

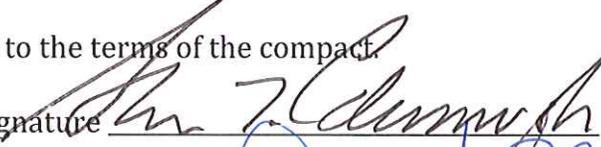
DISTRICT/CHARTER COLLABORATION COMPACT
A Collaboration to Transform Education in Hartford, CT

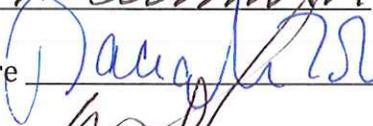
This District/Charter Collaboration Compact (the “Compact”) commits district and charter leaders in Hartford, Connecticut, to improve the ways they will work together and influence each other for the benefit of all students in the city, and to ensure that all children have access to high-quality public schools. The individual responsibilities of each party, including the district superintendent and charter school leaders, are as follows:

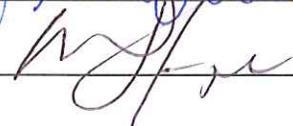
1. District superintendent and public charter school leaders in Hartford, Connecticut agree that they have a collective obligation to ensure that *all* students in the city graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college, work, and life. The children living within Hartford do not belong to a particular district school or to a particular charter school. They are all our children and we, as the providers of public education in the city of Hartford, will work to minimize the distinction between district and charter school, wherever possible so that all children in Hartford have access to great public schools.
2. Charter leaders agree to support the success of district schools and fulfill their roles as laboratories for innovation and as providers of high-quality education options in Hartford by:
 - a. Engaging in proactive and coordinated recruitment with the district to ensure that high-need and underserved populations are well-informed about their school placement options. Charter leaders believe it is important for *all* children to be able to find an appropriate placement at a school of their choice.
 - b. Ensuring transparency and accountability regarding student demographics, mobility and achievement, particularly college readiness, including publicly tracking and reporting data annually, including items such as attrition, student transfers, English Language Learners, and special education students, to the extent allowable by law.
 - c. Operating and positioning public charter schools as partners in the city-wide effort to provide an excellent education for all students, and fostering a cooperative and collaborative relationship between district and public charter schools.
 - d. While responding to parent demand, working with the district to locate new schools in highest-need areas, connected to district feeder patterns and in alignment with district and affiliated-charter school growth plans.
 - e. Actively sharing demonstrated best practices with the Hartford Public Schools to scale up what works and build capacity of public district schools, where appropriate.

3. The superintendent agrees to support the success of charter schools in Hartford by:
 - a. Working collaboratively with affiliated charters, where possible, to leverage the benefits of school district economies of scale at the option of public charter schools (e.g., contracts for purchasing supplies, products and services), to increase their efficiency and effectiveness.
 - b. Working toward equitable distribution of resources for all public schools, charter and district, including advocating for equitable student funding and providing access, where available, to district facilities for affiliated public charter schools.
 - c. Working to remove obstacles and barriers, such as charter caps and funding limitations, that hinder the success of individual public charter schools or that thwart their expansion and replication
 - d. Protecting the autonomies of all public charter schools and honoring state public charter school statutes, including public charter school principles of independent governance, operations and open enrollment.
 - e. Actively sharing demonstrated best practices with all public charter schools to scale up what works and build capacity of public charter schools, where appropriate.
4. The superintendent and affiliated charter leaders accept a mutual obligation to pursue accountability across all schools in the city, including by working to close, reconstitute, or by other means immediately addressing persistently low-performing schools, whether district or charter. (See Appendix A for Hartford Public School's 2010 district Performance Matrix and Appendix B for the Hartford Board of Education Redesign Policy.)
5. The superintendent and affiliated charter leaders embrace and will act enthusiastically to help the most effective schools expand and replicate, whether those schools are district or charter schools, in order to extend quality offerings to larger numbers of students.

We, the undersigned, agree to the terms of the compact.

District Representative's Signature  Date 12.2.10

Achievement First Representative's Signature  Date 12.6.10

Jumoke Academy Representative's Signature  Date 12-2-10

SPECIFIC PARTNER COMMITMENTS: HARTFORD

Listed below are additional commitments for each Compact signatory partner.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADER JOINT COMMITMENTS:

- Maintain ongoing and mutual opportunities for inter-visitation and practice sharing, both in formal professional development and more informally between district and charter schools.
- Share instructional tools, including curriculum, formative assessments, and summative assessments, through access to online tools and systems.
- Develop a common approach to operating admission lotteries for all public schools, including common forms and a common parent information system. Seek to track outcomes of students winning and losing those lotteries and follow-up on lessons learned based on lottery study results.
- Share access to longitudinal data systems and data warehouses; share best practices regarding data use and standard operating procedures at all levels (classroom, school district) to improve student success.
- Commit to a collaborative discussion with and lobbying of state legislators to advance legislation in areas of mutual interest, including for funding and the development and retention of effective teachers and school leaders.
- Explore, over the next two years, expansion of affiliated-charter schools in Hartford into a K-12 feeder system.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT COMMITMENTS:

- Pursue grant funding in collaboration with the charters
- Develop, by June 2011, a pathway and a set of criteria for non-district affiliated Hartford charter schools to negotiate district-affiliation agreements. Criteria for district affiliation will be based on factors such as levels of student achievement and other standards of quality, commitment to coordinated outreach to and service of underserved populations, and transparency of reporting related to each of the above.
- Provide access to adequate facilities for district-affiliated charters including provision of maintenance, custodial services, nursing services (may be part-time) food service, utilities, phone, internet connection, trash and recycling removal and security services.
- Ensure equitable funding for monies passed through the district. Specifically commit to do everything within the district's power, including passing maximum feasible amount of funding to charters, particularly for special needs students.

CHARTER SCHOOL LEADER COMMITMENTS:

- Support the work of the Hartford Public Schools' professional development efforts such as mentoring principals-in-residence annually at affiliated charter schools.
- Commit to track and share key data such as student mobility, demographics and achievement, reporting annually to the Hartford Public Schools.
- Pursue grant funding in collaboration with the district.