



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Select School Districts  
Hartford Area Interdistrict Magnet School Operators

**FROM:** Keith M. Norton, Chief Strategic Planning Officer *KMN*  
Office of Strategic Planning

**DATE:** November 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) Interdistrict Magnet Transportation: Delayed Openings, Early Dismissals and School Closings

This communication is a continuation to the memorandum sent on March 21, 2019 *Magnet School Bell Alignment and Transportation*. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) met with representatives from the RSCO Transportation and interdistrict magnet school operators to discuss past practices for transporting magnet students during inclement weather in the greater Hartford area and the concerns associated with the tiered bus schedules. Based on information that was provided, the CSDE established the following delayed openings, early dismissals and school closings scenarios and procedures are **effective immediately**.

**Delayed Openings**

It was shared with the CSDE that Hartford area interdistrict magnet schools (magnet schools) and the districts located in the RSCO Transportation Zone (districts) use varying delayed opening times (e.g., 1 hour, 1 ½ hours, 2 hours, and 3 hours). Therefore, RSCO Transportation will continue the practice of using the magnet school or district with the latest delay to schedule bus route delay times.

Delayed Openings	
Scenario	Procedures
Magnet schools and/or districts have a delayed opening	RSCO Transportation will delay bus routes using the magnet school or district with latest delay on the bus route.

**Early Dismissals**

The CSDE was made aware that bus arrival time at magnet schools is inconsistent during early dismissals. To provide consistency during early dismissals, RSCO Transportation will use the following times for Tier 1 and Tier 2 bus routes.

Early Dismissals	
Scenarios	Procedures
Magnet schools and/or districts have an early dismissal	<p>RSCO Transportation transports bus routes using the following early dismissal times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 1 bus routes at 11:00 a.m.</li> <li>• Tier 2 bus routes at 12:15 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If a bus has more than one town on its route, and at least one of the towns has an early dismissal, then all the students on that bus route will be released early.</p>

### School Closings

Since a majority of the magnet schools and students reside in the city of Hartford, RSCO Transportation will follow Hartford Public Schools (HPS) decision for school closing.

School Closings	
Scenarios	Procedures
All magnet schools and districts are closed	RSCO Transportation will not transport students, i.e., all bus routes are canceled.
Only HPS are closed and remaining magnet schools and/or districts are open	RSCO Transportation will not transport students, i.e., all bus routes are canceled.
HPS is open and some magnet schools and/or districts are closed	RSCO Transportation will only transport students to and from those magnet school and/or districts that are open.

RSCO Transportation will implement these procedures and include this information in publications and resources (e.g., notifications, mailings, and website).

For questions regarding bus routes contact the RSCO Transportation office at [transportation@crec.org](mailto:transportation@crec.org) or [860-524-4077](tel:860-524-4077). For questions regarding this communication contact the Office of Strategic Planning at [SDE.StrategicPlanning@ct.gov](mailto:SDE.StrategicPlanning@ct.gov) or [860-713-6465](tel:860-713-6465).

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