**Talking Points**

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| **Sustainable Funding for Magnet Schools**  [The Promise to Invest in the Future of  ALL Children] |  | **Equal Access to Magnet Schools**  [Transportation Matters] |
| Background   * CT has made a major investment in magnet schools. * In the past 12 years, the state has spent $2.5 billion to build and operate magnet schools to give more students access to educational opportunities. |  | Background   * Magnet schools serve children from all over the state. * Local school districts are not required to transport children to magnet schools. * The State of CT currently funds magnet school transportation at $1,300 per child for transportation. This amount falls short. * Families sacrifice their own money and time to transport their children to magnet schools. |
| Challenges   * From 2010-2015, the state did not provide funding increases for magnet schools – not even a cost of living adjustment. * The state will cut magnet school funding significantly – in 2016/17. [a 6.55% cut] * Lack of funding from the state means the burden of paying for magnet schools falls on the towns. * Reduced funding for magnet schools has the potential of forcing magnet schools and traditional schools to fight each other for resources. * Schools should not be forced to compete for funding. We should all be working together to help all children succeed. |  | Challenges   * The amount that the state reimburses magnet operators for bus transportation does not cover the cost. * Some families never apply to magnet schools because they are not able to drive their child to and from the school every day. * Other families are forced to withdraw their child from their magnet school because they cannot continue to provide transportation every day. |

**Overarching Key Messages**

* The State of CT must keep its promise to invest in the future of **all** children – regardless of their economic circumstances, backgrounds or zip codes.
* Meaningful education can only happen if **all** children have **equal access** to **all** schools - this includes magnet schools.
* **Every** child must have safe, reliable and free transportation to and from their school.
* We need to preserve our schools and give **all** children fair and open access to a great education.

ACTION ALERT

*Magnet schools are losing funding.*

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| What is the Challenge Facing  Magnet Schools? | What are the Messages that Elected Officials  Need to Hear? |
| Magnet school funding is being cut by the state.  The cuts will impact our magnet schools and their ability to continue providing meaningful education to children. | Please keep the State of Connecticut’s promise to children and their families:  Invest in the future of **all** children – regardless of backgrounds and zip codes.  Please support **continued** funding at current levels for our magnet schools. |

*Contact your legislator and tell them that magnet school funding cannot be compromised.*

*Find your legislator at www.cga.ct.gov*

ACTION ALERT

*Transportation matters:*

*Children attending magnet schools do not always have safe, reliable, free transportation.*

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| What is the Challenge Facing Children? | What are the Messages that Elected Officials Need to hear? |
| All children do not have equal access to magnet schools because children do not always have safe, reliable, free transportation to and from school. | The current state reimbursement to magnet operators of $1,300 per child does not cover the cost of bus service.  Please keep the State of Connecticut’s promise to students and their families:  Invest in the future of **all** students – regardless of backgrounds and zip codes.  Increase state funding for magnet school transportation, and make magnet schools accessible to all children who choose them. |

*Contact your legislator and tell them that magnet school funding cannot be compromised.*

*Find your legislator at www.cga.ct.gov*