The Welcome Center
Hartford Public Schools
330 Wethersfield Avenue
1st Floor
Hartford, CT 06114

Phone: 860-695-8400
Fax: 860-722-8542
www.hartfordschools.org

Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Dr. Leslie Torres- Rodriguez Ph.D.
Superintendent

Nuchette M. Black-Burke, M. Ed.
Chief of Family & Community Partnerships

Welcome Center Staff

Judith Fagan,
Director of Welcome Center / Family Services & Ombudsperson

Shelimar Ramirez,
Welcome Center Program Coordinator

Leslie Carrillo,
Homeless Program Assistant

Nancy Gonzalez,
Client Service Specialist

Board of Education Members

Ayesha R. Clarke, Chair
Shontá Browdy, Vice Chair
Kimberly D. Oliver, Second Vice Chair
Yvette Bello, Board Member
Rev. AJ Johnson, Board Member
Philip Rigueur, Board Member
Craig Stallings, Board Member
Jim Shmerling, Board Member
Our mission in partnership with our families and community, is to inspire and prepare ALL students to meet success in and beyond school.

**The Welcome Center**
The Welcome Center (WC) was created in October of 2007 to provide a welcoming, friendly and professional environment to serve families, schools and community. As part of the District Model of Excellence restructuring plan; the WC is strategically placed under the Office of Family & Community Partnerships. We are dedicated to supporting family engagement and community partnerships towards the goal of student success in school and beyond.

**Who We Are?**
The WC is a one-stop shop for families and the community, that provides front-end information about the district services, initiatives and programs, acting as a link between customers and appropriate district offices. We also work directly with school principals and network with local organizations to address parental requests and concerns including serving as case-management and mediation support. Parents are able to navigate the school system and play an integral role in their children academic progress with the resources and guidance that are provided.

**Mission**
We seek to satisfy families beyond their expectations by providing information, training and advocacy; to assist families in navigating the school system. The WC provides a link for families, schools and the community to available resources to ensure accurate information and quality assistance for all.

- **School Enrollment (Local & Regional)**
  Information regarding registration, Local and regional Choice application, and lottery information.

- **Uniforms and Vendors**
  Information.

- **Special Education Services**
  Assistance with all matters relating to the needs of your children with disabilities.

- **English Language Learners**
  Provide assistance to students that English is not their first language.

- **Bus Transportation**
  Guidelines and bus information. Request for special circumstances.

- **Parent Engagement Opportunities**: PTO/PTA & School Governance Council, Parent Training information, Adult Education, Volunteer and Internship opportunities.

- **Family & Community Partnerships**
  Partnerships with Purpose that together work with the district to support whole child. Our priority is to strengthen relationships with families, businesses, government, faith-based groups and the community.

- **Families and Youth in Transition**
  McKinney-Vento Act.

- **Parent trainings**

**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."

Through the McKinney-Vento Act we work to reduce and remove educational barriers for youth and families that are displaced and experiencing homelessness. Students and families living in shelters, emergency housing or doubled-up, Our office will help you to obtain all the assistance you are eligible to receive; including education resources, uniform assistance, transportation, 211 CAN Assessment for housing.