

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to tell our story. My family moved to Connecticut four years ago after living in New Hampshire for fourteen years. I grew up in Connecticut and wanted my children to not only experience the superior education that I received here, but to live in a more integrated society. We chose Glastonbury because we had many friends living here and we knew that the Town's commitment to education and the educational experience are excellent. The integration piece, however, was lacking.

My daughter is attending the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science. She now goes to school with other students who share her love of math and science, and is in the company of kids from a myriad of ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. She goes to GHAMAS in the morning, and then she's back at Glastonbury High School in the afternoon, and is thriving in these environments. She is getting the wonderful education in an integrated setting we wanted her to experience.

Students who happen to live in Hartford should get the same great education as those in the surrounding towns. The fact that the magnets schools have been, and continue to be built to help these students is encouraging. The Sheff goals need to be met, and we hope we are doing our part to make sure they are. The lawmakers of our state need to be sure they continue to do their part. Please fund our schools to the levels that not only satisfy the Sheff goals, but to keep our state and our children competitive in this global economy. The future of Connecticut's economy depends on how we treat education now.

Thank you.

Barbara Eastman  
Glastonbury, CT