

Phase II...Of a Five-Year District Plan

Implementing the Vision

Creating an All-Choice

System of Schools

HARTFORD Public Schools 

CHOOSE. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.

The America's Choice School at SAND

Model Overview

- America's Choice whole school reform model
- Over 1,000 schools nationally
- Designed by the National Center on Education and the Economy
- Location: 1750 Main Street at SAND Elementary
- Grades PK-7 for 2009, PK-8 2010; 515 students
- Workshop instructional model
- Standards-based curriculum
- Extensive professional development
- On-site and ongoing coaching

School Mission

Mission

The America's Choice School at SAND is committed to cultivating each student's potential to develop a love of **reading** and **writing** that lays the **foundation** for high academic **achievement**.

School Vision

Vision

- ❖ Create an exciting, engaging learning environment
- ❖ Meet the needs of all learners
- ❖ Make AYP within 1st three years of implementation
- ❖ Prepare students with strong writing skills
- ❖ Prepare students as independent learners
- ❖ Parents support instruction
- ❖ Community partners focus on the model

Theme Focus

- **America's Choice School Reform Model**
 - Reader's and Writer's Workshops
 - Author and Genre Studies
 - Workshop Model for Math and Science

- **Young Authors/Writing Theme**
 - Connecticut Writing Project
 - School Newspaper
 - Literacy through the Arts

Research and Model Sites

America's Choice schools in...

Rochester, NY made substantial long-term gains in student achievement, particularly for low-performing and minority students on state tests and other nationally normed measures.

New York City topped state gains in English Language Arts and mathematics. America's Choice elementary students in almost 40 of the toughest schools in the district exceeded state gains annually and cumulatively.

Research and Model Sites

Chicago K–8 schools made the city’s “top 50 gainers” list for composite increases on the state test after just one year.

The Consortium for Policy Research in Education, Independent Evaluator

- **Model Sites**
 - Queens, New York, I.S. 93
 - Queens, New York, P.S. 145

Curriculum Highlights

Core Subjects	America's Choice Features	Intervention
Reader's Workshop 2.5 hour instructional block	Genre Studies 25 Book Campaign Author Studies	Literacy and Math Navigator
Writer's Workshop	Discipline: Rituals and Routines	Ramp-Up to Literacy and Math
Math Workshop	Use of Leveled Texts/ Resources for Core Assignments	Response to Intervention Model
Science Workshop	Posting Standards and Model Student Work in the Classroom	Read 180

Teacher Capacity Building

Off-Site Professional Development

- Regional academies for Principals and coaches
- Training Institutes for coaches and teachers that focus on the America's Choice standards-based approach to teaching and learning
- National Writing Project training through a local training center at CCSU

Teacher Capacity Building

On-Site Professional Development

- Model Classrooms /Lead Teachers
- Whole Faculty Workshops
- Study Groups
- Teacher Meetings

Student Leadership

- The School Newspaper Committee
- The Young Author's Club
- The Poet's Society

Parental Involvement Highlights

Parents will be visible in the classroom and support the theme of the school through participation in:

- Science Fair, Math Bowl and Spelling Bees
- Student performances
- Literacy Fair
- *Family of the Week* feature articles
- *Parents Writing with Students* classroom activities
- In-class parent interviews on the “topic of the month”

In Summary

The America's Choice School at SAND gives students and families:

- Standards-based instruction through a proven reform model
- Highly trained teachers and administrators
- High quality differentiated instruction and intervention materials
- A dynamic learning environment

Follow-Up to Board Workshop

Please direct comments and questions to
Kimberly Stone-Keaton in the Office of
School Design before Board adoption on
January 19, 2009:

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