



Robert Henry
Superintendent of Schools

Hartford Public Schools
960 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
(860) 695-8000

PRESS RELEASE

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

Hartford Public Schools has been selected as one of seventeen school districts across the country to receive a donation of school supplies from School Specialty. School Specialty is the largest direct marketing company for supplemental educational supplies to schools and teachers for pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade in the United States.

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.

The donation will be presented on Monday, April 14, 2003 at Hartford Adult Education, 245 Locust Street in Hartford at 12 Noon.

“This is an excellent example of corporate commitment to the staff and students of Hartford,” stated Robert Henry, Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools. “We appreciate the generosity of School Specialty, they are exemplary corporate partners.”

Hartford is the only customer of School Specialty in New England to receive this donation. Hartford was a logical choice since Robert Henry, as Hartford Public Schools’ Chief of Staff, had directed the district to partner with School Specialty for the past four years, purchasing school supplies, furniture and equipment through various Connecticut state contracts. Hartford Public Schools has been the pioneer of the Big Cities Consortium, which enabled Connecticut’s school districts to receive national recognition through the consortiums volume purchasing power. Most recently, Hartford has entered into a purchasing vehicle, which includes the Commonwealth of Massachusetts school districts.

“With respect to business practices, Hartford has grown into a district on the cutting edge, since the state takeover, with not only site-based management but also internet on-line ordering/budgeting,” says Greg Harbaugh, regional sales manager for School Specialty

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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.”

Hartford was also chosen because of its large population of economically disadvantaged families and children and because of the severe restraints imposed on the district by budget cuts and reductions in state aid. School Specialty regrets that it could not make this donation available to other cities in Connecticut, but is happy to help a good customer in a time of great need.

As part of his administration, Superintendent Robert Henry emphasizes the need to continue building business relationships.

For more information on the School Specialty donation, contact Robert Ficeto at (860) 729-9367, or Jerry Clapis at (860) 695-8516.