



“Unlocking the Potential in ALL Students”

## Office of the Superintendent

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### **For Immediate Release----Middletown, Connecticut**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Conner announced today that the Middletown Public Schools (MPS) has been named a National Innovative District by the International Center for Leadership in Education making MPS one of only a select few recognized districts across the country for 2020. Conner, along with other members of the district’s grants, innovation and academic teams will accept the honor, at the Connect with Courage National Model Schools Conference, in Orlando, Florida in late June.

“I am thrilled for our district. It recognizes the tremendous work our team has done, and to borrow a phrase ‘innovate by design.’ To push the envelope and not accept things as they are or have been, but to think big and to go for it, on behalf of our kids,” said Conner.

He added, “we are seeing the academic fruit of the seeds we’ve planted over the last two and half years. Makerspaces, which sponsor creativity in learning at our elementary schools, an innovation hub planned for our new middle school, teaching and learning across the entire District supplemented by new digital technologies and progressive approaches. All of it, adds up to success, and we know, success only breeds more success.”

The June conference is host to over 5000 educators and nearly 300 professional development sessions on variety of educational topics. It showcases Model Schools and Innovative Districts, like Middletown, that have seen rapid improvement and transformation in student learning. In addition to receiving their awards, the named 2020 innovative school districts, including the MPS team, will present the innovative measures that have been implemented and the corresponding student growth that has been achieved.

Deborah Cain, Middletown School Board Chairwoman, also praised the achievement. She said, “Congratulations to Dr. Conner and the entire team. It’s really a recognition for every teacher and staff member working with all our students across the whole district. This makes me very happy so see and hear. As board chair, I know the hard work and dedication Dr. Conner and the entire district has shown, toward not only achieving academically, but to ensuring all our students have the latest innovative tools and approaches at their disposal, to grow and learn.”

The Middletown Public Schools serves over 4500 students with nearly 1200 faculty, paraprofessionals, student-centered staff and administrators dedicated to unlocking the potential in ALL students.