successful academic achievement for ALL students by working with the superintendent, board of education, central office staff, and teachers' and administrators' associations to help the district implement systemic improvements from the board room to the classroom.

Stamford was selected through a competitive process open to urban districts in Connecticut with enrollment greater than 7,500. The extensive review process included on-site visits to schools and interviews with key constituencies, including representatives of the superintendent's office, the school board, the teachers' and supervisors' associations, community and philanthropic organizations and elected officials.

Staff from the Panasonic Foundation and the Center for School Change will provide on-site technical assistance and coaching to key leaders of the Stamford Public Schools. The technical assistance will help Stamford Public Schools deepen its focus on aligning resources, improving the

A Systemic Approach to Expanding Instructional Leadership Capacity in Urban Districts

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coherence of instructional efforts, and developing the capacity of administrators and teachers as instructional leaders.

“The Panasonic Foundation and the Connecticut Center for School Change have cast a vote of confidence in the educators of the Stamford Public Schools and the important work we do. Both organizations have a great track record in helping school districts develop systems to have a single-minded focus on instruction. We are privileged that they are investing so profoundly in Stamford.” said Dr. Joshua Starr, superintendent, Stamford Public Schools.

The partnership with the Stamford Public Schools is the first joint project undertaken by the Connecticut Center for School Change and the Panasonic Foundation. The two school reform support organizations have formed a strategic alliance to expand their knowledge and skills in working with school districts. The goal of the alliance is to increase each organization’s effectiveness in helping districts improve the success of ALL students and close achievement gaps by breaking the links between race, poverty and educational outcomes.

“The Panasonic Foundation welcomes the opportunity to collaborate in a partnership aimed at improving the academic performance of all Stamford students. The Stamford schools and community have a strong commitment to equity,” said Dr. Larry Leverett, executive director, Panasonic Foundation.

“This is a unique collaboration between a national foundation, a statewide organization and an urban school district. All of us are focused on improving teaching and learning and working to close achievement gaps,” said Andrew Lachman, executive director, Connecticut Center for School Change.

About The Connecticut Center for School Change

The Connecticut Center for School Change consults with school districts to improve student outcomes. CCSC uses a system-wide, integrated approach focused on improving instructional practice and building leadership across all levels of a school system. CCSC supports comprehensive reform through a combination of grants, technical assistance, leadership development programs, conferences, and policy research.

About the Panasonic Foundation

The Panasonic Foundation was established in 1984 by the Panasonic Corporation of North America. It works in long-term partnership with a select number of school districts that serve a large proportion of children in poverty to help them develop the system-level policies, practices, and structures necessary to significantly improve achievement for ALL students: All Means All.

About the Stamford Public Schools

The Stamford Public School district is the fifth largest in Connecticut with 15,450 students and 20 schools.

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