

# MPS NEWS ONLINE



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Dr. Santosha Oliver

## East Hartford Educator Named STEM Director

Manchester Public Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Santosha Oliver as the director of STEM education initiatives. Dr. Oliver's responsibilities include oversight and coordination of the district's efforts to increase the effectiveness of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

Dr. Oliver is currently the assistant principal at the O'Brien STEM Academy in East Hartford. She also served as East Hartford's coordinator of assessment, evaluation and research. She began her career in education as a science teacher at East Hartford High School.

Dr. Oliver received her BA degree from Morgan State University in Maryland, her doctorate degree in biomedical science from the University of Connecticut, and her administrative certification through Sacred Heart University.

Dr. Oliver's classroom and administrative experience, her academic background, her understanding and application of student assessment data, and her vision for STEM education will bring new energy and excitement to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in Manchester," said Dr. Richard Kisiel, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Oliver begins her duties in Manchester effective January 21.

### MEETING DATES:

- Jan 7th Policy Comm. 6 pm – CO
- Jan 13th- BOE Meeting 7pm – Lincoln Center
- Jan 15th - Budget Workshop—MHS Freshman Center 6 pm
- Jan 21st—Policy Comm. 6 pm—CO
- Jan 22nd — Budget Workshop—MHS Freshman Center 6 pm
- Jan 27th—BOE Meeting 7pm – Lincoln Center

### STEM EDUCATION

Science, Technology,  
Engineering Mathematics



## District Unveils New Website

The district's newly designed website quickly allows easy access to information, news, and events in the Manchester Public Schools. The public is invited to explore and learn about all the opportunities that our school district offers students, families, and community. The new website is easier to navigate with new drop down

menus and quick links. "We are committed to improving our communication with families and the community. Many great things are going on our schools that are often overlooked and often unknown," said Dr. Richard Kisiel. The website will shortly make available online forms for submission



via email, a mobile version of key pages to navigate on cell phones tablets easier, and an up-to-date employee directory page along with teacher pages.

## State Board of Education Approves Racial Balance Plan

The State Board of Education approved the district's racial balance plan that provides redistricting to meet any immediate or long term racial imbalances within the school district. The previous plan, approved in August of 2011, provided for the creation of Pre-K classrooms in elementary schools either out of balance or facing impending balance, development of magnet school options, and allowing parent choice. However, the closing of Nathan Hale School, which was at the time the most racially imbalanced school in the district, eliminated available classroom space for the pre-K programs.

The closing required redistricting students to four neighboring schools. This redistricting action mitigated the imbalances in the district. The schools are currently in balance although Verplanck and Robertson schools having impending balances of 20.58% and 22.8% respectively. The Board's plan will be to redistrict students should either of these schools exceed the 25% threshold.

The recent SMARTR Committee school building plan, submitted to a joint meeting of both Boards last month, met its obligation under its charge to create a plan that meets the racial balance requirements.

Any change in those plans will still require the Board of Education to ensure that it will meet the obligations for racial balance under Connecticut law.

The State Board of Education recognized that long term racial balance will be dependent on the district's plan to respond to its school building needs and the community's support for this building plan. If the referendum for the school building projects fail, the State Board will expect the district to present within ninety days, its next steps to address any racial imbalance.