

★ CONNCAN 2012 ★



ANNUAL REPORT

In our 2012 Annual Report, we'd like to tell you a story:

The story of a bill that became a law with the power to change the course of Connecticut public education. And of the story of the advocacy organization that helped make it happen.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US

ConnCAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and we advocate for every Connecticut student's right to a quality public education. Each year, we operate on many fronts in order to reach our goals.

Here's an overview of how all the pieces fit together:



Jennifer Alexander
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Anna Marcucio
Executive Vice President



Lisa Whitfield
Vice President of Finance,
Human Resources, & Operations



Kara Rynecki
Executive Team Coordinator



Alex Spurrier
Research & Policy Manager



Yamuna Menon
Senior Associate, Policy
& Legal Affairs

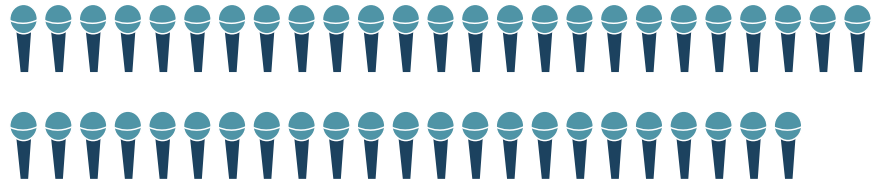
LEADERSHIP TEAM

We're the public face of ConnCAN, and we set the strategy for changing public policy to improve outcomes for kids.

Miles logged in CT: **19,575**



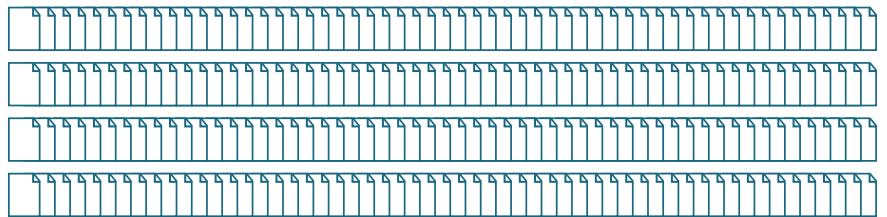
Radio, TV, and public appearances: **48**



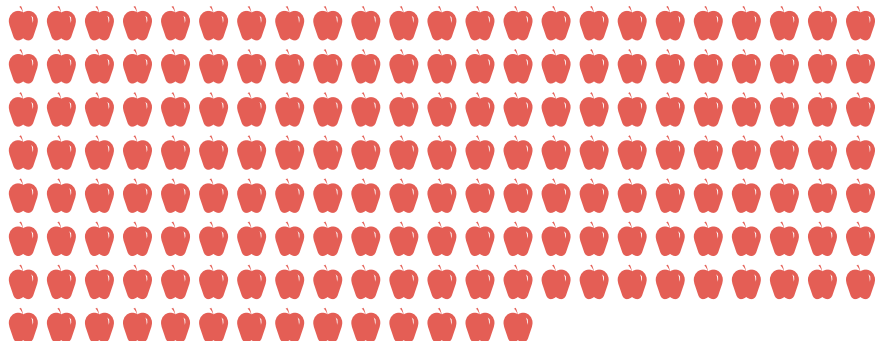
RESEARCH & POLICY

We create online tools to help people access data, and publish original research to help everyone understand Connecticut public education.

Pages of research published: **224**



Teacher contracts reviewed: **175**





Jamilah Prince-Stewart
Senior Associate of Community Engagement

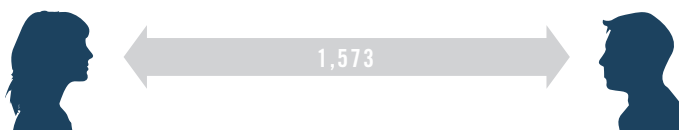
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We empower families and communities to advocate for kids.

Signatures gathered for online petitions: **3,018**



Community members reached face-to-face: **1,573**

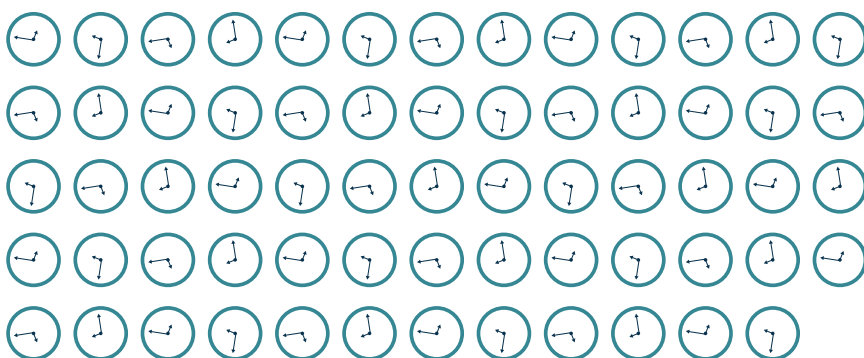


Jessica Stram
Senior Director of Government Affairs

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

We engage with lawmakers to advance policies that will help kids.

Hours spent at the Capitol: **1,928**



Number of town hall meetings attended by the ConnCAN team: All **13**





Brett Broesder
Director of Communications



Michael Shulanksy
Communications Associate



Jordan Fenster
Editor

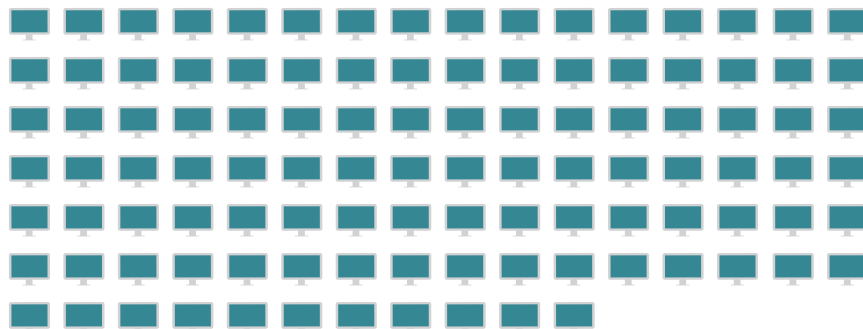
COMMUNICATIONS

We get the word out about education reform and our campaigns, driving the public debate to improve outcomes for kids.

Tweets tweeted: **1,826**



Blog posts posted: **107**



Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis
Director of Development

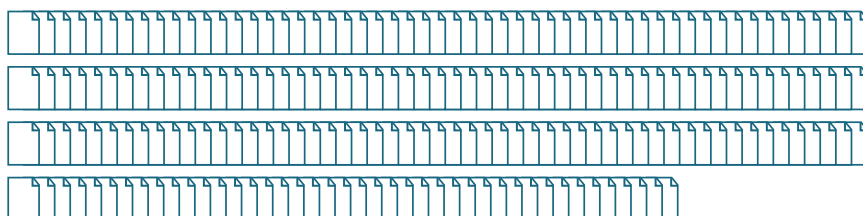


Brittany Coleman
Development Associate

DEVELOPMENT

We connect with people who are passionate about improving public education, channeling their gifts to make the greatest possible impact.

Pages of grant reports submitted: **104**



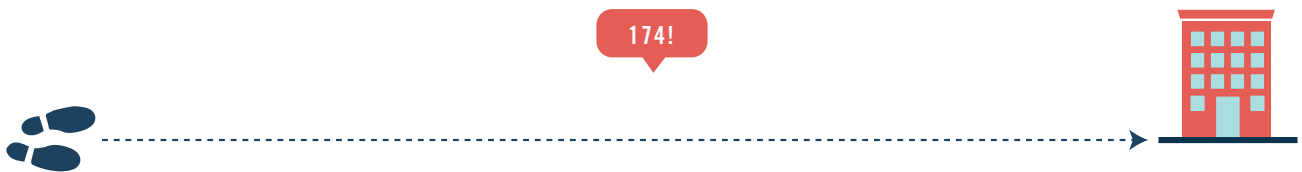
Donations received: **172**



FULL STAFF



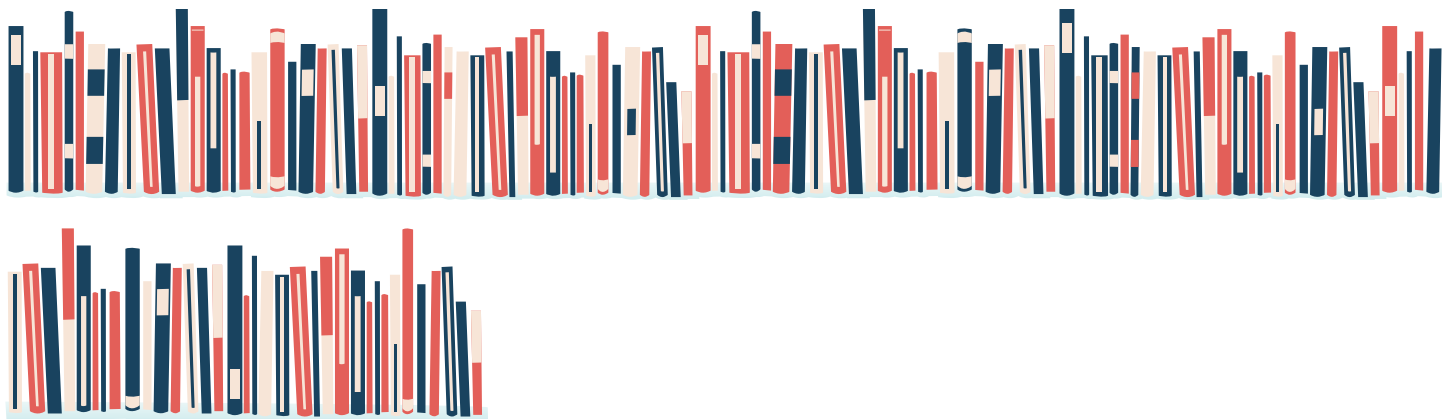
Feet moved from old office space to new office space: **174**



Houses built with Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven: **1**



Students who listened to us read storybooks at the School Volunteer Association
of Bridgeport's annual Read Aloud Day: **140**



Coffees consumed: **TOO MANY!**



★ THE STORY ★

of

The year 2012 is rendered in a large, bold, red serif font. It is flanked on both sides by dark blue laurel wreaths, which are stylized with several leaves on each branch. The entire graphic is centered horizontally.

2012

How **Senate Bill 24** Becomes a Law

The KEY PLAYERS



CONNCAN

Our passionate staff & Board
of Directors



ADVOCATES

Fired up families, community
members, clergy leaders,
and e-advocates



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Leading education, community,
and business groups that care just
as deeply as we do about improving
Connecticut public education



GOVERNOR MALLOY

Connecticut's 88th governor,
sworn into office in January 2011



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Administrative agency that
oversees Connecticut's
school system



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The legislative gatekeepers for all
things education, including the
major reforms proposed in 2012



BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN CAUCUS

Connecticut's legislators of color,
united to promote an agenda that
supports their constituents and
their communities



CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The entire legislative body,
required to vote before a bill
becomes a law

★ FEBRUARY ★

05



2012: THE YEAR FOR EDUCATION REFORM

Governor Malloy hosts a statewide workshop on education reform solutions for Connecticut, and spends the next month promoting his vision for reform.

★ FEBRUARY ★

08



THE STATE OF THE STATE

Governor Malloy speaks out on the importance of education in the 2012 legislative session.

I am determined to fix our public schools. I do not think it will be easy, nor do I think it will happen overnight. But it will happen. It must happen.

Governor Dannel Malloy



SENATE BILL 24 IS BORN

The governor's reform proposal is raised in legislative committee, weighing in at a whopping **164** pages.

KEY PROPOSALS:

1. Teacher Evaluations

Raise the bar for entrance into the teaching profession, improve teacher and principal evaluation systems, and tie tenure decisions to classroom performance.

2. School Funding

Create a statewide common chart of accounts, increase per-pupil funding for charter schools, and set aside conditional funding for the "Alliance Districts," the lowest-performing school districts.

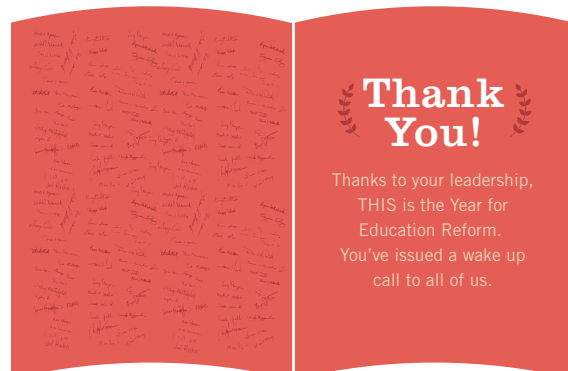
3. School Turnarounds

Develop the Commissioner's Network to turn around up to 25 of the state's lowest-performing schools.



THANK YOU, GOVERNOR MALLOY!

Over **1,000** advocates sign a petition to thank Governor Malloy for his education reform plan.



★ FEBRUARY ★

09

★ FEBRUARY ★

15

★ FEBRUARY ★

16



PLAIN LANGUAGE

ConnCAN releases our summary of Senate Bill 24: Breaking down the bill in plain language and giving our take on the governor's education reform plan.



PUBLIC HEARINGS

February 21 & 22

The Education Committee and Appropriations Committee hold three public hearings on Senate Bill 24. ConnCAN, our partners, and supporters of education reform — including Governor Malloy himself — speak out in support of key pillars of the bill.

“I want to walk into school on Monday and know that I did one of my most important jobs as a teacher – I advocated for kids.”

George Gianakakos, Bridgeport Public School Teacher

“I may be a student, but I know what a great teacher looks like, and I have had some of them. They have changed my life and made me love learning and believe in myself. That is why I believe this committee should pass Senate Bill 24.”

Edwin Rosales, Norwalk Public School Student

“Our public schools once led the nation, and now Connecticut leads in achievement gaps. Education is the civil rights issue of our time. This is our opportunity. The time is now to change the status quo.”

Governor Dannel Malloy

★ FEBRUARY ★

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CONNCAN SURVEY

ConnCAN releases a survey of **400** teachers and principals. The results clearly show that Connecticut's educators support the types of reforms included in Senate Bill 24.

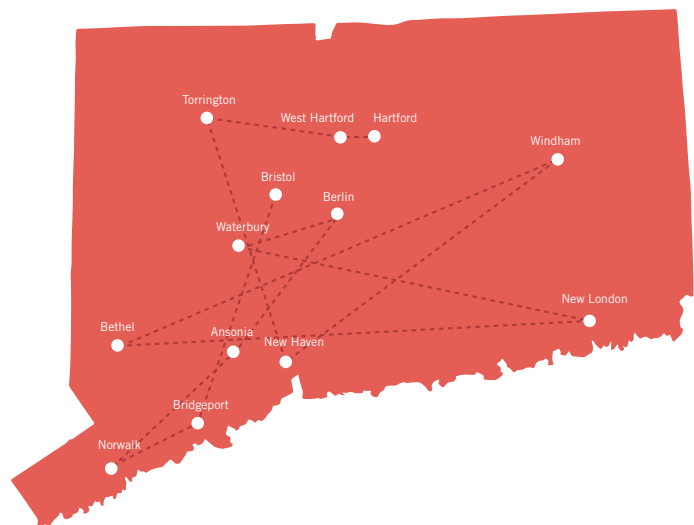


TOWN HALLS

Governor Malloy takes Senate Bill 24 on the road, kicking off a series of **13** town hall meetings across the state. ConnCAN staff and advocates attend every event.

★ FEBRUARY ★

28



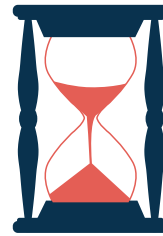
★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

06



WAITING

Waiting for committees to vote on Senate Bill 24, over **2,000** advocates sign ConnCAN's petition asking the legislators to stay true to Governor Malloy's proposals.



★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

12



MYTHS & FACTS

ConnCAN and our partners debunk some myths while setting the record straight with facts about Senate Bill 24.

★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

15



STILL WAITING

Education reform advocates send over **800** letters to lawmakers, asking them to demonstrate leadership and support Governor Malloy's proposal.



★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

26



A WEAK SUBSTITUTE

Education Committee releases a new version of Senate Bill 24 that weakens teacher evaluations, school funding, and school turnarounds.

★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

26



MORE WAITING

March 26 - May 07

Education Committee chairs and legislative leadership begin negotiating on Senate Bill 24. ConnCAN works to influence these talks from the outside.



★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

28



THE GOVERNOR SPEAKS OUT

Governor Malloy sends an open letter to the General Assembly.

“To those who say we can wait,
I respectfully say you’re wrong. We
can’t wait. We’ve waited long enough.”

Governor Dannel Malloy

★ ★ MARCH ★ ★

29



PLAIN LANGUAGE

ConnCAN releases a summary of the new, weakened version of Senate Bill 24. We outline our concerns with the revisions and offer suggestions for improvement.



A MEDIA STORM

ConnCAN, our partners, and our advocates publish op-eds against the Education Committee's revisions. Thanks in part to our outreach, leading newspapers publish editorials in support of Governor Malloy's original education proposals – and question legislators' leadership on such important issues.



The New London Day

★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

04



THE STATE BOARD STEPS IN

Connecticut's State Board of Education issues a unanimous resolution urging lawmakers to restore Senate Bill 24.

★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

04



WE SPEAK OUT

ConnCAN stands publicly with well – respected education and business partners, hosting a press conference to explain why we're against the revisions to Senate Bill 24.

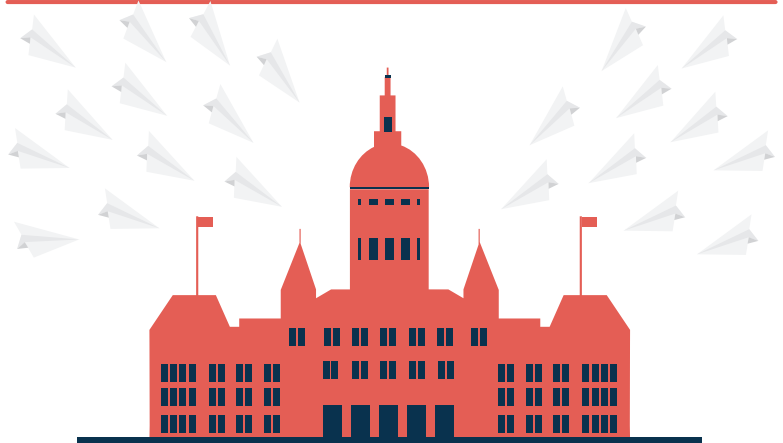
★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

18



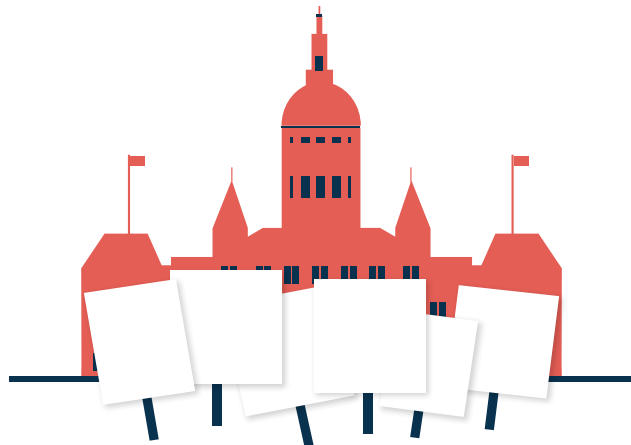
URGING ACTION

Advocates send over **250** emails to lawmakers, urging them to support the original Senate Bill 24.



A RALLY FOR REFORM

Governor Malloy joins advocates, students, and families who rally at the Capitol in support of his original proposals.



★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

19

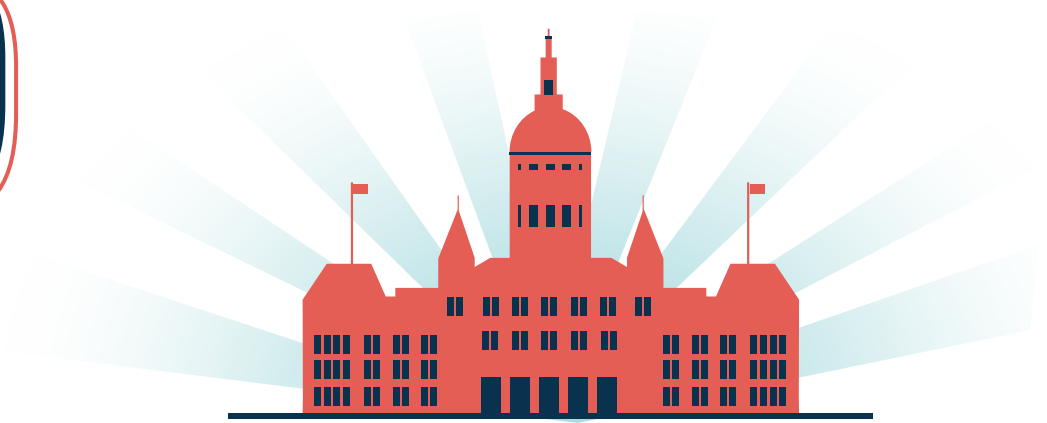
★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

25



CLERGY LEADERS AT THE CAPITOL

With support from ConnCAN, a group of faith-based leaders from across Connecticut host a press conference and meet with Governor Malloy and legislative leaders to express how vitally important education is to their communities.



★ ★ APRIL ★ ★

26



A LEAK

A bill summary is leaked, revealing plans to weaken Senate Bill 24 even further. We issue an immediate public statement in opposition, asking legislators to take a stand on reform and act on behalf of Connecticut's students.

★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★

03



LEADERS TAKE A STAND

The Black and Puerto Rican Caucus speaks out publicly in support of education reform, presenting a set of recommendations to make Senate Bill 24 even stronger.

★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★

07

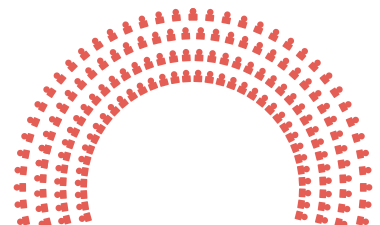
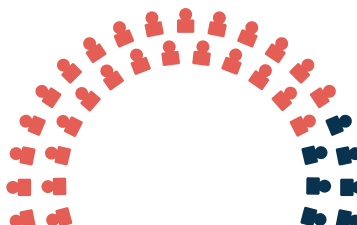


THE STALEMATE IS OVER

Governor Malloy announces that negotiations are coming to an end and a compromise has been reached. After a long night of debate, the bill is passed in the Senate and House.

Senate: 28 – 7

House: 149 – 0



★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★

15



VICTORY AT LAST

Governor Malloy signs the landmark education reform package
into law as **Public Act 12-116**

A red ink signature of Governor Malloy, written in a cursive style.

x



THE STORY DOESN'T END THERE



★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★

16



A PRACTICAL GUIDE

ConnCAN publishes our *Field Guide to Education in Connecticut: 2012*, a pocket-sized reference book filled with statistics on Connecticut education.



★ ★ ★ MAY ★ ★ ★

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MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

ConnCAN releases our report, *Measuring Teacher Effectiveness: A look “under the hood” of teacher evaluation at ten sites*, to give policymakers and school leaders the tools they need to design effective educator evaluation systems informed by current best practices.



★ ★ ★ JUNE ★ ★ ★

20



CLOSE - UP ON CONTRACTS

ConnCAN launches its Teacher Contract Database, a comprehensive database of teacher collective bargaining agreements from all **175** local education agencies in Connecticut.



★ SEPTEMBER ★

12



BUILDING THE COALITION

ConnCAN hosts a summit for Connecticut education reformers, where we set goals to make sure we're building off the success of 2012 to work together in service of our state's children.

★ ★ OCTOBER ★ ★

03



ROADMAP FOR REFORM

ConnCAN releases *The Roadmap to Closing the Gap: 2012 – 2020*, a research report outlining exactly what it will take to close Connecticut's achievement gap by 2020.



★ DECEMBER ★

19



DEEP CUTS

Facing an unexpected budget deficit for 2013, Governor Malloy calls on the Connecticut General Assembly to come to session and approve a set of budget cuts. Of the \$11 million cut from education spending, nearly half is cut from the key reforms that were just signed into law in May.

2013

As you're reading this, key reforms are still at risk of being weakened, under-funded, or cut altogether. But the state legislature and the governor have a responsibility to follow through on the promises they made in 2012.

Our state's children deserve a world-class public education – regardless of wealth, race, or zip code. ConnCAN will keep fighting to protect progress for Connecticut's students, and we need your help.



 THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR VIEWING 

★ CONNCAN 2012 ★



ANNUAL REPORT

Please visit **ConnCAN.org** to learn even more about our work,
and to get involved in the statewide movement to improve our public schools.

Website Design: **Murmur Creative**