

Is CTHSS a Magnet School?

Governor Malloy's proposal [HB 6385] to phase the CTHSS into local school boards presumes that if each school were under the jurisdiction of the local town, like most magnet schools, education would be improved and money could be saved. However, this is not the case for several reasons:

- Magnet schools are stand-alone schools; they are not connected to other magnet schools or local schools. We have 17 schools that are all intricately interconnected through Central Office, support staff, and the SVFT and other unions.
- Magnet schools are public schools with specialized courses or curricula, such as math-science or performing arts programs. Our school has a wide range of specialized trades, not just one. Instead of providing a curriculum of interest, our trades provide licenses and certifications that interface with the labor department through apprenticeship programs, and hours required to obtain licenses.
- We are different from a local Tech Ed program in the amount of time spent in the trade, in-depth comprehensive curriculums, and instructors with a minimum of 8 years experience who are trade licensed/certified.
- Magnet schools are funded by the local town; we have schools that draw students from 23 or more different towns. Who would fund that school? Would the other towns be allowed to attend?
- Magnet schools are overseen by local school boards; we are overseen by one central office location which drives a common mission, common curricula, specialized professional development, and connections to each of the schools.
- Magnet schools obtain students from a lottery process; ours is a specialized application process. Our students attend because they have a specific skill, and often seek to be licensed or certified in a specific trade upon graduation.

Please help us spread the word that CTHSS is not a magnet school. We might have been the first magnet school model, but we have evolved to be so much more.