# Magnet schools in Hartford: The intersection of race and school choice among applicants.

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#### Missing the Goal:

A Visual Guide to Sheff vs. O'Neill School Desegregation June 2007

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We appreciate the cooperation of all data providers
Authors are solely responsible for data interpretations
This version updates the Visual Guide to Sheff 2006 report
Email questions and comments to: Jack Dougherty@trincoll.edu
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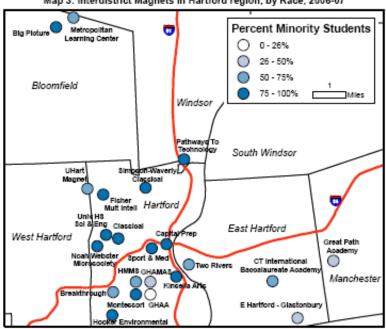
#### Which magnet schools count toward the Sheff goal?

At present, 22 interdistrict magnet schools have been opened, offering a wide range of curricular specializations designed to attract students from both city and suburban districts. Most are managed by the Capitol Region Educational Council (CREC) or the Hartford Public Schools (HPS), with two others managed by suburban districts.

But not all magnet schools count toward the Sheff 30% goal. According to the 2003 settlement, a magnet qualifies if its proportion of minority students does not exceed an annual limit, calculated as the percentage of minority students in the entire 22-district Sheff region (currently 44%) plus 30 percentage points, for a total minority student limit of 74% in 2005-07. However, the settlement excempts schools from this limit during their first 3 years of operation. The state legislature approved the Sheff legal settlement in February 2003.

Still, while a magnet school may fail to meet the 2003 Sheff standard, it may continue to receive state funding. In May 2002, the state legislature amended CT Statute 10-264L, which currently holds that magnet schools established prior to July 2005 are not limited to the proportion of minority students they enroll (but those created after July 2005 must enroll between 25 to 75 percent minority). The existence of different state-approved racial standards for magnet schools has led to considerable confusion on this important policy issue.

Map 3: Interdistrict Magnets in Hartford region, by Race, 2006-07



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#### Which magnet schools count toward the Sheff goal?

At present, 2 designed to a cational Cou

Chart 3: Magnet applications, by race and residency, Magnet school application patterns 2006-07

Who applies to magnet schools?

But not all m fies if its proity students i student limit years of open

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Magnet ■ Hartford minority % ■ Suburb minority % (applications) Hartford white % Suburb white % Managed by HPS Simpson-Waverly (212) Mary Hooker Env (329) Sport & Med Sci (745) Annie Fisher (790) Breakthrough (1681) Kinsella Arts (399) Pathways (486) Noah Webster (816) Univ HS (618) Cap Prep (1102) Classical (1277) HMMS (645) Managed by CREC Montessori (388) MLC (257) GHAMAS (222) Great Path Acad (122) Two Rivers (397) GHAA (432) East Hart/Glast (324) UHMS (277) Other Management CT Infl Bacc Acad (100) "Application data not available" Blg Picture (?

Source: Spring 2007 magnet lottery data from CREC, HPS, and individual schools (CT International Baccalaureate Academy, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts). Magnet school application patterns also vary considerably from school to school. This chart presents application data in three sections (HPS magnets, CREC magnets, and other district magnets), since all have different marketing and application policies and practices.

At the two extremes, Simpson-Waverly received the highest percentage of applications from Hartford minority students (\$2%), while Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and Two Rivers tied for the lowest (10%). Regarding applications from white suburban students, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts received the highest share (72%) and Simpson-Waverly the lowest (0%).

Note that two magnet schools (East Hartford-Glastonbury and Big Picture) do not earoll any Hartford students, and detailed application data was not available for Big Picture, Great Path Academy, Greater Hartford Academy of Math & Science, and University of Hartford Magnet School.

Furthermore, the magnet school receiving the highest total number of applications was Breakthrough, with 1,681. According to the spring 2007 lottery data we received, approximately 43 students (or 2.5% of those who applied) will attend Breakthrough in fall 2007. Another 235 names were removed from the Breakthrough application list because they were admitted to other magnet schools. As a result, nearly 1,400 students remain on Breakthrough's waiting list. Unfortunately, incomplete data prevented us from comparing acceptance rates and waiting lists across all magnet schools

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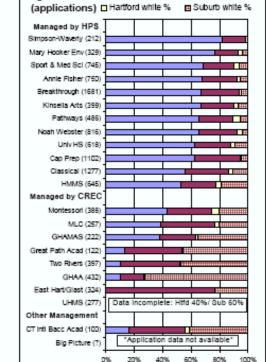
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What questions can be asked with these types of data?

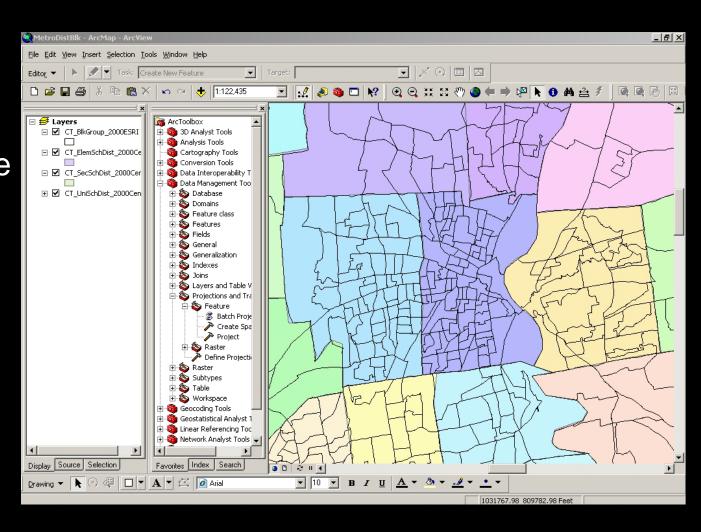
## Research Questions

- 1. Is there a strong relationship between the rate of magnet applications and school CMT scores in Hartford?
- 2. Do applications to HPS elementary magnets vary across different Hartford neighborhoods?
- 3. Are magnet applications statistically representative of the racial demographics of neighborhoods in which they reside?
- 4. Do magnet schools vary in their degree of magnetism?

How can these types of questions be answered?

#### How can these types of questions be answered?

Researchers use Geographic Information System software (like ArcGIS) to conduct spatial analysis of demographic patterns in magnet school applications or enrollments



## Previous work using GIS

- Private, charter, and magnet schools help perpetuate racial isolation. (Saporito, 2006)
- Black and Hispanic applicants are more or less likely to apply depending upon where they live in Hartford (Estevez, 2006)

## How does the current study differ?

- Neighborhood level study
- Focuses on Black-Hispanic relationship
- Analysis of six HPS elementary magnets



#### APPLICATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2007





١.	It is expected that parents and students understand and intend to comply with the academic
	program and uniform requirements of each Magnet School selected on this application.

- 2. Only one application per student.
- 3. Application will not be processed unless all requested information is provided.
- Indicate your school selection or selections for Hartford Host Magnet Schools only.
   The form <u>must</u> be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- 6. Please notify the Magnet School Office of any address or telephone changes.
- Please notify the Magnet School Office of any address or telephone changes.
   RETURN APPLICATION TO THE MAGNET SCHOOLS OFFICE BY: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007, 3:30 pm

Hartford Public Schools Magnet School Office 960 Main Street – 5th Floor Hartford, Connecticut 06103 Tel: 860-695-8839 Fax: 860-722-8514 Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. www.hartfordschools.org			HARTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY Are you selecting a Magnet School(s) as a No Child Left Behind request?  YES NO		
Please <b>PRINT</b> the following inf	formation:		rteories institution	Insumpizzh: "B	
1. Name of Student:				M.I.	
2. Address: NO.	STREET	APT. NO.	CITY	ZIP CODE	
3. Student's Date of Birth:	15/2 Automorphism (20	Gender (check one)	: Female	Male	
Race (Please check only one):     We are required by law to report racial in			ack Hispanic	Caucasian	
5. Print Parent/Legal Guardian N	ame:		Home Phone	contendence ()	
6. Parent /Legal Guardian Work F	Phone:	y April 13, 2007.	Cell:	offered a ma	
	7. Student's current school:				
8. Grade applying to for <b>NEXT</b> so					
9. School Selections: Please indic	cate school name in o	rder of preference:		parelys/guz	
1st Selection (school name):_					
2nd Selection (school name):	paussių, ir vajaros. At yd tris meograficili bi	Attro bestebege pro Attro beed see, ear	ranio de la company de la comp		
10. List any brothers or sisters, livi	ing with applicant, att		lagnet Schools sele		
NAME OF CHILD		ENT MAGNET SCHOOL		etan gentlew	
ir nationally and the based about					
11. How did you hear about Magr	net Schools? (Check al		era españos de menos Su misso de menos lom		

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION TO BE VALID)

I am applying for placement of my child at the Magnet School(s) indicated on this form. I understand that the information provided by me on this application will be checked for accuracy, and that false information will disqualify the applicant.

☐ TV ☐ Newspaper ☐ Website ☐ School ☐ Friends/Family ☐ Mailer ☐ Other \_





Hart Public HARTE	APPLICATION FOR SEPTEM ORD HOST INTERDISTRICT M	Marie California	
<ol> <li>Only one application per str</li> <li>Application will not be proces</li> <li>Indicate your school selection</li> <li>The form must be signed by a</li> <li>Please notify the Magnet Scho</li> </ol>	sed unless all requested information is or selections for Hartford Host Magnet	ected on this application. provided. t Schools only. changes.	
Hartford Public Schools Magnet School Office 960 Main Street – 5th Floor Hartford, Connecticut 06103	Tel: 860-695-8839 Fax: 860-722-8514 Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. www.hartfordschools.org	HARTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY  Are you selecting a Magnet School(s) as a No Child Left Behind request?  YES NO	
Please PRINT the following inf			
Name of Student:			
2. Address:			
4. Race (Please check only one):	☐ American Indian ☐ Asian ☐ A	Black Hispanic Caucasian	
5. Print Parent/Legal Guardian N		Home Phone	
6. Parent /Legal Guardian Work F			
7 Student's current schools			
School Selections: Ple	ease indicate so	chool name in or	rder of preference
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st Selection (school	name):		
nd Selection (schoo	l name):		
	net Schools? (Check all that apply):		
LIV LINewspaper LI Website	e □ School □ Friends/Family □		

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION TO BE VALID)

#### Remove duplicate applications from excel file



#### APPLICATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2007 HARTFORD HOST INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL:



- It is expected that parents and students understand and intend to comply with the academic, program and uniform requirements of each Magnet School selected on this application.
- 2. Only one application per student.
- 3. Application will not be processed unless all requested information is provided.
- 4. Indicate your school selection or selections for Hartford Host Magnet Schools only.

	The form <u>must</u> be signed by a parent or legal guardian.  Please notify the Magnet School Office of any address or telephone changes.  RETURN APPLICATION TO THE MAGNET SCHOOLS OFFICE BY: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007, 3:30 pm					
	Hartford Public Schools Magnet School Office 960 Main Street – 5th Floor Hartford, Connecticut 06103		4 - 3:30 p.m.		ARTFORD RESID re you selecting a M s a No Child Left Bel YES NO	lagnet School(s)
	ase <i>PRINT</i> the following in	formation:				
1.	Name of Student:					
	Address:					ZIP CODE
	Student's Date of Birth:			ck one): 🔲 F	emale - 🔲 M	
4.	Race (Please check only one): We are required by law to report racial in				☐ Hispanic ☐	] Caucasian
	Print Parent/Legal Guardian N			Hom		
	Parent /Legal Guardian Work					
7	Student's current schools					
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Э,	school selections: Please indicate school name in order of preference:
	1st Selection (school name):
	2nd Selection (school name):

<ol> <li>How did you hear</li> </ol>			heck all that apply):				
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SIGNATURE OF PARENT O	OR LEGAL GUARD	IAN (REQUIRED	FOR APPLICATION TO BE	VALID)		DATE	
l am applying for placemen me on this application.will l							

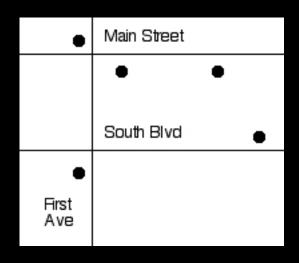
KEEP YELLOW COPY FOR YOUR RECORD

<b>\$</b>	A
1	Applications
2	35 Main St
3	606 First Ave
4	58 South Blvd
5	49 Main St
6	500 First Ave

	Main Street
	South Blvd
First Ave	
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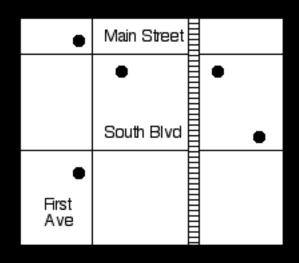
Link data to street map

<b>\$</b>	A
1	Applications
2	35 Main St
3	606 First Ave
4	58 South Blvd
5	49 Main St
6	500 First Ave



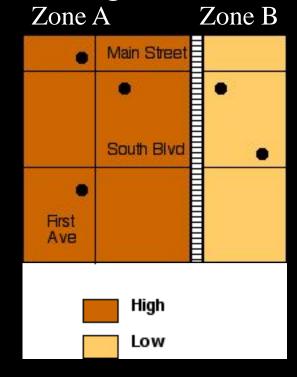
Geocode street address data as individual points on map

<b>\$</b>	A
1	Applications
2	35 Main St
3	606 First Ave
4	58 South Blvd
5	49 Main St
6	500 First Ave

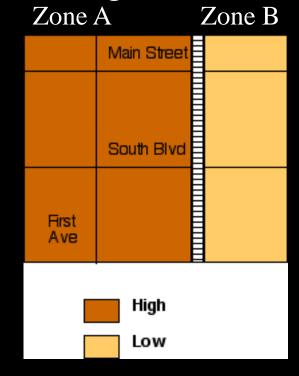


Overlay neighborhood boundary lines (census tracts, elementary school zones, etc)

<b>\$</b>	A
1	Applications
2	35 Main St
3	606 First Ave
4	58 South Blvd
5	49 Main St
6	500 First Ave



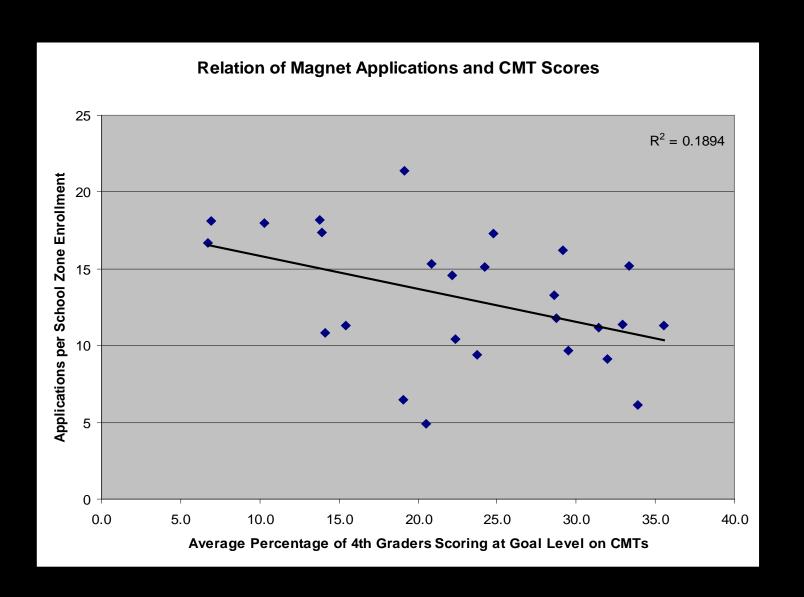
Use colors to represent data groups



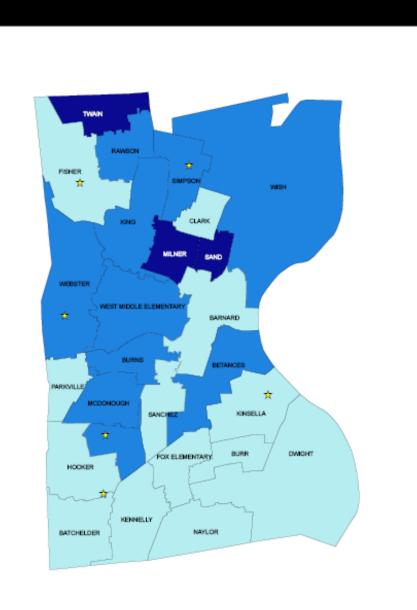
Remove dots and address data to maintain individual family confidentiality

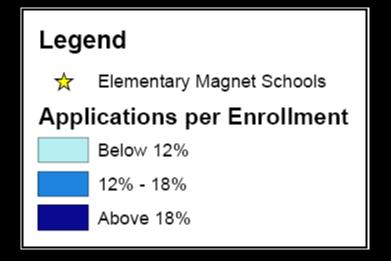
# RESULTS

# Is there a strong relationship between the rate of magnet applications and school CMT scores in Hartford?



# Do applications to HPS elementary magnets vary across different Hartford neighborhoods?



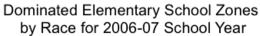


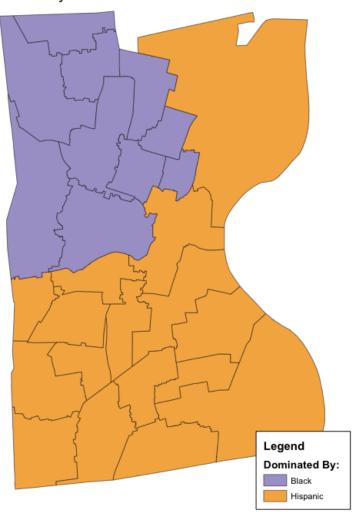
#### Example:

Twain Elem school zone

62 applicants / 290 enrolled = 21% applied to opt out

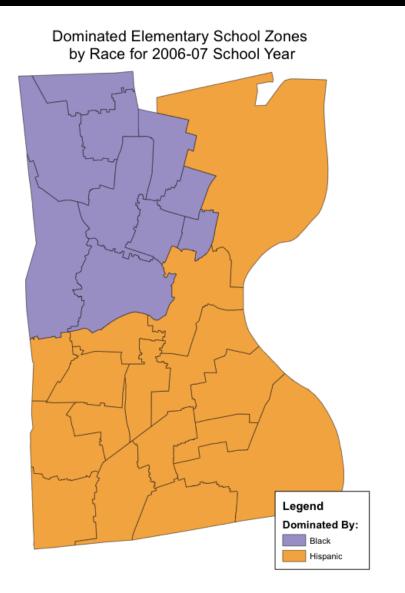
Are magnet applications statistically representative of the racial demographics of neighborhoods in which they reside?



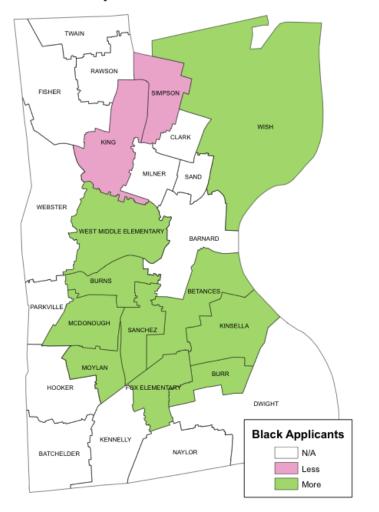


<b>\$</b>	A	В
1	Applications	Race
2	35 Main St	Black
3	606 First Ave	Hispanic
4	58 South Blvd	Black
5	49 Main St	White
6	500 First Ave	Hispanic

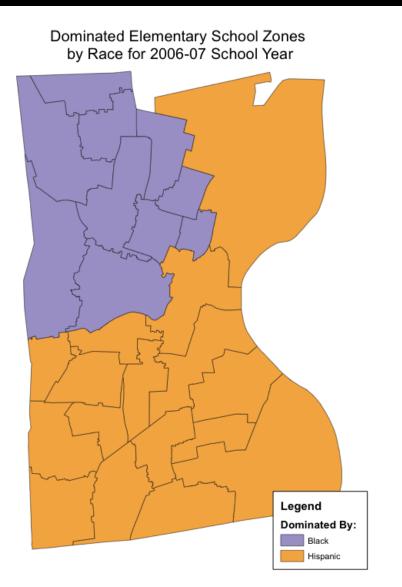
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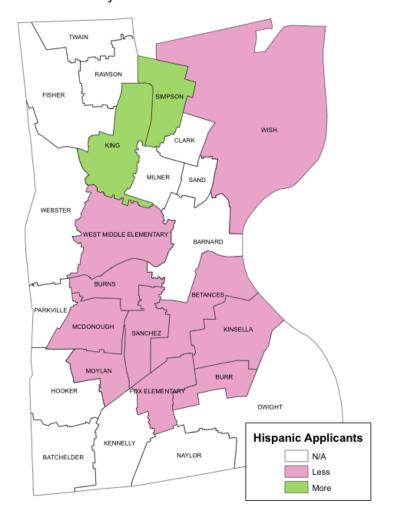
Black Magnet Applicants who were Statistically
More likely and Less likely to apply by
Hartford Elementary School Zones for 2007-08 School Year



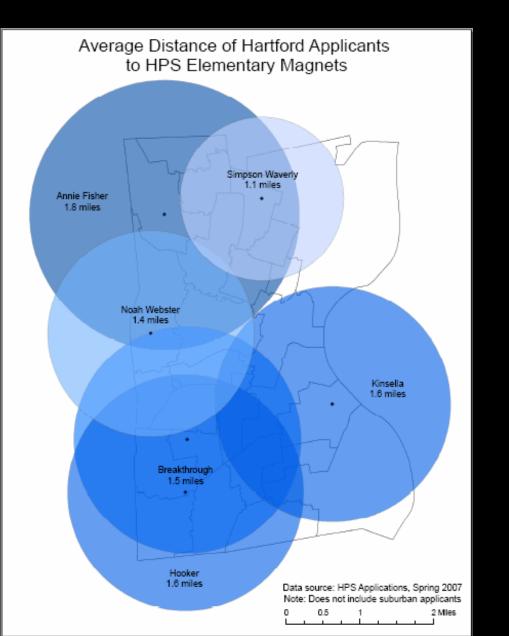
# Are magnet applications statistically representative of the racial demographics of neighborhoods in which they reside?



Hispanic Magnet Applicants who were Statistically
More likely and Less likely to apply by
Hartford Elementary School Zones for 2007-08 School Year



# Do magnet schools vary in their degree of magnetism?



#### Compare:

Although Annie Fisher and Simpson-Waverly magnets located near one another, Annie Fisher "attracted" Hartford applicants from an average distance of 1.8 miles, compared to 1.1 miles

NOTE: Map only demonstrates straight-line distance.

# Recap

- 1. School quality has very little relation with school choice rates
- 2. Application rates do vary depending upon where an applicant resides in Hartford
- 3. Families are not applying to HPS elementary magnets equally
- 4. The six HPS elementary magnets have varying degrees of magnetism

#### So what?

- Sheff v. O'Neill is back in the news again
  - Are magnet schools doing the job they were intended to?
  - Should we take a new approach toward improving desegregation efforts?

### References

 Estevez, N. & Dougherty, J. (2006). "Are Magnet Schools Attracting All Families Equally? A GIS Mapping Analysis of Latinos." Conference paper presented at the American Educational Research Association, April 2006. http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/CSS/research

 Saporito, S. & Sohoni, D. (2006). Coloring Outside the Lines: Racial Segregation in Public Schools and Their Attendance Boundaries. Sociology of Education, 79(2), 81-105.