



SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420

July 17, 2026

Dear Salem School Community,

As many of you know, several weeks ago I sustained an injury to my cervical spine. This greatly exacerbated a pre-existing condition I have been managing for years. After careful consultation with my physicians and discussions with my family, I have concluded that my condition has progressed to the point that, without major surgical intervention, I will be unable to perform the essential responsibilities of the Superintendent position at the level I expect of myself.

Given my strong preference to avoid spinal surgery and the uncertainty surrounding conservative treatment options, I believe it would not be fair to ask the Salem School community to endure long periods of extended absences. Therefore, to ensure there is no interruption in district leadership while I manage my recovery, I have made the decision to conclude my service to the Salem School District and will be assisting with an orderly leadership transition.

Serving the Salem School Community has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my professional career. I am grateful for what we have accomplished together on behalf of students, from strengthening academic programming and expanding opportunities through initiatives such as the Talented & Gifted Program and Robotics, to supporting our teachers and staff, improving district operations, advocating for more equitable state funding for small districts, and working together to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its lasting impact on public education in Connecticut.

Most importantly, I am proud of the culture that defines Salem School. Our students are surrounded by outstanding educators, dedicated staff, supportive families, engaged Board members, and a community that deeply values its school. That commitment has always been Salem's greatest strength.

I want to sincerely thank the Board of Education, district staff, families, students, town officials, and community members for the support and partnership you have shown me throughout my time in Salem, and especially over these past several weeks. I am grateful that the Board and I, under difficult and unforeseen circumstances, were able to develop a thoughtful, forward-looking leadership transition plan that supports clarity and continuity for the Salem School community.

While this is not the way I envisioned concluding my service in Salem, I leave with tremendous gratitude and confidence in the future of the Salem School District. In my new advisory role during the transition to new leadership, I look forward to supporting the district as it builds upon its many outstanding programs and, most importantly, the remarkable people who make Salem such a special place for children to learn and grow.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve the Salem School Community. I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

Brian Hendrickson
Superintendent, Salem School District

BH/jlk

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"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."