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## **EDUCATION, BUSINESS, AND ADVOCACY GROUPS URGED TO SUPPORT CONNECTICUT STUDENTS THROUGH 'URBAN EDUCATION AGENDA'**

*Urban superintendents set priorities to increase student achievement in tough budget year*

(January 14, 2011) Stamford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr, who serves as the Chairperson of the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents (CAUS) announced today that the organization is reaching out to education, business, and advocacy groups across the state to garner support for the organization's Urban Education Agenda.

The 19 Connecticut school districts that comprise CAUS spent three months discussing and strategizing a realistic set of education priorities that will improve student outcomes. The organization's completed document, The Connecticut Urban Education Agenda, is comprised of seven goals, including the establishment of universal pre-k, more instructional time, revised funding formulas, statewide data systems, educator evaluations based on school/district reform needs, and more flexibility with regard to staff assignments and school governance. Each of these items requires full funding by the State and some may require legislative action.

As the entire nation continues to face difficult fiscal times, school districts cannot lose ground in their fight to ensure all students graduate ready for college. The economic viability of Connecticut is linked to its ability to educate all of its students, particularly those in urban areas. "The CAUS districts represent almost 200,000 students – more than one-third of Connecticut's total public school enrollment – and the vast majority of the state's African-American, Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, and English Language Learners," said Dr. Starr. "As go our cities, so go our towns, so it is critical that our state unites around common education goals to improve outcomes for all of our children."

CAUS has shared the Connecticut Urban Education Agenda with Governor Dannel Malloy and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The organization is requesting education and business-related groups to champion the Agenda by adding their names to the Connecticut Urban Education Agenda Facebook group or by emailing a statement of support to CAUS Chairperson Joshua Starr at [jestarr@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:jestarr@ci.stamford.ct.us). Additionally, CAUS member districts will ask their local Boards of Education to pass resolutions in support of the Agenda and will continue to meet with state legislators to gain their endorsements as well.

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