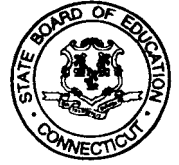




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Dear Principal:

This fall, on consecutive Wednesdays in October and November, the Hartford Courant's Newspapers in Education (NIE) program will run a series entitled, "Middle School Steps 2 College." The material, specifically aimed at grades 6-9, is being developed in cooperation with the state's KnowHow2GO coalition and the Connecticut State University System.

You may be aware of a recent ACT report that concluded "making sure that all eighth-grade students have attained the knowledge and skills that put them on target to becoming ready for college and career is the single most important step that can be taken to improve their college and career readiness." The report highlighted the importance of not waiting until high school to begin providing essential information related to college.

This series is part of Connecticut's KnowHow2GO initiative, an effort to provide middle school students with key information to help them make smart choices today, place college on their radar screens, and prepare for post-secondary education. KnowHow2GO is a national initiative coordinated in CT by the State Departments of Higher Education and Education and a coalition of public and private organizations. It encourages young people, especially first-generation students, to pursue higher education.

Using the four steps of Know How2Go, one each week, these ½ pages of information and interactive activities will encourage discussion and stimulate interest utilizing the internet and other resources. If you have not visited the KnowHow2GO website, [www.knowhow2goct.org](http://www.knowhow2goct.org), we would encourage you to do so. You may also wish to make guidance counselors and/or the appropriate teachers or school staff aware of the Courant series, should they wish to utilize the material in the classroom.

Additional information about KnowHow2GOCT may be obtained from Connie Fraser at the Department of Higher Education, at 860-947-1801, or Ann Gaulin at the Department of Education, at 860-713-6544. For specific information about the NIE series, contact Tricia Barrett, Educational Services Manager at The Courant, at 860-241-3697.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education

Michael Meotti  
Commissioner of Higher Education