



ROBERT HENRY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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SCHOOL SPECIALTY DONATES \$125,000 IN SUPPLIES TO HARTFORD SCHOOLS

HARTFORD – Hartford Public Schools has been selected as one of 17 school districts across the country to receive a donation of school supplies from School Specialty. The donation, valued in excess of \$125,000 consists of first quality merchandise that was acquired as part of a merger with another school supply company.

Hartford is the only customer of School Specialty in New England to receive this donation. The district was a logical choice as it has been a partner with School Specialty for the past four years, purchasing school supplies, furniture and equipment through various Connecticut state contracts. Hartford Public Schools has also been the pioneer of the Big Cities Consortium, which enabled Connecticut's school districts to receive national recognition through the consortium's volume purchasing power. With respect to business practices, Hartford has grown into a district on the cutting edge, with not only site-based management but also online ordering/budgeting, says Greg Harbaugh, regional sales manager for School Specialty New England.

"We have developed a system whereby teachers get their products in a minimum of three weeks in advance of the start of school and all orders are personalized with their name and room number," Harbaugh said.

Hartford was also chosen because of its large population of economically disadvantaged families and children, as well as the impact of budget cuts and state aid reductions. School Specialty was pleased to provide assistance to the district, which it considers a good customer, in a time of need.

"This is an excellent example of corporate commitment to staff and students," Schools Superintendent Robert Henry said. "We appreciate the generosity of School Specialty. They are exemplary corporate partners."

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