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CT Launch of Vision To Learn at East Hartford Public Schools

Program will provide free vision screenings, eye exams and glasses to East Hartford children

More than 3,000 East Hartford children will have access to free vision services at school this fall through a nonprofit called Vision To Learn.

Vision To Learn brings a licensed optician to schools who visits each classroom and screens every child using a Welch Allyn Spot Screener. If a child doesn't pass the vision screening, a licensed optometrist in Vision To Learn's mobile clinic will perform an eye exam. Finally, the child is fitted for their own pair of glasses, all of which is free of charge to families.

East Hartford's partnership marks Vision To Learn's launch in Connecticut. Vision To Learn will complete vision screenings at East Hartford's eight elementary schools by early November.

"Our partnership with Vision To Learn will benefit the students and families in East Hartford tremendously. We know many children in our district do not have access to vision services and therefore don't have the glasses they need to succeed in school and reach their highest potential. We're proud to be the pilot district bringing this program to Connecticut," said Nathan Quesnel, East Hartford Public Schools Superintendent.

There are over 200,000 students enrolled in Connecticut's Alliance Districts and it is estimated that about 40,000 children lack the glasses they need to succeed.

"I'm so honored to be launching this program in Connecticut. I've worn glasses since I was a 2nd grader in Windham Public Schools so I'm personally invested in helping every Connecticut student receive the glasses they need to see the world around them. I know we are going to change lives and communities. I feel fortunate to have such great partners and early supporters, such as East Hartford Public Schools, who believe in and support our work and champion our program," said Sabrina Davis, Connecticut Program Manager at Vision To Learn.

ABOUT VISION TO LEARN

Vision To Learn, a non-profit charity, started in Los Angeles in 2012. The program has helped kids in over 500 underserved communities in 14 states. Vision To Learn serves the needs of the hardest to-reach children; about 90% of kids served by Vision To Learn live in poverty and about 85% are kids of color. Since its founding in 2012, Vision To Learn has helped provide more than 1.2 million children with vision screenings, over 300,000 with eye exams and almost 250,000 with glasses – all free of charge to children and their families. For more visit visiontolearn.org.