Two-Way (Dual) Language Program Feasibility Study and Supporting Data

In 2012, the Hartford Public Schools conducted a feasibility study to determine whether it could develop a two-way language program to take advantage of the language and racial/ethnic diversity of the region. **The study found that a two-way language school is feasible.**

While there would be challenges to establishing such a school, there could be even greater potential benefits to our region and educational programs. In short, **children that know multiple languages and navigate various cultures will thrive in our increasingly diverse state and interconnected world.** The study cited several potential benefits of a two-way language school, particularly a program that supports both Spanish-English, at an interdistrict magnet:

- Cognitive benefits to children
- Global awareness at an early age
- Bilingual citizens
- Positive connections between home and school life
- (Engage) Stakeholders in local agencies (Community and business support)
- Hartford would be a model for other districts
- Promotes cultural and social integration

Available data supports the viability of a two-way (dual) language, interdistrict magnet school in the Hartford region that builds on the strengths of our diverse children and families.

- In 2010-2011, Connecticut had 72,977 children that spoke a language other than English at home. **At least 13.1% of children in the state’s schools were multilingual.**
- Within this group of children, **there were 47,190 children in the state that spoke Spanish at home – 65% of all children with a non-English home language.**
- Throughout the state at least 1,000 children also spoke each of these languages at home: Portuguese, Polish, Chinese, Creole-Haitian, Albanian, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Urdu.
- In 2000-2001, there were **21,305 children, or 3.7% of all students,** that were determined to be “English Language Learners,” a subgroup of multilingual children. By 2011-2012, there were **30,142 children, or 5.4% of all students,** that were in this “ELL” category.
- The majority of children that speak a language other than English at home attend schools in the metropolitan areas such as Hartford, Bridgeport, Stamford, and New Haven.
- In 2010-2011, **one (1) out of every five (5) children** in Connecticut public schools that speak a language other than English at home attended schools in the Hartford region.
- In Hartford, more than **85% of children** with a non-English home language spoke Spanish.

---

2. Connecticut State Department of Education. “English Language Learners - Languages Spoken by Connecticut Students-2010-2011-All Languages.” Connecticut Education Data and Research. (CEDaR) The most recent data available is from 2010-11 and is based on October 1st enrollment counts.
3. Ibid. “English Language Learners - Number of English Language Learners (ELL)-All Years.”
4. Ibid. 15,828 of 72,977 of children that were not English attended public schools in the capital area towns that included: Hartford, W. Hartford, E. Hartford, Newington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, Manchester, S. Windsor, Windsor, Berlin, Simsbury, Windsor Locks, Avon, Cromwell, E. Windsor, Bloomfield, Canton, E. Granby, CREC. **Prepared by Robert Cotto, Jr. for “Creating A Dual Language Magnet School for the Hartford Region” on 4/13/13.**