

# 2024 CREC LEGISLATIVE Priorities



## MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING:

The 16 Sheff magnet schools and two programs, managed by CREC, serve 8,500+ urban and suburban students. CREC cannot continue to provide high quality, integrated education without implementation of a short and long term plan. The prolonged lack of an equitable funding resolution affects every district, school, and student.

## FY2025 BUDGET REQUEST:

- Maintain the current Sheff Magnet per student RESC grant of \$10,652 AND Assure the \$40.2 million funding in PA 23-204 to support CREC & other RESC magnet schools is preserved.
  - ◆ If this funding is maintained CREC will continue to hold districts harmless, if there is a reduction then sending districts will receive an increase in tuition bills.
- Extend tuition relief for Sheff region Alliance districts with excess enrollment.

## FACTS:

- NCEP has increased by 42% since 2010, while the Sheff Magnet Per Pupil Grant increased by 2% in the same time period;
- The Sheff Magnet Grants covers only 56% of the average cost to educate a child in CT compared to 77% in 2010;
- Sheff Magnet do not receive funding through the state Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant; and
- Unlike local school districts, RESCs do not have a tax base to cover additional costs for magnet schools.



## BONDING REQUESTS:

### 1. PERMANENT FACILITY FOR THE GREATER HARTFORD ACADEMY OF THE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL:

- The Arts Academy High School is the only Sheff School at CREC that is housed in a leased facility.
- CREC is currently identifying a permanent location within the City of Hartford.
- The current cost of the lease is \$3.3 million, which is a cumulative \$12.7 million operating loss over the past five years.

### 2. CREC EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT ROGER WOLCOTT

- Support CREC's efforts in expanding early childhood seats through Head Start programming.
- \$15.7M in state bonding for capital improvements to serve over 200 children and families with 17 preschool and infant/toddler classrooms. Funding will rehabilitate two wings to house a collection of programs and services and office space.
- Renovated area will allow for onsite family support and engagement including mental health and wellness support and adult education/ workforce development and community room.

