

**The Welcome Center  
Hartford Public Schools**

960 Main Street  
1st Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Phone: 860-695-8400  
Fax: 860-722-8542

[www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org)

**Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

***Stop by or call for more details  
on the services offered!***



**Beth Schiavino-Narvaez, Ed. D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Dr. Jose Colón-Rivas**  
*Chief of Operations & Engagement*

**Welcome Center Staff**

**Marta Bentham,**  
*Senior Executive Director of Family Services  
& Ombudsman*

**Judith Fagan,**  
*Parent Advocate*

**Flor Zurita,**  
*Welcome Center Coordinator*

**Shelimar Ramirez,**  
*Homeless & Family Services Specialist*

**Board of Education Members**

Richard F. Wareing, *Chairman*

Beth A. Taylor, PhD., *Vice Chair*

Craig Stallings, *Secretary*

Michael Brescia, *Board Member*

Robert Cotto, Jr., *Board Member*

Karen Taylor, *Board Member*

Tiffany Glanville, *Board Member*

# The Welcome Center



**HARTFORD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Where the future is present.



**Educating Hartford's children is too important a job for schools  
to do by themselves  
We consider parents to be full partners in their child's education**



**The Welcome Center**

The Welcome Center was created to provide a welcoming, friendly and professional environment for families & community to engage them in improving student academic achievement.

It is located on the first floor of 960 Main Street, and is a **one-stop shop** that provides easy access for parents, students, families, employees and constituents; to request information, voice concerns, and resolve issues regarding their children's education. With the resources and guidance available, parents are able to play an integral role in engaging in their child's academic success.

**Who We Are**

The Welcome Center is under the Office of Operations and Engagement. We seek to provide district-wide innovative support and quality programming within a portfolio district framework. We put students at the center of their learning through early literacy, parent and community engagement, services for English Language Learners, Special needs, health & nutrition and school choice programming, etc.

**Mission**

We seek to satisfy families beyond their expectations by linking students, parents, principals, teachers, employees, and the community, to available resources and to ensure accurate information and quality assistance for all.



The Welcome Center is opened all year, Monday – Friday, **from 8:00 am to 5:00pm.** Our friendly staff is available to assist you with the information you need to enroll and support your children in school.

Information regarding : The Choice Program, School Uniforms, Special Education , Transportation Services and Parent Engagement opportunities, etc.

- ❖ **Choice Program** -registration, status of the lottery application and general information regarding the next school year placement process.
- ❖ **Families and Youth in Transition** assistance with placement for school and transportation services according to the *McKinney Vento Act Federal Law*
- ❖ **Uniforms** - Listing of School uniforms
- ❖ **The Special Education Department** - assistance in all matters relating to the needs of your children.
- ❖ **Transportation Department** -guidelines and bus scheduling information.

**McKinney-Vento Act**

**The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. It defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."**

- ◆ Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.
- ◆ Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- ◆ Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- ◆ Children and youth awaiting foster care placement.
- ◆ Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations.

The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to enroll homeless children and youth immediately, even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence. The act ensures that homeless children and youth have transportation to and from their school of origin if it is in the child's or youth's best interest.