



Board of Directors Regular Business MEETING AGENDA

Date: October 9, 2025
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: LEARN/ 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371

A remote meeting option is provided for those unable to attend in person. The login information is at the end of this agenda.

- 1. Call to Order:** Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Audience and Guests:** Introductions
- 3. Public Comment:**
- 4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence:**
- 5. Superintendents' Perspective:** Mr. Brian J. White, Superintendent of Regional School District #4, to present on the Strategic Plan and Key District Initiatives of the district.
- 6. Consent Agenda:**
 - 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—September 11, 2025
 - 6.2 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Special Business Meeting—October 2, 2025
 - 6.3 Approval of Budget Summary as of September 30, 2025
 - 6.4 Approval of Grant Applications—None
- 7. Information from the Executive Director:**
 - 7.1 Hiring—Resignations and new hires, including trend reports
 - 7.2 Distributions — CAGE 2025 Law Summaries, RESC Alliance Letter to Governor Lamont's Staffers, Advocacy Materials for SECT Legislators
 - 7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—September 26, 2025
 - 7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes—September 26, 2025
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 Approval of Official Resolutions for Land Acquisition — 51 Daniels Avenue

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Overview of The LEARN Project, Inc
- 9.2 Overview of the CHEFA Bonding Process

- 10.** Educational Perspective: Dr. Linda Darcy, LEARN Director of Teaching and Learning, to present on using the Business Strategy Framework to design products that support multilingual student outcomes.

- 11.** Roundtable Discussion:

- 12.** Future Roundtable Topics:

- 13.** Adjournment:

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Meeting ID: 263 567 013 638 0
Passcode: ca3pb7rp



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 - 6.2 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Special Business Meeting—October 2, 2025
 - 6.3 Approval of Budget Summary as of September 30, 2025
 - 6.4 Approval of Grant Applications—None

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 7. Information from the Executive Director:**
 - 7.1 Hiring—Resignations and new hires, including trend reports
 - 7.2 Distributions — CAGE 2025 Law Summaries, RESC Alliance Letter to Governor Lamont's Staffers, Advocacy Materials for SECT Legislators
 - 7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—September 26, 2025
 - 7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes—September 26, 2025
 - 7.5 Legislative Updates
 - 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates

8. Old Business:

8.1 Approval of Official Resolutions for Land Acquisition — 51 Daniels Avenue

Motion (*To be read by Board Secretary*):

RESOLVED, that **LEARN**, a body corporate and politic established pursuant to Section 10-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, having an address having an address of 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371 ("**LEARN**"), be, and it hereby is, authorized and empowered to purchase the real property commonly known as 51 Daniels Avenue, Waterford, Connecticut (the "**Property**") from the **TOWN OF WATERFORD**, a Connecticut municipal corporation having an address of 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385 (the "**Seller**"), in accordance with the terms and conditions of that certain Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between LEARN and Seller dated as of December 13, 2023, as amended by that certain First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 1, 2024, as further amended by that certain Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of July 25, 2025, as further amended by that certain Third Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 26, 2025, as the same may be amended from time to time (as amended and modified, the "**Purchase and Sale Agreement**"), for the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$770,000.00), in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director of LEARN (the "**Executive Director**"), or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the above-referenced Purchase and Sale Agreement and the transactions completed thereby; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to negotiate the terms of and to execute and deliver for and on behalf of LEARN, each of the instruments, documents and agreements as may be necessary or convenient to carry out any of the foregoing resolutions, all with such changes, and in such form, as she may approve, the execution and delivery of each document to be conclusive evidence of said approval; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or convenient in order to consummate the transactions authorized in the foregoing resolutions, and any actions heretofore or hereafter taken by the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, in carrying out the purposes of these resolutions are hereby confirmed, approved and ratified in all respects.

9. New Business:

9.1 Overview of The LEARN Project, Inc

9.2 Overview of the CHEFA Bonding Process

- 10.** Educational Perspective: Dr. Linda Darcy, LEARN Director of Teaching and Learning, to present on using the Business Strategy Framework to design products that support improved student outcomes.
- 11.** Roundtable Discussion:
- 12.** Future Roundtable Topics:
- 13.** Adjournment:

[Click Here to Join the Meeting via Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 263 567 013 638 0

Passcode: ca3pb7rp



Board of Directors Regular Business

MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 11, 2025

Draft Posted: September 16, 2025

Present: Dale Bernardoni, Chester/Grades K-6; Scott Brown, Lyme & Old Lyme/Region 18; Katherine Ericson, LEARN; Jennifer Favalora, Killingworth/Region 17; Elizabeth Fernandes, Westbrook; Katie Gauthier, Stonington (Teams); Cindy Luty, Preston; Robert Mitchell, Montville; Chet Stefanowicz, North Stonington; and Laurie Wolfley, Waterford (Teams)

Not Attending and Not Represented: Eric Bauman, East Lyme; Alisha Blake, New London; Mary Ann Connelly, Madison; A. Terri Garrity, East Haddam; Mary Harris, Ledyard; Nancy Johnston, Essex/Grades K-6; Gregory Perry, Norwich; Sean Reith, Salem; Beverly Washington, Groton; Jane Wisialowski, Old Saybrook; Vacant, Chester, Deep River, Essex Region #4; Vacant, Clinton; Vacant, Deep River/Grades K-6; Vacant, East Hampton; and Vacant, Guilford

Guests: Michael Belden, LEARN Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Linda Darcy, LEARN Director of Teaching and Learning; Dr. Ryan Donlon, LEARN Associate Executive Director; Kristin Gemaly, Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) Literacy Coach & LEARN LEA President (Teams); Elizabeth McCaffery, LEARN Director of Human Resources (Teams); Deisha Quinones, LEARN Teacher of the Year; Mariana Reyes, LEARN RMMS Principal; Dr. Wendy Jean Sonstrom, LEARN Regional Coordinator of Student Information; Carla Strecker, Assistant Director of Special Programs; and Anhelina Yevhlevska, LEARN Paraeducator of the Year

Meeting began at 9:06 a.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Audience and Guests:** Introductions
- 3. Public Comment:** No public comment

***Request Motion to move agenda item 9.1 Recognition of LEARN's 2025 Teacher and Para Educator [correctly, paraeducator] of the Year to precede regular business meeting agenda items.**

Motion to move agenda item 9.1 Teacher and Para Educator [correctly, paraeducator] of the Year to precede agenda item 4

- **Presented by Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Second Scott Brown**
- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Executive Director Ericson led the recognition of LEARN's 2025 Paraeducator and Teacher of the Year, honoring two outstanding educators for their contributions and impact.

Anhelina Yevhlevska, of the LEARN Transition Academy (LTA), was named LEARN's 2025 Paraeducator of the Year. Anhelina was introduced by Carla Strecker, Assistant Director of Special Programs, who highlighted Anhelina's role as a Registered Behavior Technician, her dedication to supporting students with complex disabilities, and her ongoing studies to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Ms. Strecker emphasized Anhelina's data-driven and compassionate approach to student support.



Deisha Quinones, of the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), was recognized as the LEARN 2025 Teacher of the Year. Deisha was introduced by Principal Mariana Reyes, who shared Deisha’s journey through the Connecticut Teacher Residency Program (CTRP), her deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and literacy, and her active involvement in school and community initiatives — including the multicultural education committee and Girls on the Run.

- 4. Reading and/or Review of Correspondence:** Executive Director Ericson shared email correspondence from the Early Care and Education Division expressing appreciation to LEARN’s Early Childhood staff members for attending the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) staff meeting and highlighting the importance of the real-world context and experiences regarding Early Start CT and Local Governance Partnerships (LGPs).
- 5. Superintendents’ Perspective:** Dr. Ryan Donlon, LEARN Associate Executive Director, to present on the 2025-2026 SY opening of LEARN Magnet Schools.

Dr. Donlon provided a detailed update on the LEARN’s family of magnet schools, highlighting ongoing initiatives and progress in alignment with the district’s strategic vision for equity, academic achievement, and student engagement. With input from school leaders, the implementation of a three-year grade reconfiguration was outlined to design and establish a seamless pre-K–12 educational pathway—The Friendship School (TFS) now serves pre-K and kindergarten, Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) covers grades 1–6, and Marine Science Magnet High School (MSMHS) and Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School (TRMC) serve the upper grades. According to Dr. Donlon, the academic data showed positive trends, including reduced chronic absenteeism, increased student diversity, and high graduation rates at TRMC, with notable literacy gains attributed to professional development, coaching, and the rollout of a new literacy program. Behavior incidents have decreased by 38%, especially at RMMS, due to trauma-informed practices and intentional efforts to foster inclusive, supportive school cultures. Enrollment and application data reflected growing demand, with record applications at TFS and TRMC, and targeted retention strategies at RMMS to support continuity and maintain diversity through lotteries and dual language offerings. To conclude, the leadership team shared progress on district-wide strategic planning, including the creation of a data dashboard to track key outcomes and capacity-building initiatives aimed at supporting school leaders through professional development and responsive feedback mechanisms.

6. Consent Agenda:

- 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—June 12, 2025
- 6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of August 31, 2025
- 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications—None

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- Presented by Cindy Luty
- Second Dale Bernardoni
- Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against

7. Information from the Executive Director:

- 7.1 Hiring—Resignations and new hires, including trend reports/ Executive Director Ericson provided an update on the agency’s staffing efforts, emphasizing both recent successes and ongoing challenges, with support from the Human Resources department. The agency has hired nearly 30 non-certified staff and welcomed 16 new teachers, including five special educators. A two-day orientation for more than 35 new educators was held to introduce them to the agency’s vision and support their integration into the organization. Despite this progress, 33 vacancies remain—primarily in interventionist roles—prompting continued exploration of innovative recruitment strategies. Moving forward, the agency plans to further modernize its recruitment processes to better appeal to younger candidates and address persistent staffing gaps.
- 7.2 Distributions —AESA Press Release; Executive Director’s AESA (Association of Educational Service Agencies) Summer Conference Leadership Series Reflection; “Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern CT” — [U.S.News](#); National Coast Guard Museum Association “Stories That Matter” (Handout at meeting only); and the 2025 LEARN Annual Report (*Handout at meeting only, Will also be made available online*)
- 7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Regular Business Meeting—August 22, 2025/ Executive Director Ericson highlighted several key initiatives and events from the summer that underscore the agency’s continued commitment to excellence and innovation. The Extended School Year (ESY) Program was a success, with Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (OALA) and the LEARN Transition Academy (LTA) hosting students from across the region. Every student engaged in meaningful, community-based experiences, supported by staff, including partnerships with New England Science and Sailing, the Waterford Recreation Department, the Sea Unicorns, and the Yellow Farmhouse.

Additionally, the fully implemented Regional Shared Service Solutions (RSSS) Program delivered significant financial benefits to participating districts, with savings ranging from \$5,000 to \$87,000 depending on the level of contracted services. Three new districts joined the program this fiscal year, leveraging LEARN's back-office expertise to reduce costs. The 2025 LEARN Convocation was shared via video across all agency sites, uniting staff around this year's theme, "Cultivating the Power of We," which reflects both the agency's achievements and its forward-looking vision. LEARN also hosted its annual Administrative Retreat in August, bringing together 29 returning administrators. The retreat centered on building leadership capacity through the reading of *Trust and Inspire* by Stephen Covey and the development of actionable steps to further embody LEARN's mission and vision.

- 7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes—July 25, 2025 and August 22, 2025/ Executive Director Ericson reported that the Early Childhood LEARNing School construction project continues to move forward through key phases of planning and development, reflecting strong momentum and collaborative engagement among stakeholders. The design phase has been completed, and while the final land purchase is still in progress, LEARN recently signed an early access agreement with the Town of Waterford to facilitate pre-construction activities. Formal approval for both the school project and the adjacent pickleball court has been granted by the town, and the Waterford Representative Town Meeting (RTM) has officially approved a proposed change to the land purchase agreement. Collaboration between LEARN's Design Team and the Architectural Design Team remains ongoing, with the Architectural Review Board having reviewed and approved the plans. As of now, 50% of the construction document review is complete, and work on the 90% documents is actively underway. Value management efforts continue to ensure the project remains efficient and cost-effective. Negotiations related to the on-site cell tower are progressing positively. A meeting with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is scheduled for October, with groundbreaking anticipated between January and February. The school is currently on track for a 2027 opening.
- 7.5 Legislative Updates – LEARN has proactively extended invitations to the region's state legislators to participate in a series of upcoming school and program tours aimed at highlighting the agency's educational services, impact, and funding needs. In response to emerging legislative developments that could significantly affect educational service agencies, the RESC Alliance has mobilized efforts to engage policymakers. As part of this advocacy, LEARN has launched monthly legislator school and program tours to provide firsthand insight into its outplacement programs and the broader scope of services offered.

These tours are intended to raise awareness and build support for sustained and equitable funding. To date, three legislators have already been scheduled for visits. Additionally, the Executive Director recently met with State Representative Leeper, State Representative Brown, and State Senator McCrory, State education committee members, to further discuss the agency's mission and current priorities.

- 7.6 LEARN Agency Updates – Executive Director Ericson highlighted the opening of Creating Connections, an early childhood initiative currently serving eight children ages 9 months to 2 years, supported by a dedicated team of four staff members. Executive Director Ericson pointed out that despite a growing waitlist of 30 families, the program is experiencing challenges in filling a head teacher vacancy due to a limited pool of qualified applicants. Of the enrolled families, seven are utilizing Early Start-funded spaces, and six fall below 75% of the state median income. Current families served are from Quaker Hill, Oakdale, Uncasville, New London, and Waterford, reflecting a strong regional impact. Executive Director Ericson thanked the Board for completing the 2024-2025 Board Survey. Survey results included seven responses and conveyed very positive feedback, noting well-organized meetings, clear communication, and a sense of inclusion—even in virtual settings. Suggestions included increasing engagement in discussions, clarifying member roles outside of meetings, and remaining vigilant about scam emails targeting board members. Future topics of interest include teacher retention, special education innovations, legislative updates, and district-level best practices. Top priorities identified for the 2025–2026 school year include strategic planning, financial oversight, program evaluation, and maintaining a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Additional program updates included continued enrichment activities for students in the LEARN Transition Academy (LTA), such as visits to the New London Recreation Center; engaging experiences through New England Science & Sailing (NESS); and the New London Landmark Group's use of facilities at Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (OALA) this past June.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Recognition of LEARN's 2025 Teacher and Para Educator [correctly, paraeducator] of the Year
**Moved to top of the Agenda.*

- 9.2 Revised Executive Committee Meeting Date – November 2025

- i. Due to the scheduling conflict with the CABA/CAPSS Conference, the Board of Directors is asked to approve rescheduling the November 21, 2025 Executive Committee meeting to Wednesday, November 19, 2025. This adjustment ensures participation in both the Executive Committee meeting and the annual conference.

Motion to approve the change of the November 2025 Executive Committee meeting date from November 21 to November 19, 2025.

- **Presented by Scott Brown**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 9.3 New Policy #5144.2, Students, Series 5000; "Restorative Practices Response In Student Discipline"

Motion to approve New Policy 5144.2, Students, Series 5000; Restorative Practices Response In Student Discipline as presented.

- **Presented by Cindy Luty**
- **Second Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 9.4 New Policy #5166, Students, Series 5000; "Internal Review Board"

Motion to approve New Policy 5166, Students, Series 5000; Internal Review Board as presented.

- **Presented by Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Second Jennifer Favalora**

Motion made to amend the New Policy 5166 Students, Series 5000; from *Internal Review Board* to *Institutional Review Board*.

- **Presented by Scott Brown**
- **Second Dale Bernardoni**
- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Motion to approve New Policy 5166, Students, Series 5000; Institutional Review Board as amended.

- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

- 9.5 Approve the request by Southeastern New England Marine Educators (SENAME) to utilize designated facilities at Marine Science Magnet High School on October 4, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of hosting the SENEME Fall Conference. Requested spaces include the simulator, science classrooms, cafeteria, and access to the aqua lab for guided tours. The event does have an admission fee of \$40.00. Proceeds will support student scholarships, science fair awards, guest speaker honorariums, and website maintenance.

Motion to approve Southeastern New England Marine Educators' use of Marine Science Magnet High School's Simulator, science classrooms, the cafeteria, and aqua lab from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., on October 4, 2025, to host the SENEME Fall Conference as presented.

- **Presented by Scott Brown**
- **Second Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

10. Educational Perspective: None

11. Roundtable Discussion: None

12. Future Roundtable Topics: None

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:53 a.m.

- **Presented by Dale Bernardoni**
- **Second Chet Stefanowicz**
- **Motion passed unanimously with 8 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Respectfully submitted by:
Jamella A. A. Etienne

[Click Here to Join the Meeting via Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 231 661 556 860 5

Passcode: Kh3nM6Rp





Board of Directors **Special Business**

MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 2, 2025

Draft Posted: October 7, 2025

Present: Katherine Ericson, LEARN (TEAMS); Jennifer Favalora, Killingworth/Region 17 (TEAMS); Katie Gauthier, Stonington (Teams); Robert Mitchell, Montville (TEAMS)

Not Attending and Not Represented: Eric Bauman, East Lyme; Dale Bernardoni, Chester/Grades K-6; Scott Brown, Lyme & Old Lyme/Region 18; Alisha Blake, New London; Mary Ann Connelly, Madison; A. Terri Garrity, East Haddam; Mary Harris, Ledyard; Elizabeth Fernandes, Westbrook; Nancy Johnston, Cindy Luty, Preston; Essex/Grades K-6; Gregory Perry, Chet Stefanowicz, North Stonington; Norwich; Sean Reith, Salem; Beverly Washington, Groton; Jane Wisialowski, Old Saybrook; Vacant, Chester, Deep River, Essex Region #4; Vacant, Clinton; Vacant, Deep River/Grades K-6; Vacant, East Hampton; and Vacant, Guilford and Laurie Wolfley, Waterford (Teams)

Guests: Ed Buglewicz, RDG Architects (TEAMS); Nick Conti, Gilbane (TEAMS); Molly Haas, RDG Architects (TEAMS); John Holden, Newman Architects (TEAMS); Julie Pendleton, LEARN Coordinator of Special Projects (TEAMS); Charles Warrington, Colliers (TEAMS);

Meeting began at 10:32a.m.

- **Call to Order:** Pledge of Allegiance
- **Audience and Guests:** Introductions
- **Public Comment:**
- **New Business:**
 - a. **Plans and Specifications for Phase 1**

- i. Motion to approve the demolition plans and specifications for Project #245-0090-MAG-N-PF, dated 1.10.25 and cost estimate dated 2.24.25

- **Presented by Jen Favarola**
- **Second Katie Gauthier**
- **Motion passed 3 votes in favor and 0 votes against**
-

b. Plans and Specifications for Phase 2

- i. To approve the early procurement plans and specifications for Project #245-0090-MAG-N-PF dated 5.23.25 and cost estimate dated 5.30.25

- **Presented by Jennifer Favalora**
- **Second Robert Mitchell**
- **Motion passed 3 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

c. Plans and Specifications for Phase 3

- i. To approve the construction plans and specifications for Project #245-0090-MAG-N-PF dated 8.25.25 and cost estimate dated 9.23.25

- **Presented by Jennifer Favalora**
- **Second Robert Mitchell**
- **Motion passed 3 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

d. Purchase of Property Located at 51 Daniels Avenue, Waterford

- i. To approve the \$770,000 purchase of 15.36 acres of land located on 51 Daniels Avenue from the Town of Waterford as amended in the purchase agreement between LEARN and the Town of Waterford

- **Presented by Jennifer Favalora**
- **Second Robert Mitchell**
- **Motion passed 3 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Motion to adjourn at 10:57 a.m.

- **Presented by Jennifer Favalora**
- **Second Robert Mitchell**
- **Motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 0 votes against**

Respectfully submitted by:
Katherine Ericson

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 233 593 154 692 0

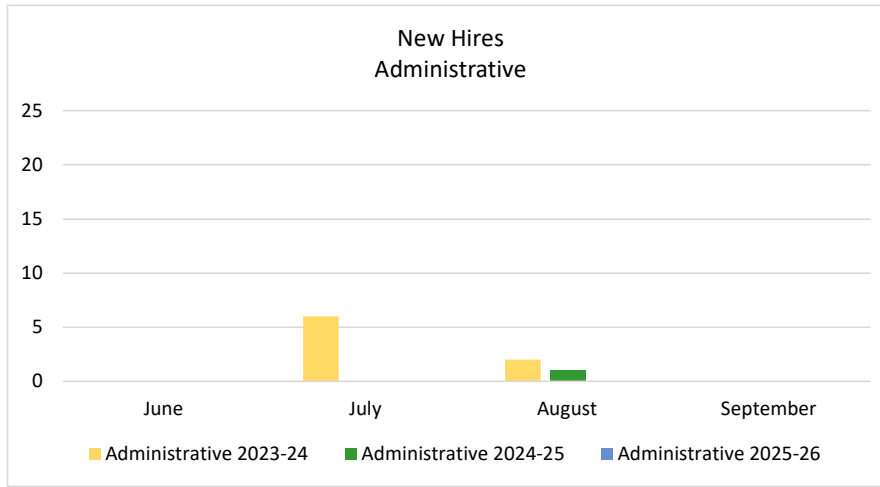
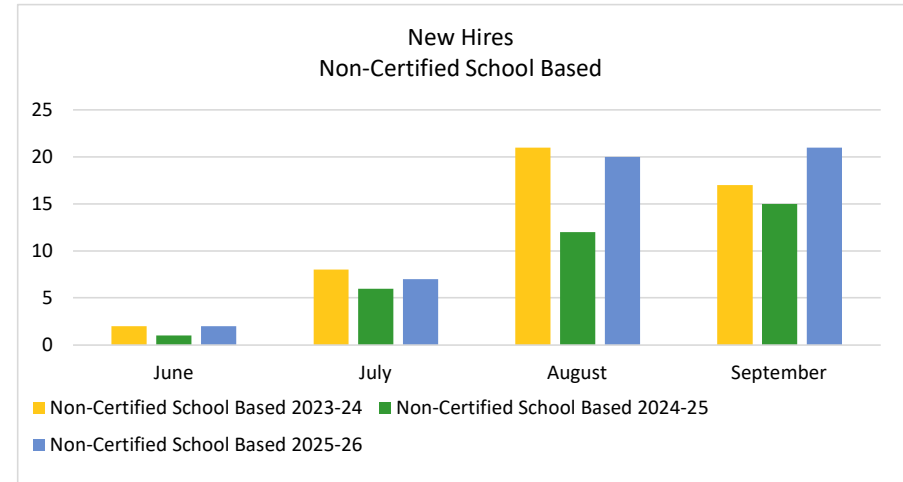
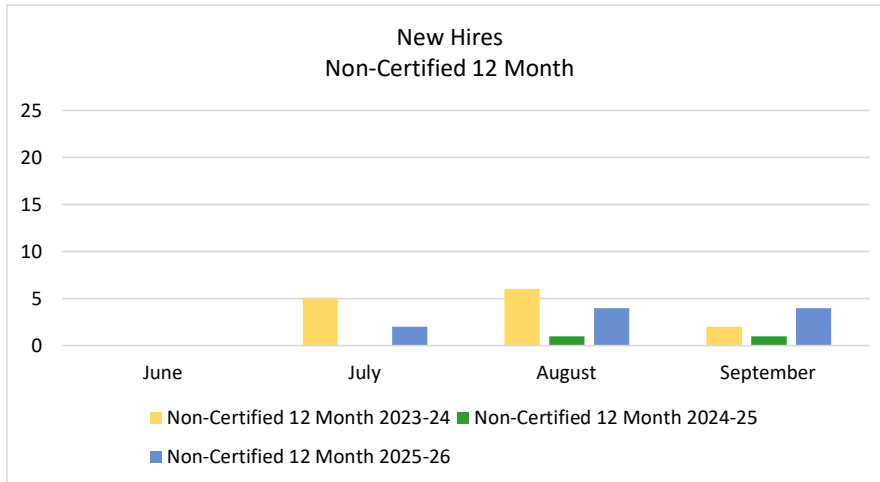
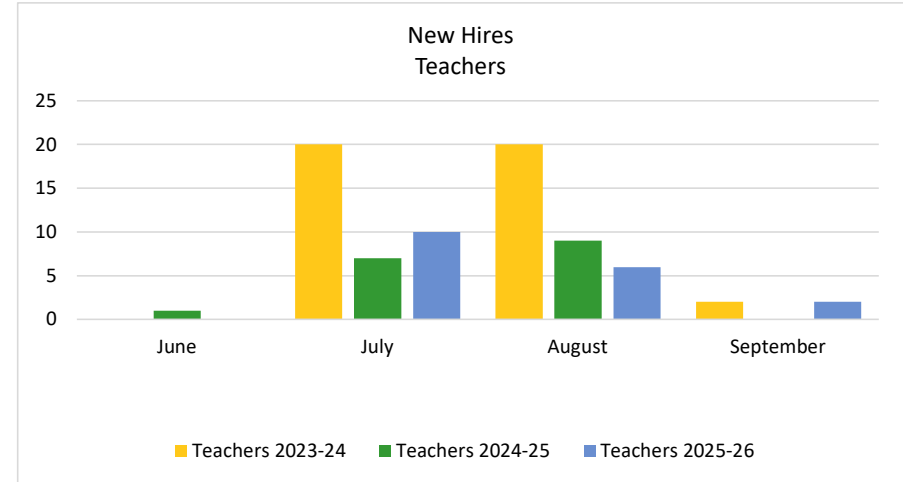
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LEARN	REVENUES				EXPENDITURES				
BUDGET & ACTUAL (FY 2025-2026) CURRENT YEAR REVIEW * in thousands	Original Adopted Budget FY 25/26	Revised Budget	Year-to-Date Actual Revenues	Estimated Revenues Receivable	Original Adopted Budget FY 25/26	Revised Budget	Year-to-Date Actual Expenditures	Year-to-Date Actual Encumbrances	Actual Available Budget
		as of 9-30-25	as of 9-30-25	as of 9-30-25		as of 9-30-25	as of 9-30-25	as of 9-30-25	as of 9-30-25
Departments & Programs									
Student Support Services	\$ 21,198	\$ 21,425	\$ 2,290	\$ 19,135	\$ 21,198	\$ 21,425	\$ 3,311	\$ 1,038	\$ 17,076
MSAP	\$ 4,102	\$ 3,843	\$ 25	\$ 3,818	\$ 4,102	\$ 3,843	\$ 629	\$ 655	\$ 2,559
Office of Teaching & Learning	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,494	\$ 58	\$ 1,436	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,494	\$ 349	\$ 10	\$ 1,135
Early Childhood Education	\$ 2,630	\$ 3,023	\$ 314	\$ 2,709	\$ 2,630	\$ 3,023	\$ 170	\$ 16	\$ 2,837
Creating Connections Early Learning Center	\$ 491	\$ 491	\$ 4	\$ 487	\$ 491	\$ 491	\$ 62	\$ 9	\$ 420
Tri-Share	\$ -	\$ 793	\$ -	\$ 793	\$ -	\$ 793	\$ 33	\$ 68	\$ 692
Transportation	\$ 568	\$ 568	\$ -	\$ 568	\$ 568	\$ 568	\$ 10	\$ 317	\$ 241
COVID Relief	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Executive Services, Special Projects, IT	\$ 3,023	\$ 2,770	\$ 206	\$ 2,564	\$ 3,023	\$ 2,770	\$ 3,002	\$ 1,061	\$ (1,293)
Dept & Programs Subtotal	\$ 33,587	\$ 34,407	\$ 2,897	\$ 31,510	\$ 33,587	\$ 34,407	\$ 7,566	\$ 3,174	\$ 23,667
Magnet Schools									
Regional Multicultural Magnet School	\$ 6,099	\$ 6,108	\$ 3,317	\$ 2,791	\$ 6,099	\$ 6,108	\$ 812	\$ 838	\$ 4,458
Marine Science Magnet High School	\$ 4,216	\$ 4,189	\$ 2,112	\$ 2,077	\$ 4,216	\$ 4,189	\$ 563	\$ 640	\$ 2,986
The Friendship School	\$ 6,519	\$ 6,485	\$ 3,385	\$ 3,100	\$ 6,519	\$ 6,485	\$ 864	\$ 726	\$ 4,895
Three Rivers Middle College High School	\$ 1,383	\$ 1,383	\$ 706	\$ 677	\$ 1,383	\$ 1,383	\$ 183	\$ 290	\$ 910
Magnet Schools Subtotal	\$ 18,217	\$ 18,165	\$ 9,520	\$ 8,645	\$ 18,217	\$ 18,165	\$ 2,422	\$ 2,494	\$ 13,249
Non-Operating Items									
ECHMC Insurance	\$ 38,247	\$ 38,247	\$ 10,006	\$ 28,241	\$ 38,247	\$ 38,247	\$ 9,238	\$ 31,542	\$ (2,533)
Food Service	\$ 1,028	\$ 1,028	\$ 25	\$ 1,003	\$ 1,028	\$ 1,028	\$ 62	\$ 773	\$ 193
Construction Projects / Capital Expenditures	\$ 19,142	\$ 19,142	\$ -	\$ 19,142	\$ 19,142	\$ 19,142	\$ 854	\$ 14,170	\$ 4,118
Non-Operating Items Subtotal	\$ 58,417	\$ 58,417	\$ 10,031	\$ 48,386	\$ 58,417	\$ 58,417	\$ 10,154	\$ 46,485	\$ 1,778
Grand Total	\$ 110,221	\$ 110,989	\$ 22,448	\$ 88,541	\$ 110,221	\$ 110,989	\$ 20,142	\$ 52,153	\$ 38,694
Notes									
Original budget amounts tie to the approved Board budget; revised budgets continue to reflect ongoing activity such as new contracts and roll forward of 2 year grants.									
MSAP = The MSAP 5 year LEAP grant began In October 2022 for \$9.8m and runs through September 2028. In October 2024, LEARN was awarded a new 5 year MSAP grant (SOARS) for \$9.1m and runs through September 2029.									
Creating Connections Early Learning Center (CCELC) = The infant toddler program will be operating two classrooms during the year located at The Friendship School.									
Tri-Share = LEARN is working with the Office of Policy & Management on a program to fund childcare expenses with participating companies. LEARN will be the fiscal agent.									
Exec Services, Special Projects, IT = Expenditures consist mainly of amounts paid to cover health insurance costs; all expenditures will be offset by admin (12%) and health insurance allocations charged monthly to schools / departments.									
Construction Projects = LEARN anticipates spending ~\$1m for the Early Childhood Center of Excellence project in addition to several projects at each of LEARN's magnet schools.									

The majority of the variances exist at this point as encumbrances continue to be entered for the new year.



New Hires Trend Report September 2025

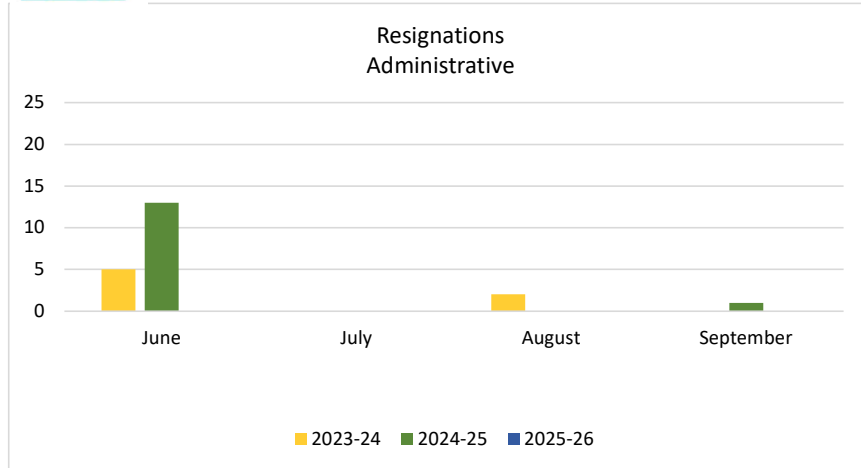
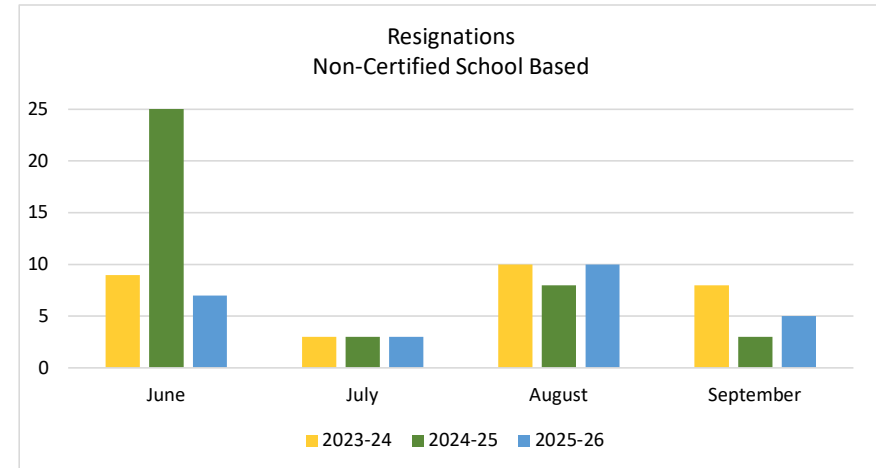
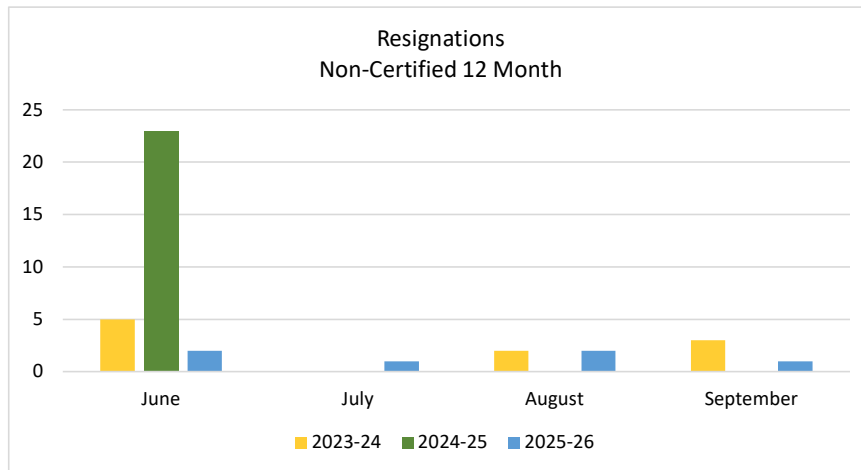
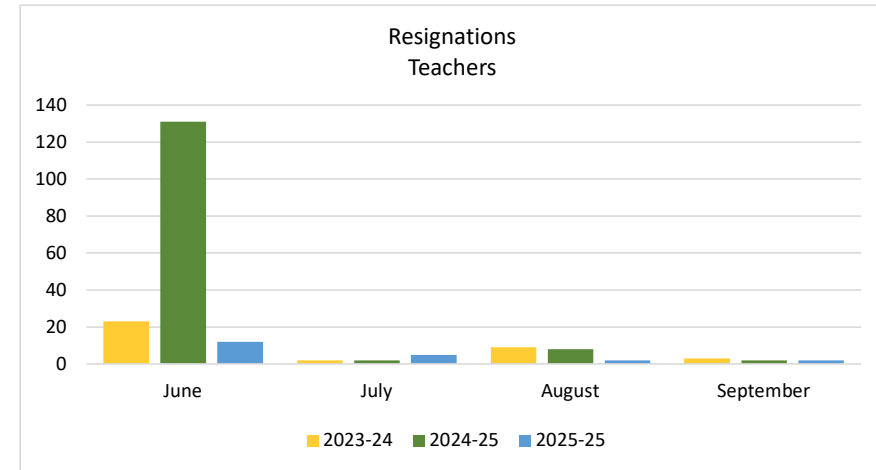


SEPTEMBER 2025

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	DEPT	DATE	PAY	RATE	COMMENTS
BOTTINI	OLIVIA	PHYSICAL THERAPIST	SSS	09/22/2025	SALARY	\$63,096.00	NEW POSITION
BRADLEY	ABIGAIL	SUB INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/23/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
CAPEZZONE	JOHN	OUTPLACEMENT INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/22/2025	SALARY	\$34,498.05	REPLACEMENT
CHATTERTON	MCKENZIE	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	SSS	09/02/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
DAVILA	LIZ	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	RMMS	09/05/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
DOMINGUEZ	ELYSSIA	SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	RMMS	09/19/2025	PER DIEM	\$150.00	REPLACEMENT
DUPLICE	HEATHER	SCHOOL COUNSELOR	MSMHS	09/08/2025	SALARY	\$61,293.00	REPLACEMENT
ERICSON	PAUL	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	SSS	09/07/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
FERNANDEZ	RAYLLA	SUB INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	08/28/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
FOLEY	GRETCHEN	BCBA	SSS	09/15/2025	SALARY	\$87,518.00	REPLACEMENT
FRANCESCHI	ANGELA	OUTPLACEMENT MEDICAL ASSISTANT SPECIALIST	SSS	09/09/2025	SALARY	\$28,572.32	REPLACEMENT
FURTICK	ALICK	OUTPLACEMENT JOB COACH	SSS	09/29/2025	SALARY	\$44,013.75	REPLACEMENT
GERO	JESSICA	OUTPLACEMENT REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECH	SSS	09/15/2025	SALARY	\$33,581.40	REPLACEMENT
GONZALEZ	ARIANNA	OUTPLACEMENT REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECH	SSS	09/18/2025	SALARY	\$34,250.70	REPLACEMENT
GOODWIN	EMMA	ECE SUPPORT STAFF	CCELC	09/09/2025	HOURLY	\$17.75	NEW POSITION
HARTLINE	HANNAH	OUTPLACEMENT INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/22/2025	SALARY	\$32,198.18	REPLACEMENT
HERRERA	ALANIS	OUTPLACEMENT INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/22/2025	SALARY	\$28,015.54	REPLACEMENT
HOLLEY	PAMELA	TEACHER	TFS	09/29/2025	SALARY	\$93,006.00	REPLACEMENT
LAROSE	REBECCA	OUTPLACEMENT REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECH	SSS	09/22/2025	SALARY	\$33,581.40	REPLACEMENT
MCCANN	SHANNON	OUTPLACEMENT JOB COACH	SSS	09/15/2025	SALARY	\$44,028.30	REPLACEMENT
MORALES	VALERY	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	09/02/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
PARRISH	ALTARIEKA	OUTPLACEMENT MEDICAL ASSISTANT SPECIALIST	SSS	09/15/2025	SALARY	\$28,572.32	REPLACEMENT
ROBINSON	MARIAH	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/29/2025	HOURLY	\$21.04	REPLACEMENT
STOKES	KAWANA	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/09/2025	HOURLY	\$26,399.52	REPLACEMENT
UTRILLA ZARATE	CLAUDIA	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	09/10/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
WILLIAMS	SHAQUIAJA	SUB INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/02/2025	PER DIEM	\$125.00	REPLACEMENT
LOCATION KEY							
CCELC - CREATING CONNECTIONS EARLY LEARNING CENTER							
MSMHS - MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL							
RMMS - REGIONAL MULTICULTURAL MAGNET SCHOOL							
SSS - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES							
TFS - THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL							



Resignation Trend Report September 2025



SEPTEMBER 2025

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	COMMENTS
AHIAMADJI	ADELAIDE	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST-OUTPLC	SSS	09/26/2025	RESIGNATION
AMATO	DAVID	TEACHER	SSS	09/28/2025	RESIGNATION - RELOCATION
AMEDZEKOR	ELLIOT	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	08/31/2025	RESIGNATION
ANDERSON	AIMEE	TEACHER	TFS	09/05/2025	RESIGNATION
CORTES JURADO	VERONICA	ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR LEVEL 3	TFS	09/15/2025	RESIGNATION
KELLEY	HOLLY	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST-OUTPLC	SSS	09/05/2025	RESIGNATION - RELOCATION
KIELY	CURTIS	GENERAL ACCOUNTANT	BUS	09/02/2025	RESIGNATION - NEW POSITION
LITTLEFIELD	ELLEN	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	09/19/2025	RESIGNATION
<u>LOCATION KEY</u>					
BUS - BUSINESS DEPARTMENT					
SSS - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES					
TFS - THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL					

CABE

July 2025



2025 Education Law Summaries

The distinctive line drawing of the Capitol building which appears on the cover was graciously donated to CABA by the late Richard Welling, a Hartford artist. The artwork is a particularly appropriate piece for our issue of the 2025 Education Law Summaries. We are delighted to be able to feature a work by this very talented artist.

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INTRODUCTION

Education Law Summaries

This publication is devoted to the 2025 Education Law Summaries. Included in this material are summaries of the laws that have an impact on public education passed during the 2025 regular session of the Connecticut General Assembly. You will note there are gaps in the numerical sequence of the Public and Special Acts. This is because Acts unrelated to education or to the operation of school districts have been omitted.

The Governor signs into law two kinds of Acts, Public and Special. Public Acts, which are valid enactments that have general application, become part of the Connecticut General Statutes. They either add to, modify, or replace current statutes. Special Acts do not become part of the General Statutes. They are valid enactments created to address a particular set of circumstances or involve specific individuals, corporations, cities, towns or special districts.

Every effort has been made to be as complete and accurate as possible so that the Education Law Summaries provide a reliable resource. The format of the summaries is geared to facilitate reading and enhance comprehension. The number and title of each Act are provided for identification and to cue subject matter. The number and title are followed by individual summaries. In most cases, the summary will be sufficient for one to understand the Act and how it will apply to school districts.

As you read the Public Acts, (by clicking on the PA 25-_) keep three points in mind: (NEW) indicates that the material which follows is an entirely new section added to the statutes under the Act, material printed in boldface type is also new to the statutes as a result of the Act, and [bracketed] material indicates language that has been deleted from the statutes under the Act.

We trust you will find this CAGE service to be useful and informative.

7/2025

2025 EDUCATION LAW SUMMARIES

[SA 25-1](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION.

The act transfers \$40 million in FY 25 from the General Fund to a new separate nonlapsing account for special education emergency assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: from passage

[PA 25-1](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, THE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN DRONES, GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND STUDENT ATHLETE COMPENSATION THROUGH ENDORSEMENT CONTRACTS AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENTS.

§ 1-4 — INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES The act requires each public school superintendent to designate at least one administrator at each school in the school district to be responsible for interacting with federal immigration authorities who appear in person at the school or contact the school to request information. This same requirement also applies to each regional educational services center (RESC), charter school governing authority, and endowed academy designated as a public high school regarding the schools under each of their respective jurisdictions.

It also requires all local and regional boards of education (i.e., “school boards”) to update their school security and safety plans for each school to include protocols for interacting with immigration authorities that are in line with guidance from the State Department of Education (SDE).

The act specifically refers to the guidance SDE issued on January 28, 2025, which among other things, recommends each school district designate at least one administrator to be responsible for interacting with immigration authorities. The act requires the designated administrator to implement the updated security and safety plan protocols when they interact with immigration authorities. The act defines these authorities as officers or employees of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Department of Homeland Security, or people paid by or acting as their agents, charged with civil enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The act also prohibits a school board, RESC, charter school authority, or endowed academy from disciplining, suspending, terminating, or otherwise punishing an employee or an administrator, designated under the act, for implementing the updated school security and safety plan relating to staff interacting with an immigration authority.

Finally, within seven days of the act’s enactment the education commissioner must notify all public school authorities listed above of its contents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage (except a conforming change § 3, is effective July 1, 2025).

[PA 25-8](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS’ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.

This act makes technical changes.

[PA 25-9](#)

AN ACT PROHIBITING LIBRARIES FROM AGREEING TO CERTAIN TERMS IN ELECTRONIC BOOK AND DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK LICENSE AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS.

This act generally prohibits publicly funded libraries from entering or renewing contracts and licensing agreements (collectively referred to as “agreements” below) with publishers of electronic literary materials (i.e. electronic books (eBooks) and digital audiobooks) that prevent, limit, or restrict the library from performing certain customary operational or lending functions specified in the act. However, the prohibition only applies starting 60 days after the Secretary of the State determines that a substantially similar law has been enacted by one or more other states with a combined population of at least seven million.

The act applies to:

- (1) the Connecticut State Library and
- (2) any public library, public elementary or secondary school library, academic or research library, or public archive if it is partially or fully funded (e.g., through grants, loans, insurance, or matching expenditures) by the state or one of its political subdivisions (e.g., municipalities). The act’s prohibition applies for the duration of the fiscal year in which the library or archive receives the funding and the next fiscal year after that.

Under the act, “publishers” are:

- (1) businesses that manufacture, promulgate, license, or sell books, journals, magazines, newspapers, or other literary productions (including digital formats and digital audiobooks) or
- (2) aggregators in the business of licensing access to material collections, including works from multiple publishers, and entering into contracts with libraries to sell or license these materials.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

[PA 25-15](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS MEASURES RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN CONNECTICUT.

§ 7 & 8. This act requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student who:

- (1) enrolls at a school after the school year begins and
- (2) has an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan from a prior school. This applies when the student enrolls due to an armed forces member’s military orders or other document directing the person to the state. For these students, the act requires districts to
 - (1) transfer records and evaluations,
 - (2) perform a reevaluation within 30 days of the child’s enrollment, and
 - (3) hold any meetings.

Under the act, a child of an armed service member is permitted to remain enrolled in a school when the service member relocates on orders, while the member remains a member of the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

[PA 25-25](#)

AN ACT PROHIBITING A BAIL BONDSMAN OR AGENT FROM APPREHENDING A PRINCIPAL ON A BOND ON THE PREMISES, GROUNDS OR CAMPUS OF ANY HEALTH CARE FACILITY, SCHOOL, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

This act prohibits professional bail bondsmen or surety bail bond or bail enforcement agents from taking or trying to take the principal on a bond into custody on the premises, grounds, or campus of any:

- (1) state-operated or Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed health care facility or institution, or office of a DPH-licensed health care provider;
- (2) school or higher education institution; or
- (3) house of worship.

Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires these individuals, before taking the person into custody, to notify the applicable law enforcement where the person is believed to be.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

PA 25-67

AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

*The hyperlink in Section 1 leads to a detailed summary.

§ 1 — DEFINITION OF “CHILD REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION” AND OTHER TERMS

Allows children with developmental delays to qualify for special education through age eight without falling under a specific disability category and defines certain terms

§ 2 — PROHIBITION ON INCREASING CHARGES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR Generally prohibits a charging entity from increasing its costs to a school board for special education services beginning with the 2025-26 school year; permits increases in certain situations if approved by SDE

§§ 3 & 24 — ESTABLISHING A RATE SCHEDULE FOR DIRECT SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND REQUIRING PRIVATE CONTRACTS TO CONFORM TO THE SCHEDULE The act requires SDE to set rates that special education and related services providers can charge school boards for services. It also sets separate paths to set rates for:

- (1) private special education providers, and
- (2) public special education providers and any provider of related services

§ 24 *EFFECTIVE DATE:* July 1, 2026

§ 4 — BILLING STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Requires SDE to develop and update billing standards for the costs that special education transportation providers charge; beginning with the 2027-28 school year, requires all costs that transportation service providers charge for special education transportation services to align with SDE’s billing standards

§ 5 — DEFINING REASONABLE COSTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, “reasonable costs” for special education services are the permitted charges under the rate schedule the act creates; beginning July 1, 2025, prohibits the presumption that “reasonable costs” are the actual cost incurred by special education providers

§ 6 — EXEMPTS NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT FROM A TOWN’S MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT Exempts the special education and expansion development grant from a district’s minimum budget requirement calculation

§ 7 — NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT Entitles each school board to a new special education and expansion development grant; imposes restrictions on how the funds must be used; creates a penalty for improper use; requires school boards to annually report on how grant funds are spent

§ 8 — LICENSURE STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS Requires SDE to develop licensure standards for private special education providers and submit them to the Education Committee by January 1, 2026

§ 9 — UNANNOUNCED ON-SITE VISITS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS The act requires SDE to do unannounced on-site visits of RESCs and private special education providers. The education commissioner must notify the providers of the site visit findings and any required corrective actions; providers must show proof of compliance within 30 days after receiving the finding. A school board will be fined up to \$100 a day for each day of noncompliance; SDE must notify school boards of the findings and necessary compliance proof

§ 10 — TRANSFERRING OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS Prohibits entities from further transferring out-of-district special education students except in certain circumstances

§ 11 — MODEL CONTRACTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT WITH PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OR RESC Requires SDE to establish model contracts to be used when placing a student with an approved private special education provider or with a RESC; requires SDE to make the model contracts available to school boards by July 1, 2026

§ 12 — REPORT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PLACEMENTS Requires school boards to annually report on information related to special education student placements where the board is paying any portion of the cost

EFFECTIVE DATE: from passage.

§ 13 — FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENTS BEFORE OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT

Generally requires school boards to do a functional behavior assessment and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan before placing a student out of-district

§ 14 — REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS Requires the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee to submit a report to the Education Committee and Committee on Children on behavioral health issues affecting special education students

§ 15 — BUILDING EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH GREATER IMPROVEMENT NETWORKS COMMISSION

Creates new study requirements for the BERGIN Commission related to special education; generally extends the commission's end date to July 1, 2030; adds 20 additional members to the commission

EFFECTIVE DATE: from passage.

§ 16 — SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKLOAD ANALYSIS MODEL Requires SDE to develop a proposed statewide special education workload analysis model for teachers and school service providers and submit it to the BERGIN

Commission and Appropriations and Education committees by July 1, 2026

§ 17 — SDE REPORT ON CT-SEDS Requires SDE to develop a report on the functions of CT-SEDS and submit it to the BERGIN Commission and Education Committee by January 1, 2026

§§ 18 & 19 — DUE PROCESS HEARINGS The act includes:

- (1) generally requiring all claims to be disclosed before the start of the hearing;
- (2) requiring hearing officers to consider all evaluations presented;
- (3) generally limiting hearings to four days' duration, and
- (4) requiring hearing officers' written decisions to include specific findings of fact related to educating students with disabilities with their non-disabled peers

§ 20 — SBE SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS Specifies that the education commissioner supervises approved private special education providers

§ 21 — CHANGES TO THE IEP FORM Requires SDE to remove the portion of the state's IEP form that is used to list the people who will implement the IEP

§ 22 — SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EXCESS COST GRANT PROJECTIONS DATA REPORTING Requires SDE to (1) annually make certain disaggregated, student-level, and statewide data available on its website and (2) annually submit excess cost grant projections to the Appropriations and Education committees and the Office of Fiscal Analysis, on January 30 and March 30

§ 23 — DYSLEXIA REPORT Requires the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities to report to the Education Committee on recent developments and best practices on dyslexia evaluations, interventions, and student outcomes and on teacher preparation capacity

§ 25 — TRANSITIONAL COLLEGE READINESS AND REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM OFFERINGS AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS Requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education to continue offering

transitional college readiness, embedded remedial support, and intensive remedial support programs at the state's public higher education institutions

§ 26 — PRIVATE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT REPORT The act requires special education private providers to submit an annual report to SDE regarding their enrollment beginning January 1, 2026

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025 unless otherwise noted in the section.

PA 25-82

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.

By July 1, 2028, the act requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to establish and maintain an electronic portal available through a mobile application and OEC's website that provides information on the availability of early childhood program slots in the state and collects data for analysis by OEC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-93

AN ACT INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

*The hyperlink in Sections 1-14 & 43 leads to a detailed summary.

§§ 1-14 & 43 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT Establishes the Early Childhood Education Endowment, funds it with transfers of unappropriated surplus, and requires the state treasurer to administer it; creates the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board to oversee the endowment's administration; specifies the amount that may be released from the endowment each fiscal year and how those funds may be spent

§ 15 — HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION EMPLOYEES Requires Access Health CT to study the need for, and then establish, a health insurance subsidy program for FY 27

for employees of early care and education programs; sets requirements for the program and a process for potential funding through the Early Childhood Education Endowment

§ 16 — PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDER CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS Adds new requirements to contracts with private special education providers and conditions on expenditures to be eligible for reimbursement; authorizes placements in non-approved facilities under certain conditions and specifies when they are eligible for state reimbursement

§ 17 — NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT FUNDS EXEMPTED FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT Exempts in-district or regional special education programming grants from a school district's MBR calculation

§ 18 — TRANSPORTATION ROUTE MAPPING Requires SDE to conduct an RFI for contractors to create and annually update bus routes for special education students traveling to and from outplacements in the state

§ 19 — NEW COMPETITIVE GRANT TO SUPPORT IN-DISTRICT OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS Starting in FY 27, the act creates a new competitive grant program to support in-district and regional special education programs and services. It allows school boards to use funds to, among other things, improve existing in-district programs or create new in-district or regional programs for students currently enrolled with private special education providers

§ 20 — CREATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS LIST Requires OPM to create, and annually update, a list of certain special education programs throughout the state, to be posted on SDE's public database

§ 21 — CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PRIVATE PROVIDER EMPLOYEES The act requires private special education providers to do employee and prospective employee criminal background checks and take related steps

§ 22 — STAFFING CHANGES NOTIFICATIONS

Requires RESCs and private special education providers to notify parents or legal guardians, school boards, and SDE about certain special education staffing changes

§ 23 — MODEL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTPLACEMENTS

The act requires SDE to establish a special education transportation service model contract

§ 24 — SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY GUIDE

Requires SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, to develop a guide to help families understand special education laws and processes

§ 25 — SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND TESTING GRANT PROGRAM

Establishes, and requires SDE to annually administer, the special education training, education, and testing competitive grant program to give grants to educators and paraeducators who commit to working in an alliance district school for three years

§ 26 — BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT

SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM Requires SDE to establish a grant program to help school boards provide support services for special education students that have experienced trauma or have behavioral health needs

§ 27 — OFFICE OF THE EDUCATIONAL

OMBUDSPERSON Establishes the Office of the Educational Ombudsperson to serve students and families from early childhood to adult education; places the office under the direction of a commissioner appointed ombudsperson and requires it, among other duties, to receive, review, and attempt to resolve any complaints from students and their families

§§ 28 & 29 — INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

PARTNERS The act as passed required, but now allows (per PA-174, § 205) school boards to hire or designate an instructional support partner in every school or school building beginning in the 2026-27 school year. The act gives instructional support partners various responsibilities to support teaching staff and students with disabilities and requires them to spend at least 50 percent of their time performing this position's duties; requires SDE to host quarterly

instructional support partner trainings

§ 30 — STUDY ON OVER-IDENTIFICATION OF MINORITY STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL

EDUCATION SERVICES Requires SDE to conduct a study on the disproportionate or over-identification of minority students for special education services

§ 31 — PRESENTATION OF STATE FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATES

Requires the education commissioner to make an annual presentation on the progress of SBE's five-year plan, SBE to use these presentations to inform the plan's implementation, and these progress reports to be published online

§ 32 — SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

Requires all superintendents to submit information on the district's contracts, students, staff, and savings annually to the BOE

§ 33 — POSTING DISCONNECTED YOUTH

REPORT ONLINE Requires any state agency that contributes data to the disconnected youth report to post the report on its website

§ 34 — UPDATES TO SDE'S CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION AND

INTERVENTION PLAN Expands on SDE's chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan by incorporating additional required and permissible components and requiring SDE to review the plan biannually

§§ 35-37 — UNSPENT FUND ACCOUNT AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES RESERVE FUND

UPDATES Requires local BOEs to create a report on nonlapsing, unspent funds and include similar information in an existing report; similarly updates requirements related to regional BOE educational expenditures reserve funds (§§ 36 & 37 were repealed and redrafted in PA 25-175, §§ 6 & 7)

§§ 38 & 39 — CONTACTING LOCAL HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISONS BEFORE EXPULSION

AND SUSPENSION HEARINGS Requires districts to contact their local homeless education liaisons prior to an expulsion or suspension hearing to determine if the student is homeless

§ 40 — EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET

MEMBERSHIP Adds a library consortium

member to the Early Childhood Cabinet

§§ 41 & 42 — PHASE-OUT OF COMMISSIONER'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS Sunsets the education commissioner's network of schools program by prohibiting the commissioner from adding any more schools to the program after July 1, 2025; permits schools already participating to finish their three-year terms without any extensions. (Both sections repealed and redrafted in PA 25-175, §§ 4 & 5)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025 unless otherwise noted in the section.

PA 25-97

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

§ 51 — PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM The act requires the SDE, within available appropriations, to create a pilot program to allow at least 100,000 students in priority school districts to use an electronic mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment tool (through a website, mobile application, or other online service). SDE must create the program by January 1, 2026, and select the tool to be used in the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 25-99

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, EXPANDING DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNING COLLEGE READINESS AND REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE CREDENTIAL DATABASE.

This act makes several changes affecting high school students' awareness of, access to, and awards for completing certain classes that provide postsecondary education or credits. Generally, the act requires:

(1) higher education institutions that offer dual

or concurrent enrollment courses to report certain information on their courses and student enrollees to the SDE by August 1, 2025, and annually thereafter (§ 7);

- (2) SDE to notify parents of public school students in grades 8 to 11 about opportunities to pursue a challenging curriculum and the availability of courses that grant postsecondary credit by February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter (§ 5);
- (3) SDE to develop a model agreement between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions for providing dual and concurrent enrollment courses and postsecondary credit courses to high school students by July 1, 2026, (§ 6); and
- (4) higher education institutions that offer a concurrent enrollment course as of July 1, 2025, to obtain accreditation for it from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) by, generally, July 1, 2028 (§ 4).

The act defines "concurrent enrollment course" and "dual enrollment course" similarly in that both are postsecondary education courses in any academic subject or career-oriented pathway for high school students simultaneously enrolled in a higher education institution. However, concurrent enrollment courses are delivered at high schools and taught by high school teachers approved by the student's higher education institution and dual enrollment courses are taught by the faculty members of the student's institution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except the parental notification provision is effective January 1, 2026

PA 25-102

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS.

To authorize the use of funds received under the school security infrastructure competitive grant program for the purchase of emergency response communications systems and personal emergency communication devices for school personnel.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-105**AN ACT EXPANDING THE ALLIANCE DISTRICT EDUCATOR AND COUNSELOR LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM AND THE HIGH PRIORITY OCCUPATION LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM.**

This act expands eligibility to participate in the alliance district educator and counselor loan subsidy program and correspondingly renames it as the alliance district loan subsidy program. Under current law and practice, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) operates this program, which provides subsidized interest rates on CHESLA loans that refinance the private student loans of teachers, paraeducators, and school counselors employed in an alliance district.

The act:

- (1) specifies that these school employees must be employed by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school and
- (2) expands the program to make it available to people who are employed in a high priority occupation by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school in an alliance district.

Additionally, the act changes the purpose of a \$7 million bond authorization by:

- (1) specifying it covers the expanded and renamed program and
- (2) extending the bonding to CHESLA's high priority occupation loan subsidy program.

The act also makes a change regarding the use of surety policies and other similar instruments to fund CHESLA's special capital reserve funds, which, by law, must be used to pay interest and principal on CHESLA's bonds. Currently, a policy or instrument must have at least a "AA" rating to be used and the act specifies that this rating is required at the time of the policy's or instrument's issuance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-120**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES.**

§ 3 clarifies the commencement of retirement benefits, and that applications are irrevocable as of the date the member retires. TRS members may withdraw their retirement applications up to the day before their retirement date.

§ 4 amends the TRS death benefit statutes to create default beneficiaries in the absence of a designee or surviving spouse for the return of accumulated contributions and credited interest. In this event, the next default designees are the surviving children, if none, then the funds are awarded to the member's estate.

§ 6 prohibits collective bargaining agreements from providing subsidies for purposes other than reducing costs. Currently, subsidies through the Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB) are used to offset retiree healthcare costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-124**AN ACT CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION RECORDS.**

This act specifies that the Freedom of Information Act's disclosure exemption for records covered by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) applies to education, rather than "educational," records exempt from FERPA, which conforms with terminology used in FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(4)). It also specifies that the exemption applies to FERPA as it existed on January 3, 2012.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-139**AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS.**

The act allows the mandatory human trafficking awareness course to be provided in any format, rather than only by video. By law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), must develop and provide this training program for specified professionals, such as law enforcement officers, judges, public defenders, and certain professionals who have contact with students (§ 17).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except the provisions increasing the council's membership and revising DCF's training program are effective upon passage.

PA 25-143**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM AND CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AND GLUCAGON.**

The act among other provisions, includes K-12 issues:

- (1) requiring that a receiving district hold the planning and placement team meeting for each out-of-district student who requires special education and related services and invite representatives from the sending district to participate in such meeting, and ensure that such students receive the services mandated by the student's individualized education program whether such services are provided by the sending district or the receiving district;
- (2) the receiving district shall ensure that students with a 504 plan receive the services mandated by the student's plan, and pay for the costs of providing such services.

The act also:

- (1) modifies education and supervision requirements for teachers with primary responsibility for a classroom of children in an Office of Early Childhood (OEC) early care and education program ("qualified designated staff members");
- (2) extends by two years, from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2027, the date by which OEC must establish a sliding fee scale for families enrolled in programs under Early Start CT (§ 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-147**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING AND SCOPE OF AUDITS BY THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**

To require the Auditors of Public Accounts to provide a proposed schedule of audits to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight, and to authorize such committee to request the auditors to conduct more frequent audits or performance audits of state agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

PA 25-157**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FIREARM INFORMATION, SECURITY OFFICERS, FIREARM TRANSFERS AND SCHOOL SECURITY GRANTS AND THE FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND THE CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE.**

Requires that applicants for the school security infrastructure grant program conduct a school assessment using guidelines established by DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and sets a cap on

DESPP's use of the program's funds for certain communications systems.

§ 10 *EFFECTIVE DATE*: Upon passage

§ 11 *EFFECTIVE DATE*: July 1, 2025

PA 25-160

AN ACT CONCERNING BLEEDING CONTROL TRAINING AND KITS.

This act allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to administer a bleeding control training program in each district health department. The bleeding control training program may be included as part of an in-service training program for school employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

PA 25-168

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.

*Section numbers in the summary differ from the Section numbers in the Public Act because the amendment removes some sections. SECTION TITLES remain the same.

§ 299 — CHANGES TO ECS GRANT PHASE-IN SCHEDULE Delays by two years the start of an ECS schedule to phase-in grant reductions for overfunded towns; holds these towns harmless for FYs 26 and 27

§ 301 — RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH INSURANCE Reduces the state's share of TRB retired teacher health insurance costs for FY 26 to 25 percent

§§ 302-306 — REQUIREMENT TO PROPORTIONATELY REDUCE SPECIFIED EDUCATION GRANTS Extends the requirement that certain education grants be proportionately reduced if the amount appropriated for them does not fully fund them according to their statutory formulas, including:

Adult education programs (CGS § 10-71),
School transportation (CGS § 10-266m),
Permanent RESC operations (CGS § 10-66j),
Bilingual education (CGS § 10-17g)

§§ 307 & 308 — CHOICE PROGRAM GRANTS FOR MAGNET SCHOOLS AND VO-AG CENTERS Makes permanent the choice program grants for interdistrict magnet schools and vo-ag centers, which are set to expire at the end of FY 25; adds a new method to determine FY 24 grants for newly established magnet schools that begin operating on or after July 1, 2024

§ 309 — ADVANCED AND DUAL CREDIT COURSES Charges SDE with administering funds for two programs to support advanced and dual credit courses and programs within available appropriations

§ 312 — MAGNET SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS Changes the:

- (1) calculation for certain Sheff magnet school transportation grants by eliminating the per-pupil calculation and the supplemental grants structure, instead basing the grants on actual costs of transportation services and
- (2) payment schedule for all magnet school transportation grants

§ 313 — EARLY START AND OEC GRANTS FOR FACILITY REPAIRS Modifies the eligible programs for which OEC can use bond funding for certain facility related grants by adding Early Start CT and removing Even Start; increases the maximum grant amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per classroom

§ 316 — HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM Requires SDE to establish a competitive high-dosage tutoring matching grant program to award two-year grants to programs that provide high-dosage tutoring

§ 317 — SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT PROPORTIONAL REDUCTION Extends the provision requiring grants to be reduced proportionally for all fiscal years, rather than only FY 26

§§ 318-320 — MAGNET SCHOOL TUITION CHARGES Sets a new method for determining tuition rates for magnet school programs that

began operating on or after July 1, 2024, based on average tuition charged in the same region

§§ 321-323 — SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICIES Requires school boards and public library governing bodies to adopt policies on collection development and maintenance, displays and programs, and material review; specifies criteria the policies must meet

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various

[PA 25-174](#)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING GRANT PROGRAMS, STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS REVISING AND IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

*The hyperlink in Section 58 leads to a detailed summary.

§ 58 — SCHOOL AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS Reduces the current bond authorization for funding school air quality improvement grants and consolidates several earmarks into a single, smaller one; allows the funds to be used for additional projects, such as to repair fire damage or correct safety violations

§ 131 — DISTRICT REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP) Creates the DRIP program to provide financial assistance to local and regional boards of education and other public school operators. The program will be used for constructing, renovating, repairing, and enlarging public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure; sets allocation requirements and an allocation formula for allocating assistance under the program; authorizes \$60 million in GO bonds for OPM to administer the program (\$30 million in FY 26)

§§ 140 & 144 — HVAC GRANTS Repeals the existing school construction heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) grant and instead merges it with an existing school construction grant law

§§ 140, 144 & 146 — REMOVAL OF CTECS FROM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM Removes Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) from the school construction grant program providing flexibility in application timelines

§ 141 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS Authorizes 8 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$172.4 million toward total project costs of \$265.7 million; reauthorizes one project with an additional estimated cost of \$50.7 million

§§ 142 & 143 — BONUS REIMBURSEMENT RATES Applies the 15-point reimbursement rate bonus for certain elementary and early childhood projects to the entire project, not just the early childhood space; establishes a new 15 percentage point bonus for the portion of building projects used primarily for special education program space

§ 147 — CHARTER SCHOOL GRANTS PRIORITY Requires the education commissioner to give preference to charter school capital improvements grant applications when the school's accountability index score meets or exceeds the statewide average

§ 148 — INDOOR AIR QUALITY INSPECTIONS Broadens the window, to start July 1, 2022, rather than July 1, 2026, when a school board's school HVAC inspection can count as a state-required inspection

§§ 149-176 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS Exempts school construction projects in 18 towns and one regional school district from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow these projects to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost

§ 205 — INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

PARTNERS Allows, rather than requires as under PA 25-93, school boards to hire or designate a current employee to be an instructional support partner

§ 218 — CHANGES TO ECS GRANT PHASE-IN

SCHEDULE Delays by two years the start of an ECS schedule to phase in grant reductions for overfunded towns; holds these towns harmless for FYs 26 and 27

§ 219 — POSTING CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

AND SCOPE Requires each school board to post approved curriculum objectives and sequence on the board's website by July 1, 2026

§ 233 — PAID SICK LEAVE INCREMENTS

Allows boards of education and municipal employers to require that certain employees use their accrued paid sick leave in the increments set in their applicable collective bargaining agreements, rather than in one-hour increments, as long as they meet certain conditions

§§ 234-237 — PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Extends the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover school employees whose position does not require a professional certification; correspondingly extends the state's FMLA to cover these employees

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various

PA 25-175

AN ACT REVISING THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL REFERENDA AND EQUITY JOINT VENTURES AND CONCERNING CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS, THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL INFORMATION, THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS AND THE DEFERRALS OF CERTAIN TOWNS' REAL PROPERTY REVALUATIONS.

§ 4. The act phases out the Commissioner's Network of Schools program to elimination in FY 28. Schools currently participating in the program are eligible to extend participation for up to two additional years. The Commissioner shall not select any additional schools to participate on or after July 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 5. Schools currently participating in the program are eligible to extend participation for up to two additional years. The Commissioner shall conduct an evaluation of the school's participation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 6. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each local board of education shall compile a report regarding the non-lapsing, unexpended funds account. Included in the report, but not limited to, the total balance of the account, the amount deposited into such account in a fiscal year and an accounting of the expenditures made from such account, and submit such report to the Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 7. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each board shall make available, and annually update, information regarding such fund, including, but not limited to, the total balance of the

fund, the amount deposited into such fund in a fiscal year and an accounting of the expenditures made from such fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

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CABE'S MISSION

To assist local and regional boards of education in providing high quality public education for all Connecticut children through effective leadership.



81 Wolcott Hill Road • Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 • 860-571-7446



September 22, 2025

Anne Kleza, Legislative Director
Meghan Krementowski, Deputy Legislative Director
Office of the Governor
State of Connecticut
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Kleza & Ms. Krementowski,

Thank you for taking time to meet with us last week. As discussed, we appreciate the Governor's commitment to Connecticut's students and for his support in including partial funding for RESC magnet schools in fiscal year 2027 in the adopted budget. We respectfully request for the State to fulfill its obligation to fully fund RESC operated magnet schools, specifically \$13.4 million in FY26 and \$20.2 million in total for FY27.

Last year, RESC magnet schools educated over 13,000 students—and we're on track to do the same this year. With nearly 10,000 applicants and 4,300 students still on the waitlist, high-quality regional education is in demand. Without the requested \$13.4 million this year and the full \$20.2 in FY27, we cannot sustain the staffing, programs, and resources needed to meet this demand.

The RESC magnet operators reluctantly agreed to a 58% magnet tuition cap last year with the promise and expectation that magnet schools would be fully funded in this biennial budget. Without funding for this school year, the 27 RESC magnet schools were forced to eliminate and consolidate over 50 essential school-based positions. These cuts span PK-12 classrooms and include educators no longer providing behavioral, early childhood, math/science, special education and arts support, which is a serious educational setback for our students, our educators, and the communities we serve. The funding loss also reduced professional development and instructional supplies further diminishing the rich learning environments our students need and deserve.

Compounding this challenge, we are also anticipating the loss of federal funding that disproportionately impacts our highest need students.

The RESC Magnet operators need a clear signal from the Governor and the CT General Assembly to direct our next steps. Frozen funding will begin the process of active discussion for the RESCs to potentially phase out the operations of magnet schools in Connecticut. After 15 years of inadequate funding from the State, we can no longer bear the financial burden of operating these schools at the expense of our agencies' fiscal health.



Did You Know?

LEARN's Family of Magnet Schools Gets Results



www.learn.k12.ct.us/student-life/magnet-schools-of-choice
info@learn.k12.ct.us



Results

-  The Friendship School, Waterford - National Merit School of Excellence (2025)
-  LEARN High School Seniors - 100% Graduation Rate (2025)
-  Marine Science Magnet High School, Groton - National Blue Ribbon School (2023)
-  LEARN's Magnet High Schools - Among the Top in Connecticut for College-Level Course Enrollment

Return on Investment

LEARN Magnet Schools = Smart, Cost-Effective Education

-  Lowest Cost Per Pupil, Highest Outcomes of Any RESC-Operated Magnet School (CT Accountability Index)
-  LEARN Magnet Schools Strengthen Connecticut's Education System and the Economy
 - Expands High-Quality Public Pre-K: Supports Working Families, Reduces Future Costs, and Prepares Children for Success
 - Fortifies the State Community College System: Fills Under-Enrolled Courses, Pays Rent, Sends Graduates Forward

Reach



Nearly 1,300 Students from 38 Towns Attend LEARN Magnet Schools

LEARN Magnet Schools Mirror the Diversity of Connecticut



1,318 Student Applications Received for the 25-26 School Year



LEARN's Magnet School Pathway: Elementary through High School, College-Level + Career Readiness

Risk



Flat State Funding: No Meaningful Increase in 15 Years



State-Imposed Tuition Cap - Restricted Revenue Growth



Reduced or Eliminated Transportation - Limits Family Access



No Local Tax Base - RESCs Cannot Raise Revenue through Local Taxes

Keep the Promise to Students SAVE Our Magnet Schools

We Urge the Legislature to:

- Fund LEARN Magnet Schools: Provide \$1.6 million in FY26 and \$3 million in FY27 to prevent further cuts that directly impact students.
- Create a Sustainable Future: Establish a uniform, sustainable funding formula for all RESC-operated magnet schools so each student in Connecticut is valued equally.





Executive Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: September 26, 2025
 Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
 Location: LEARN, Room 216/ 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371

Present: Robert Mitchell, Chair; Jen Favalora, Fiscal Officer; Beverly Washington, Secretary; Dale Bernardoni, Vice Chair; Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of Schools New London; Maryann O'Donnell, Superintendent of Schools Clinton; and Kate Ericson, LEARN Executive Director

Not Attending:

Meeting began at 8:32 a.m.

1. Review October 9, 2025 Board of Directors' Agenda

The committee reviewed and discussed the October Board Agenda.

2. Washington D.C. Federal Advocacy Update

Executive Director Ericson provided the Committee with an overview of her participation in the AESA Advocacy in Action Conference. She was joined by Ms. Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, LEARN Deputy Executive Director, and Dr. Ryan Donlon, LEARN Associate Executive Director, as they traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's students and schools.

Together with colleagues from ACES, the LEARN team met with Congressional staffers from the offices of Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, Representative DeLauro, Representative Courtney, Representative Larson, and Representative Hayes. During these meetings, the team emphasized several key priorities: the critical need for full federal funding of IDEA, the protection of Magnet School Assistance Program funding, and the preservation of Medicaid funding for public schools.

Additionally, the team spotlighted the RESC Alliance's impactful efforts to strengthen the educator workforce through the Connecticut Residency Program.

3. Early Access Agreement for 51 Daniels Avenue

Executive Director Ericson reported to the committee that the Town of Waterford and LEARN have secured an agreement that would permit LEARN's construction company to begin the staging for demolition at 51 Daniels Avenue. This agreement was necessary until the final closing date on the property can take place.

4. Magnet School Assistance Program

Executive Director Ericson was thrilled to share that LEARN has received conditional approval for both Magnet School Assistance Program grants from the federal government. This means that the millions of dollars applied for were awarded and will be accessible for this fiscal year.

5. State Advocacy

Executive Director Ericson provided an overview of the ongoing advocacy efforts on behalf of LEARN. In September, LEARN hosted several legislators for visits to the LEARN Transition Academy (LTA), the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), and The Friendship School (TFS). To date, Representative LaMark Muir, Representative Menapace, Representative Bumgardner, and Representative Ryan have accepted the invitation to tour these schools.

The purpose of these visits is to highlight the urgent challenges facing LEARN's magnet schools and to underscore LEARN's critical role in supporting districts through its regional special education programming.

Additionally, the RESC Executive Directors jointly submitted a letter to the Governor's staff, emphasizing the severity of the situation and advocating for immediate attention to the funding and sustainability of magnet schools.

6. Tri-Share Program

Executive Director Ericson relayed a recent update on the status of CT's Tri-Share Program. Electric Boat has committed \$500,000 to their employees to help defray the cost of childcare. These funds will be utilized to pay one third of a family's childcare costs. Another third of the cost will be contributed to the Childcare Center on behalf of the family from the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. LEARN's role in this program is to act as the fiduciary to ensure Childcare Centers receive funds in a timely manner.

7. Vacancy Update

LEARN is still reporting 29 vacancies across the agency. A variety of positions are vacant, including an accountant, an early childcare head teacher, Early Childhood Coordinators, Intervention Specialists, Registered Behavior Techs, and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst.

8. Early Childhood Endowment

Executive Director Ericson reported on Connecticut's Early Childhood Endowment. These funds have been set aside for the Office of Early Childhood to subsidize childcare across Connecticut.

9. Office of Teaching and Learning: Multilingual Screeners

Executive Director Ericson shared out LEARN's latest new tool to support districts with screeners that can be translated into over 14 languages. The goal of the tool is to support districts' ability to properly assess the academic level of students in their home language. The Executive Director shared that she has invited the Office of Teaching and Learning Team to share where they are in the design of this product with the full Board of Directors.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Jamella A. A. Etienne

Date: September 26, 2025

Time: 10:03 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Location: LEARN, 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme

Meeting Minutes

Building Committee Members: Kate Ericson, LEARN Executive Director; Robert Mitchell, Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Dale Bernardoni, Vice-Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Beverly Washington, Secretary LEARN Board of Directors; Jennifer Favalora, Fiscal Officer LEARN Board of Directors; Craig Esposito, Past President LEARN Board of Directors

Meeting Attendees: Katelyn Chapin, Newman Architects; Charles Warrington, Colliers Engineering and Design; Nick Conti, Gilbane, Inc.; Gary Cymbala, SSC

Building Committee Staff: Julie Pendleton, LEARN Coordinator of Special Projects; Lisa Cooney, LEARN Coordinator of Communications

Agenda

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes
- 2.0 Updates & Reports
- 3.0 Other Reports
- 4.0 Financial Update
- 5.0 Old Business
- 6.0 New Business
- 7.0 Next Meeting
- 8.0 Adjournment

Discussion and Decisions:

1.0 Approval of Minutes

- September 26, 2025, Building Committee: Early Childhood School, 51 Daniels Avenue, Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve
 - Presented by: Craig Esposito
 - Second by: Beverly Washington
 - Motion carried unanimously

2.0 Updates & Reports

- Newman Architects, PC/RDG Architects
 - Design Phase to Construction Documents Phase
 - Work continues on the final set of construction documents in preparation for an October 16 meeting with the State of Connecticut.
 - A meeting with the Town of Waterford was held, characterized as, “great”.
 - There is a shared understanding of the 51 Daniels Avenue process and timeline.
- Gilbane, Inc.
 - The demolition and abatement process continues to move forward.
 - One permit left to pull.
 - This will be a 3-month (approximate) process.
 - An early access agreement allows the process to move forward.



- It is anticipated that following the October 16 State meeting, Gilbane, Inc. will go out to bid for construction.
- We are on pace with the original project timeline.
- Colliers Engineering and Design
 - The construction document review continues, as mentioned by Newman Architects.
 - It was reported that the process between and among Newman Architects, Gilbane, Inc., and Colliers has worked with consistent, nice back and forth communication.
 - \$73.8 million estimate will be submitted to the State.
 - Colliers is optimistic about the October State meeting, and hopeful that State approval will come by the beginning of November.

3.0 Other Reports

- Town of Waterford
 - The cell tower negotiation is moving forward in a positive direction.
 - It is anticipated that the October 7 Waterford selectman meeting will include the vote on the agreement needed.

4.0 Financial Update

- Discussion and possible action on invoices for Project #245-0090MAG/N/PF

Company/Vendor	Amount Approved
Newman Architects	\$372,650.00
Colliers Project Leaders	\$ 6,106.25
SES	\$ 4,500.00
Benesch	\$ 1,322.40
Buckley Appraisal Services	\$ 3,100.00
Shipman & Goodwin (Legal)	\$ 15,036.50
Total	\$402,715.15

- Motion to approve
 - Presented by: Robert Mitchell
 - Second by: Beverly Washington
 - Motion carried unanimously

5.0 Old Business

- Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment (FF&E)
 - LEARN and Newman Architects will begin to meet in January with internal stakeholder groups re: specific furniture, fixture, and equipment needs.



6.0 New Business

- Discussion and possible action on Phase Two Bid Package for Switchgear and Generator to Collins Electric Co., of Chicopee, MA, in the amount of \$523,367.00 for Project #245-0090MAG/N/PF.
 - Five bids were received.
 - Collins Electric Co. was the lowest bidder.
 - Motion to approve
 - Presented by: Craig Esposito
 - Second by: Robert Mitchell
 - Motion carried unanimously
- Discussion and possible action to approve the Plans and Specifications for Phase Three – Construction Plans and Specifications for Project #245-0090MAG/N/PF, dated 8.25.25.
 - Motion to amend the action to include “and cost estimate dated 9.23.25” and approve the amended action
 - Presented by: Kate Ericson
 - Second by: Beverly Washington
 - Motion carried unanimously
 -

7.0 Next Meeting

- Date: October 24, 2025, IN PERSON
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: LEARN, 44 Hacketts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT
- Items for the Next Meeting Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Updates & Reports
 - Newman Architects, PC/RDG Architects
 - Gilbane, Inc.
 - Colliers
 - Other Reports
 - Financial Update
 - Old Business
 - New Business
- **Note: The October 2 Special Building Committee Meeting is cancelled.**
 - **There will be an October 2 Special Board of Directors Meeting.**
 - **VIRTUAL**

8.0 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.
 - Presented by: Jennifer Favalora
 - Second by: Kate Ericson
 - Motion carried unanimously





**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LEARN
TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

“LEARN is a Regional Educational Service Center operating under Section 10-66 a-n of the Connecticut General Statutes.”

“Resolved, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director, is hereby authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of LEARN, any and all contracts and agreements, excluding loans, effective until June 30, 2026.”

The above is a full and true copy of a resolution adopted at the May 8, 2025 meeting of the LEARN Board of Directors and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked, and is at present in full force and effect.

Attest:

Beverly Washington
Secretary, LEARN Board of Directors



CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

I, **Beverly Washington**, Secretary of the **LEARN Board of Directors**, a Regional Educational Service Center, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the LEARN Board of Directors, duly held and convened on **May 8, 2025**, at which a quorum of the Board of Directors was present and acting throughout, and that such resolution has not in any way been modified, repealed, revoked, or rescinded, and is presently in full force and effect.

RESOLVED, that **Katherine Ericson**, Executive Director, is authorized to make, execute, and approve, on behalf of the LEARN Regional Educational Service Center, any and all contracts or amendments, excluding loans, effective **June 30, 2026**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto affixed her signature this day, the **08th day of May, 2025**.

Beverly Washington

Beverly Washington
SECRETARY, LEARN Board of Directors

May 8, 2025

DATE



RESOLUTIONS OF LEARN

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

October 9, 2025

RESOLVED, that **LEARN**, a body corporate and politic established pursuant to Section 10-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, having an address having an address of 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371 ("**LEARN**"), be, and it hereby is, authorized and empowered to purchase the real property commonly known as 51 Daniels Avenue, Waterford, Connecticut (the "**Property**") from the **TOWN OF WATERFORD**, a Connecticut municipal corporation having an address of 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385 (the "**Seller**"), in accordance with the terms and conditions of that certain Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between LEARN and Seller dated as of December 13, 2023, as amended by that certain First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 1, 2024, as further amended by that certain Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of July 25, 2025, as further amended by that certain Third Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 26, 2025, as the same may be amended from time to time (as amended and modified, the "**Purchase and Sale Agreement**"), for the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$770,000.00), in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director of LEARN (the "**Executive Director**"), or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the above-referenced Purchase and Sale Agreement and the transactions completed thereby; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to negotiate the terms of and to execute and deliver for and on behalf of LEARN, each of the instruments, documents and agreements as may be necessary or convenient to carry out any of the foregoing resolutions, all with such changes, and in such form, as she may approve, the execution and delivery of each document to be conclusive evidence of said approval; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or convenient in order to consummate the transactions authorized in the foregoing resolutions, and any actions heretofore or hereafter taken by the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, in carrying out the purposes of these resolutions are hereby confirmed, approved and ratified in all respects.



CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

I, **Beverly Washington**, Secretary of the **LEARN Board of Directors**, a Regional Educational Service Center, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the LEARN Board of Directors, duly held and convened on **October 9, 2025**, at which a quorum of the Board of Directors was present and acting throughout, and that such resolution has not in any way been modified, repealed, revoked, or rescinded, and is presently in full force and effect.

RESOLVED, that **LEARN**, a body corporate and politic established pursuant to Section 10-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, having an address having an address of 44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371 ("**LEARN**"), be, and it hereby is, authorized and empowered to purchase the real property commonly known as 51 Daniels Avenue, Waterford, Connecticut (the "**Property**") from the **TOWN OF WATERFORD**, a Connecticut municipal corporation having an address of 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385 (the "**Seller**"), in accordance with the terms and conditions of that certain Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between LEARN and Seller dated as of December 13, 2023, as amended by that certain First Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 1, 2024, as further amended by that certain Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of July 25, 2025, as further amended by that certain Third Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement dated as of August 26, 2025, as the same may be amended from time to time (as amended and modified, the "**Purchase and Sale Agreement**"), for the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$770,000.00), in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Katherine Ericson, Executive Director of LEARN (the "**Executive Director**"), or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the above-referenced Purchase and Sale Agreement and the transactions completed thereby; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered in the name of and on behalf of LEARN to negotiate the terms of and to execute and deliver for and on behalf of LEARN, each of the instruments, documents and agreements as may be necessary or convenient to carry out any of the foregoing resolutions, all with such changes, and in such form, as she may approve, the execution and delivery of each document to be conclusive evidence of said approval; and it is



FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, be, and hereby is, authorized to do and perform all such further acts and things as may be necessary or convenient in order to consummate the transactions authorized in the foregoing resolutions, and any actions heretofore or hereafter taken by the said Executive Director, or any individual acting at her direction, in carrying out the purposes of these resolutions are hereby confirmed, approved and ratified in all respects.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto affixed her signature this day, the **09th day of October, 2025**.

October 9, 2025

Beverly Washington
SECRETARY, LEARN Board of Directors

DATE