

ABSTRACT

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Title: CITY-WIDE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND SCHOOL REFORM IN NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT (1993-2013)
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City-wide school construction and school reform objectives command billions of dollars across thousands of municipal budgets in the United States of America. During Mayor John DeStefano Jr.'s tenure as mayor of New Haven (1993-2013), nearly \$1.5 billion was spent to renew the physical infrastructure of the New Haven Public School District. Modern leadership strategies merged with school reform principles to usher in an era of charter, intra and inter district magnet schools to replace the city's historically segregated neighborhood schools. While much of the groundwork for the desegregation of schools was laid in the 1960s amidst New Haven's first foray into top-down redevelopment, urban schools continued to lag behind their suburban counterparts. Mayor DeStefano's school construction program stands apart as a multifaceted partnership between private and public interests at both the state and local level. This project provides a historical and political consideration of New Haven public schools, as shown through the Prince/Welch – Annex and Worthington-Hooker K-8 Schools. Primary sources from Mayor DeStefano's personal archive juxtapose political meditations from Robert Dahl, Douglas Rae, and Mandi Isaacs Jackson with the bureaucratic reality facing the administration. School reform literature from Jeffrey R. Henig, Richard C. Hula, Marion Orr, and Jean Anyon inject disciplinary context into the discussion, allowing Mayor DeStefano's role in the construction process to be understood through the lens of Mayor-Centrism.