

**The Welcome Center**  
**Hartford Public Schools**

960 Main Street  
1st Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

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[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*

**Deidre Tavera,**  
*Chief Engagement and Partnership Officer*

**Welcome Center Staff**

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

**Judith Fagan,**  
*Parent Advocate*

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

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

**Catheryne Ernote,**  
*Customer Service Specialist*

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*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 in October of 2007 to provide a welcoming, friendly and professional environment for families community to engage them in improving student academic achievement. Is located on the first floor of 960 Main Street. It 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 assisting in their child's academic achievement.

## Who We Are

The Welcome Center is part of the Office of Engagement and Partnerships. This office provides district-wide innovative support and quality program planning within a portfolio district framework in the areas of early literacy and the Third Grade Promise, parent and community engagement, English Language Learner services, school choice programming and health services.

## Mission

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



The Welcome Center is opened during all year from **8:00am to 5:00pm**. Our friendly staff is here to assist you with the information you need to enroll and support your children in school. Information regarding to: The Choice Program, Uniform Vendors, Special Education , and Transportation services.

- ❖ **Choice Open Program** for registration, status of the Lottery Application 2015/2016 and general information regarding to next school year placement process.
- ❖ **Families and Youth in Transition** assistance with placement for school and transportation services (If qualify) per the *McKinney Vento Act Federal Law (\*)*
- ❖ **Listing of Uniforms Vendors** information.
- ❖ **The Special Education Department** assistance in all matters relating to the needs of your children.
- ❖ **Transportation Department** guidelines and bus 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.