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6,000 People Rally for Excellent Schools in Largest Education Mobilization in Connecticut History

Civil Rights Leaders Stand with Parents in #ForEveryChild Movement Calling for Bold Action to Address Statewide Educational Inequity

#ForEveryChild—ForEveryChildCT.org



New Haven, CT – Waving signs with messages of “Great Schools Now!” and “Kids Can’t Wait,” 6,000 parents, students, and educators joined prominent civil rights leaders on the New Haven Green to demand bold action to ensure every Connecticut child can attend an excellent school. Despite progress in recent years, nearly 40,000 children attend 63 persistently failing schools.

Hartford State Representative Doug McCrory joined prominent civil rights leaders and parents on stage at Wednesday’s #ForEveryChild rally, as the crowd surged to a larger-than-projected 6,000 total attendees by 10 am. The rally is the latest and most significant call for leaders to build on recent progress and address the state’s failing schools crisis. The rally comes ahead of a critical legislative session in Connecticut where growing ranks of parents are expected to stress the urgency of ensuring equitable access to excellent schools.

Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools disproportionately serve students of color and low-income students. According to a [report](#) recently released by ConnCAN, of the 40,000 students attending persistently failing schools, 87% of students at these schools are African American or Hispanic while 90% of students come from low-income households.

“Connecticut faces an urgent crisis: statewide, there are 40,000 students in failing schools. Almost all are students of color. This is a civil rights issue. The time for bold change is now,” said **Connecticut NAACP President Scot X. Esdaile**.

“The reality is that if we fail to educate kids now,” said **Pastor Eldren Morrison of Varick AME Church in New Haven**, “history has proven we will pay the cost of building more prisons later.”

“We are here today to fight for every child,” said **parent Tara Maxwell**, “we are here

to fight for the 40,000 children who are counting on us to fix this crisis.”

“Today we made sure our leaders heard us loud and clear,” **said parent Desarie Gonzalez.** “We will not stop until every child in Connecticut attends a GREAT school.”

“6,000 people made history today with a simple demand: provide a great school for every Connecticut child, particularly the 40,000 trapped in failing schools,” said **Jen Alexander, CEO of ConnCAN.**

"Thousands of voices came together today to demand better options for children in our state," said **Jeremiah Grace, Connecticut State Director for the Northeast Charter Schools Network.** "Elected leaders need to answer the call and take responsibility for the future of our children. We can't let another generation slip through the cracks."

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The Coalition For Every Child is a movement of parents, students, educators, community members, faith leaders, advocates and organizations dedicated to ensuring that each and every Connecticut student has a quality education. Stand with us and support the campaign for better schools.



