

Who Chooses Schools and Why?

a special half-day conference

12 noon - 3pm

Tuesday, October 11th, 2005

Mather Student Center, Trinity College, Hartford CT

Our goal:

to bring together parents, practitioners,
policymakers, and researchers
to share what we know -- and still need to learn -- about
parental participation and student outcomes
regarding public and private school choice in Greater Hartford

Focusing on:

- magnet schools
- charter schools
- Capitol Region Choice Program
- Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation
- Mayor Perez's independent schools initiative

Co-sponsored by:

The University of Connecticut
Center for Education Policy Analysis
at the Neag School of Education

and the

Cities, Suburbs & Schools Research Project
Educational Studies Program, Trinity College

All conference materials will be posted on the web at:
www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

12:00 Welcoming and Lunch

12:10 Presentations -- What do we currently know?

“Public and Private School Choice in Greater Hartford: A Brief Overview and Computer Mapping Analysis”

by Jack Dougherty and Naralys Estevez, Trinity College

“What Do Parents Want?”

by Courtney Bell, University of Connecticut

“What Are the Outcomes of Choice Programs?”

by Casey Cobb, University of Connecticut

1 - 1:30pm Small Group Discussions, part one -- What do we still need to know about school choice?

focused discussions to identify questions that still need to be answered, with Trinity student researchers as notetakers

1:30pm Coffee break

1:40 - 2pm Small Group Discussions, part two -- Reporting back

2 - 3pm Response Panel – Views from public & private choice programs

five-minute responses from panelists, followed by question & answer with audience panelists:

- Delores Bolton, Assistant Superintendent of Magnet Schools, Hartford Public Schools
- Bruce Douglas, Executive Director, Capitol Region Education Council
- Mayor Eddie Perez, City of Hartford
- Michael Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer, Jumoke Academy charter school, Hartford
- Donald K. Wilson, Executive Director, Children’s Educational Opportunity Foundation of Connecticut

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About the conference organizers:

Courtney Bell is an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry at Dartmouth College and her doctorate in the curriculum, teaching, and educational policy program at Michigan State University. Bell's research investigates how and why parents choose schools among the varying public, private, and religious educational institutions that are available to them. Based on interviews she conducted in Detroit, parents' preferences are deeply influenced by their cultural understandings of their children, schools, and communities. Email: courtney.bell@uconn.edu

Casey Cobb is an assistant professor of education policy and director of the Center for Education Policy Analysis at the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. He received his bachelor's degree in economics at Harvard and his doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies at Arizona State University. His previous research focused on Arizona, using geographic information system (GIS) computer mapping to test whether charter schools increased student racial separation more than traditional public schools. Email: casey.cobb@uconn.edu

Jack Dougherty is an associate professor and director of the Educational Studies Program at Trinity College. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Swarthmore College and his doctorate in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Through the Cities, Suburbs, and Schools Research Project at Trinity, Dougherty and his students are studying the changing relationship between public education and private real estate markets in metropolitan Hartford over the past fifty years. Email: jack.dougherty@trincoll.edu

Selected references from the academic literature on school choice:

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See additional references to Hartford area research on the Cities, Suburbs, and Schools website:
<http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css>