

**GLASTONBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT FORM**

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Title of Report: Open Choice Participation 2015-16

Board Meeting Date: December 8, 2014

Action: Report: X Information: Discussion:

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Overview: As discussions were held on school consolidation throughout the summer, there were residents and representatives of Open Choice who urged the Board to consider taking more students through Open Choice with the thought that would affect the closing of schools. The following statements are for your consideration:

- We presently have 54 Open Choice students. We also have ninety Hartford Magnet School students in GEHMS and 32 AgScience students from Hartford.
- If we increase student enrollment in Open Choice from 54 to 81, the per-pupil allocation goes up from \$3,000 per student to \$6,000 per student. If we chose this option, we may need to take more than 27 students to ensure we end up with at least 81 by October 1 or we are not eligible for the increased allocation.
- Our per-pupil cost is over \$14,000. That does not mean adding a student to a school costs \$14,000, since some fixed costs of the school are not based on the number of students. However, any one student costs more than \$6,000. In addition, we find we are using additional funds for Open Choice to provide tutoring in deficient areas of reading, writing and math.
- We have a much higher percentage of special education students from Open Choice (24%) compared to Glastonbury students (11%). This requires additional costs for support help. If other costs are incurred for special education beyond our present staff, Hartford is required to pay for it.
- We presently only accept students in kindergarten. In that way, Open Choice students have thirteen years to benefit from our school system. If we accept 27 or more students, we would have to accept students from more grades.
- For the year 2014-15, there were only 12 parents of elementary students who listed Glastonbury for Open Choice in their top 5 choices. There is much more competition for magnet school slots with specialty themes.
- If we increase our Open Choice enrollment, it will have no effect on school consolidation.

Submitted By: Alan Bookman