LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 12, 2026
44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 | 9:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting: TEAMS LINK (Meeting ID: 248 429 913 096 048 Passcode: mK7C8cX2)

A Microsoft Teams remote meeting option is available for those unable to attend in person. Login details can be found at the end of this agenda. **As a reminder, all visitors to LEARN buildings are required to present a valid photo ID upon arrival. Please be sure to bring your photo ID with you when visiting our facilities.**

AGENDA

1 CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 AUDIENCE AND GUESTS: INTRODUCTIONS

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 READING AND/OR REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

5 SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Executive Director and General Counsel, Patrice McCarthy, to speak about Connecticut's Blue Ribbon Commission and legislative updates.

6 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting of October 8, 2026
- 6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of October 31, 2026
- 6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: None

7 INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- 7.1 Hiring (resignations and new hires, including trend reports)
- 7.2 Distributions

7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

7.3.1 Regular Business Meeting of October 23, 2026

7.4 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes

7.4.1 Supplemental Business Meeting of October 8, 2026

7.4.2 Regular Business Meeting of October 23, 2026

7.5 Legislative Updates

7.6 LEARN Agency Updates

8 OLD BUSINESS

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Updated Drone Footage: Early LEARNing Magnet School Project 10/8/26

9.2 Review of Executive Director's Goal Setting

10 EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

11 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Budget planning and fiscal challenges; and District experiences with school consolidation and redistricting.

12 FUTURE ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

13 ADJOURNMENT

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AGENDA NOTES

1 CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 AUDIENCE AND GUESTS: INTRODUCTIONS

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 READING AND/OR REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

5 SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Executive Director and General Counsel, Patrice McCarthy, to speak about Connecticut's Blue Ribbon Commission and legislative updates.

6 CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting of October 8, 2026
- 6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of October 31, 2026
- 6.3 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

7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

7.3.1 Regular Business Meeting of October 23, 2026

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11 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Budget planning and fiscal challenges; and District experiences with school consolidation and redistricting.

12 FUTURE ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

13 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting.

LEARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 8, 2026
Draft Posted: October 14, 2026

Present: Dale Bernardoni, Chester (Grades K-6); Galen Cawley, Madison (Teams); Courtney Ennis, Preston (Teams); Katherine Ericson, LEARN; Jennifer Favalora, Haddam & Killingworth (Region 17); Elizabeth Fernandes, Westbrook; Mary Harris, Ledyard (Teams); Robert Mitchell, Montville; and Laurie Wolfley, Waterford (Teams)

Not Attending and Not Represented: Eric Bauman, East Lyme; Thomas Danehy, Clinton; Scott Garbini, New London; Terri Garrity, East Haddam; Katie Gauthier, Stonington; Marijke Kehrhahn, Old Saybrook; Gregory Perry, Norwich; Chet Stefanowicz, North Stonington; Beverly Washington, Groton; Vacant, Chester, Deep River, Essex/Region (Region 4, Grades 7-12); Vacant, Deep River (Grades K-6); Vacant, East Hampton; Vacant, Essex (Grades K-6); Vacant, Guilford; and Vacant, Salem

Guests: Dr. Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Guilford Public Schools; Joanne Lund, LEARN Assistant Director of Business; Elizabeth McCaffery, LEARN Director of Human Resources (Teams); Sarah Moon, LEARN Director of Special Services; and Adrenna Paolillo, LEARN Assistant Director

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1 CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 AUDIENCE AND GUESTS: INTRODUCTIONS

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 READING AND/OR REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Resignation of Board Member W. Scott Brown from the Board of Education of Regional School District 18, effective September 30, 2026.

4.2 Notice of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Operations Grant Award

5 SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Dr. Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Guilford Public Schools, to present on the Strategic Plan and Key District Initiatives of the district.

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Dr. Freeman presented an overview of Guilford district priorities, student needs, and ongoing strategic initiatives. He discussed the district's academic performance, budget considerations, and commitment to community engagement and continuous improvement, highlighting current efforts to promote student well-being through updated personal device policies, and a more developmentally appropriate approach to classroom technology use.

Dr. Freeman also reviewed the district's ongoing evaluation of artificial intelligence in education, including its potential benefits, challenges, and implications for teaching and learning. Throughout the presentation, Dr. Freeman emphasized the importance of balancing instructional effectiveness, student engagement, financial considerations, and community expectations while ensuring that technology supports, rather than replaces, meaningful teaching and learning.

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6 CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Approval of the DRAFT Minutes, Regular Business Meeting of September 10, 2026

6.2 Approval of Budget Summary as of September 30, 2026

6.3 Approval of Grant Applications: None

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- **Presented by Dale Bernardoni**
- **Second Jennifer Favalora**
- **Motion passed unanimously 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): The administration continues to pursue recruitment and retention strategies, particularly in paraprofessional and other non-certified positions, to address vacancies and maintain staffing levels necessary to support students.

7.2 Distributions:

7.2.1 Executive Director Ericson OpEd: Regional Cooperation in Southeastern CT

Executive Director Ericson discussed her recent op-ed published in *CT Mirror*, recognizing the first anniversary of the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant and the progress made through regional collaboration. She noted that the piece supports broader efforts to increase public awareness of the role and impact of Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs). Administration will continue to explore opportunities to highlight successful partnerships and the benefits of regional collaboration for schools and students.

7.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

7.3.1 Regular Business Meeting of September 25, 2026

7.4 The LEARN Project, Inc. Meeting Minutes

7.4.1 Annual Regular Business Meeting of September 25, 2026

Executive Director Ericson provided the Board with an annual update on The LEARN Project, Inc., LEARN's nonprofit entity, including its role in administering designated funding and supporting related financial activities. She reviewed the organization's primary funding responsibilities and emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate financial records and documentation to support transparency, accountability, and continuity.

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7.5 LEARN Building Committee Meeting Minutes

7.5.1 Supplemental Business Meeting of September 10, 2026

7.5.2 Regular Business Meeting of September 25, 2026

7.6 Legislative Updates: Executive Director Ericson provided a legislative update following participation in the AESA Advocacy in Action Conference. Key topics included potential changes to federal education funding and programs, the administration of federal education responsibilities, and the need to strengthen student data privacy protections in response to emerging technologies. LEARN will continue to monitor federal developments and participate in advocacy efforts addressing issues affecting schools, students, and educational organizations.

7.7 LEARN Agency Updates: Executive Director Ericson provided updates on statewide and regional initiatives, including educator evaluation and support, regional listening sessions with district leadership, and ongoing partnerships with higher education institutions to expand professional learning and regional programming opportunities. She attended the opening of Groton's new early childhood education center and LEARN continues to participate in statewide discussions regarding the future of educational services and regional collaboration. The Board also received an update on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) universal school meals program, which demonstrated increased meal participation during implementation. The early

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results are encouraging and will help inform ongoing efforts to support student access to meals and assess the program's long-term sustainability.

8 OLD BUSINESS: None

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Updated Drone Footage: Early LEARNing Magnet School Project 9/8/26

10 EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: Sarah Moon, LEARN Director of Special Services, and Adrenna Paolillo, LEARN Assistant Director, to present an overview and update on Local Governance Partnerships (LGP).

Assistant Director Adrenna Paolillo presented an overview of Local Governance Partnerships and LEARN's role in supporting regional early childhood services. The presentation highlighted the transition to the state's Early Start Connecticut framework and the importance of regional coordination in addressing the needs of children and families. Adrenna reviewed LEARN's support for three Local Governance Partnerships, including fiscal oversight, community needs assessments, program coordination, and collaboration among early childhood providers and community partners. Recent assessment findings are informing local planning and funding priorities, with attention to access to early childhood services and the broader needs of families. The presentation concluded with an overview of ongoing efforts to strengthen regional partnerships, promote consistent practices while addressing local priorities, and support coordinated early childhood services.

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11 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: The Board discussed student personal device policies across districts, including approaches to restricting cellphone use during the school day. Members shared observations regarding implementation, student compliance, parent communication, and the importance of consistent expectations. The Board noted that districts will continue to monitor the effectiveness of their policies and make adjustments as needed.

The discussion also addressed the use of educational technology in schools and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and academic progress. Members emphasized the importance of reviewing student performance data and continuing efforts to support academic recovery.

12 FUTURE ROUNDTABLE TOPICS – Budget planning and fiscal challenges; School facilities and long-term capital planning: and District experiences with school consolidation and redistricting.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:41 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamella A. A. Etienne

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LEARN	**REVENUES**				**EXPENDITURES**				
BUDGET & ACTUAL (FY 2026-2027) **CURRENT YEAR REVIEW** *** in thousands**	**Original Adopted Budget FY 26/27**	**Revised Budget**	**Year-to-Date Actual Revenues**	**Estimated Revenues Receivable**	**Original Adopted Budget FY 26/27**	**Revised Budget**	**Year-to-Date Actual Expenditures**	**Year-to-Date Actual Encumbrances**	**Actual Available Budget**
		as of 10-31-26	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*		*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*
Departments & Programs									
Student Support Services	$ 23,651	$ 23,721	$ 17,941	$ 5,780	$ 23,651	$ 23,721	$ 5,442	$ 7,104	$ 11,175
MSAP	$ 4,073	$ 5,482	$ 1,110	$ 4,373	$ 4,073	$ 5,482	$ 1,441	$ 1,142	$ 2,900
Office of Teaching & Learning	$ 1,368	$ 1,473	$ 81	$ 1,393	$ 1,368	$ 1,473	$ 384	$ 534	$ 556
Early Childhood Education	$ 1,379	$ 2,371	$ 655	$ 1,716	$ 1,379	$ 2,371	$ 379	$ 433	$ 1,558
Creating Connections Early Learning Center	$ 193	$ 547	$ 11	$ 536	$ 193	$ 547	$ 151	$ 109	$ 287
Tri-Share	$ 1,041	$ 1,055	$ 967	$ 88	$ 1,041	$ 1,055	$ 244	$ 393	$ 418
Transportation	$ 698	$ 698	$ -	$ 698	$ 698	$ 698	$ 82	$ 437	$ 178
Executive Services, Special Projects, IT	$ 3,728	$ 9,044	$ 1,594	$ 7,450	$ 3,728	$ 9,044	$ 2,813	$ 3,106	$ 3,125
Dept & Programs Subtotal	$ 36,131	$ 44,391	$ 22,359	$ 22,034	$ 36,131	$ 44,391	$ 10,936	$ 13,258	$ 20,197
Magnet Schools									
Regional Multicultural Magnet School	$ 5,737	$ 5,748	$ 3,087	$ 2,661	$ 5,737	$ 5,748	$ 1,392	$ 3,001	$ 1,355
Marine Science Magnet High School	$ 4,144	$ 4,152	$ 2,182	$ 1,971	$ 4,144	$ 4,152	$ 1,027	$ 2,217	$ 908
The Friendship School	$ 6,568	$ 6,592	$ 3,605	$ 2,987	$ 6,568	$ 6,592	$ 1,559	$ 3,018	$ 2,016
Three Rivers Middle College High School	$ 1,432	$ 1,432	$ 728	$ 704	$ 1,432	$ 1,432	$ 279	$ 887	$ 268
Magnet Schools Subtotal	$ 17,881	$ 17,924	$ 9,602	$ 8,323	$ 17,881	$ 17,924	$ 4,257	$ 9,123	$ 4,547
Non-Operating Items									
ECHMC Insurance	$ 44,449	$ 44,449	$ 17,052	$ 27,397	$ 44,449	$ 44,449	$ 13,947	$ (1)	$ 30,503
Food Service	$ 1,080	$ 1,111	$ 140	$ 970	$ 1,080	$ 1,111	$ 240	$ 765	$ 105
Construction Projects / Capital Expenditures	$ 46,627	$ 47,461	$ 12,908	$ 34,553	$ 46,627	$ 47,461	$ 8,275	$ 39,126	$ 59
Non-Operating Items Subtotal	$ 92,156	$ 93,021	$ 30,100	$ 62,920	$ 92,156	$ 93,021	$ 22,462	$ 39,890	$ 30,667
Grand Total	**$ 146,168**	**$ 155,336**	**$ 62,061**	**$ 93,277**	**$ 146,168**	**$ 155,336**	**$ 37,655**	**$ 62,271**	**$ 55,411**

Notes

Original budget amounts tie to the approved Board budget; revised budgets continue to reflect ongoing activity such as new contracts.

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 continues to partner with the Office of Policy & Management on the program to fund childcare expenses with participating companies. LEARN is the fiscal agent for this program.

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. The significant change in budgeted revenue is due to the accounting of the admin fee.

Construction Projects = LEARN anticipates spending ~$46m for the Early LEARNing Magnet School project in addition to several projects at each of LEARN's magnet schools.

LEARN	REVENUES						EXPENDITURES						
BUDGET & ACTUAL (FY 2026-2027) PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON * in thousands	**Revised Budget**	**Prior Year to Date Actual Revenues**	**Current Year to Date Actual Revenues**	**Revenues: Increase/ (Decrease)**	**Revenues: Increase; (Decrease) Change**		**Revised Budget**	**Prior Year to Date Actual Expenditures**	**Prior Year to Date Actual Encumbrances**	**Current Year to Date Actual Expenditures**	**Current Year to Date Actual Encumbrances**	**Expenses: Increase/ (Decrease)**	**Expenses: Increase; (Decrease) Change**
	as of 10-31-26	*as of 10-31-25*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*		*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-25*	*as of 10-31-25*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*	*as of 10-31-26*
Departments & Programs													
Student Support Services	$ 23,721	$ 16,406	$ 17,941	$ 1,535	9%		$ 23,721	$ 4,743	$ 8,712	$ 5,442	$ 7,104	$ (909)	-7%
MSAP	$ 5,482	$ 179	$ 1,110	$ 931	>100%		$ 5,482	$ 1,485	$ 669	$ 1,441	$ 1,142	$ 427	20%
Office of Teaching & Learning	$ 1,473	$ 112	$ 81	$ (31)	-28%		$ 1,473	$ 503	$ 641	$ 384	$ 534	$ (227)	-20%
Early Childhood Education	$ 2,371	$ 625	$ 655	$ 29	5%		$ 2,371	$ 224	$ 276	$ 379	$ 433	$ 313	62%
Creating Connections Early Learning Center	$ 547	$ 5	$ 11	$ 6	>100%		$ 547	$ 100	$ 99	$ 151	$ 109	$ 61	31%
Tri-Share	$ 1,055	$ 347	$ 967	$ 620	>100%		$ 1,055	$ 37	$ 82	$ 244	$ 393	$ 518	>100%
Transportation	$ 698	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%		$ 698	$ 85	$ 247	$ 82	$ 437	$ 188	56%
Executive Services, Special Projects, IT	$ 9,044	$ 456	$ 1,594	$ 1,138	>100%		$ 9,044	$ 1,995	$ 3,306	$ 2,813	$ 3,106	$ 617	12%
Dept & Programs Subtotal	$ 44,391	$ 18,130	$ 22,359	$ 4,229	23%		$ 44,391	$ 9,172	$ 14,033	$ 10,935	$ 13,257	$ 988	4%
Magnet Schools													
Regional Multicultural Magnet School	$ 5,748	$ 4,156	$ 3,087	$ (1,069)	-26%		$ 5,748	$ 1,289	$ 2,755	$ 1,392	$ 3,001	$ 349	9%
Marine Science Magnet High School	$ 4,152	$ 3,164	$ 2,182	$ (982)	-31%		$ 4,152	$ 935	$ 2,150	$ 1,027	$ 2,217	$ 158	5%
The Friendship School	$ 6,592	$ 3,424	$ 3,605	$ 181	5%		$ 6,592	$ 1,504	$ 2,861	$ 1,559	$ 3,018	$ 211	5%
Three Rivers Middle College High School	$ 1,432	$ 1,057	$ 728	$ (329)	-31%		$ 1,432	$ 376	$ 739	$ 279	$ 887	$ 50	5%
Magnet Schools Subtotal	$ 17,923	$ 11,801	$ 9,602	$ (2,198)	-19%		$ 17,923	$ 4,105	$ 8,505	$ 4,257	$ 9,122	$ 769	6%
											$ -		
Non-Operating Items											$ -		
ECHMC Insurance	$ 44,449	$ 14,046	$ 17,052	$ 3,006	21%		$ 44,449	$ 12,101	$ 27,744	$ 13,947	$ -	$ (25,897)	-65%
Food Service	$ 1,111	$ 131	$ 140	$ 9	7%		$ 1,111	$ 188	$ 716	$ 240	$ 765	$ 101	11%
Construction Projects / Capital Expenditures	$ 47,461	$ -	$ 12,908	$ 12,908	>100%		$ 47,461	$ 2,622	$ 12,472	$ 8,275	$ 39,126	$ 32,307	>100%
Non-Operating Items Subtotal	$ 93,020	$ 14,177	$ 30,099	$ 15,922	>100%		$ 93,020	$ 14,911	$ 40,931	$ 22,462	$ 39,891	$ 6,510	12%
Grand Total	**$ 155,334**	**$ 44,108**	**$ 62,060**	**$ 17,951**	**41%**		**$ 155,334**	**$ 28,188**	**$ 63,469**	**$ 37,654**	**$ 62,270**	**$ 8,268**	**9%**

Variances: Revenues & Expenditures

Variance of expenses in Executive Services related to the accounting of prior years vs this year, including health insurance expenses.

ECHMC revenue and expenses are continuing to trend higher due to a 15% rate increase and an increase in claims activity.

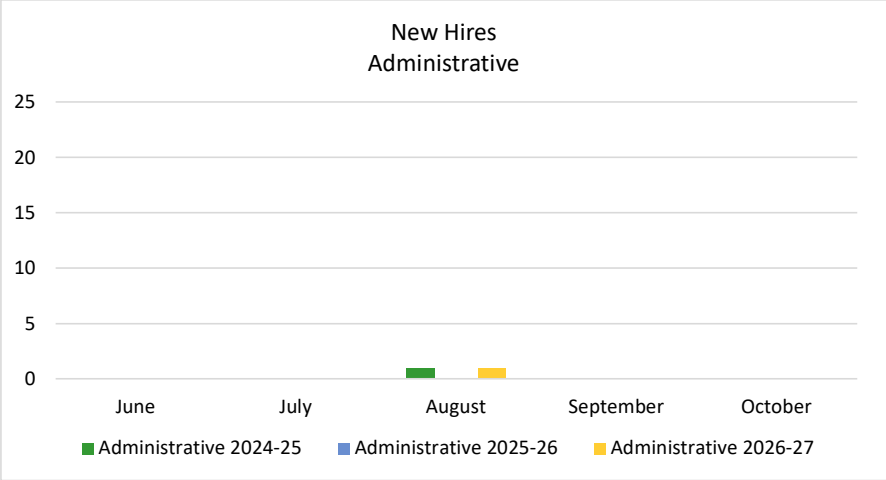
ECE: Local Governance Partner (LPG) revenue reflects payments from prior year.

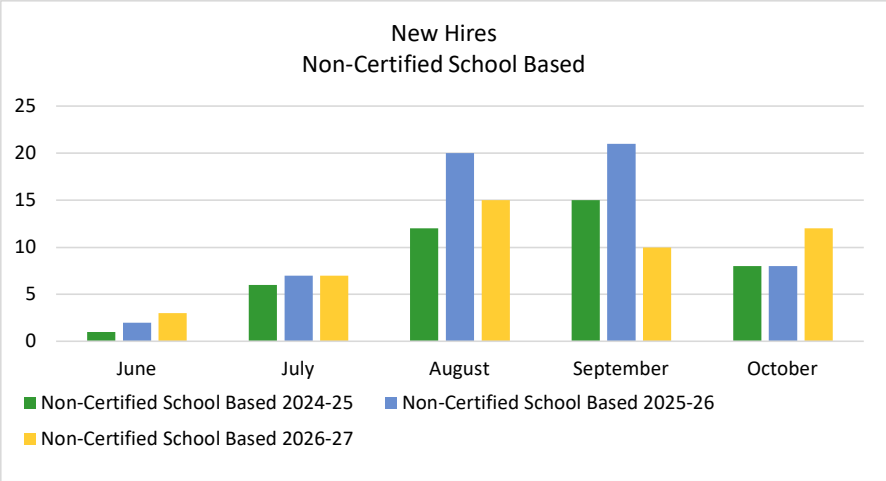
Tri-Share work began in January 2026 causing the large variances in this report.

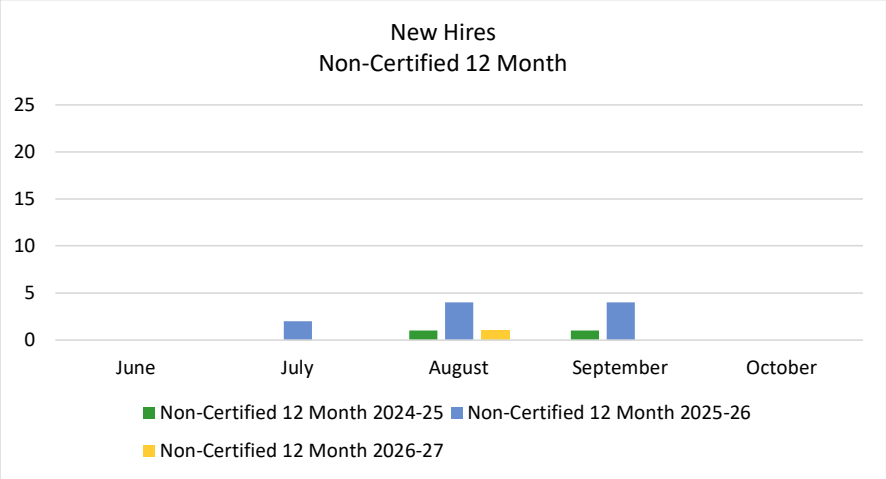
Creating Connections: Revenue and expenses increase due to enrollment increase from 8 at this time last year to 14 this year.

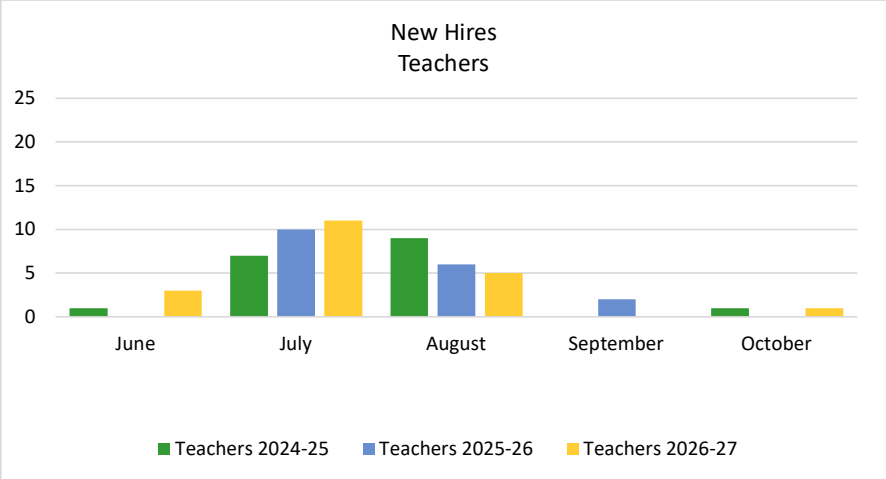
Magnet Schools local tuition to be invoiced.

New Hires Trend Report
October 2026





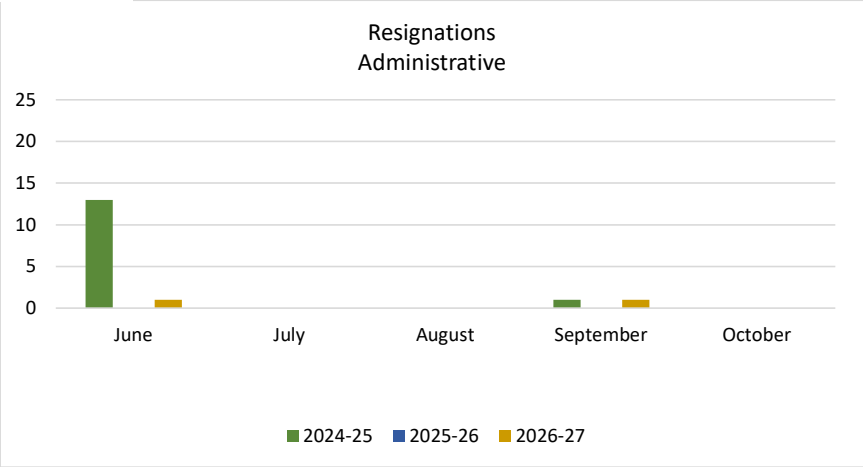


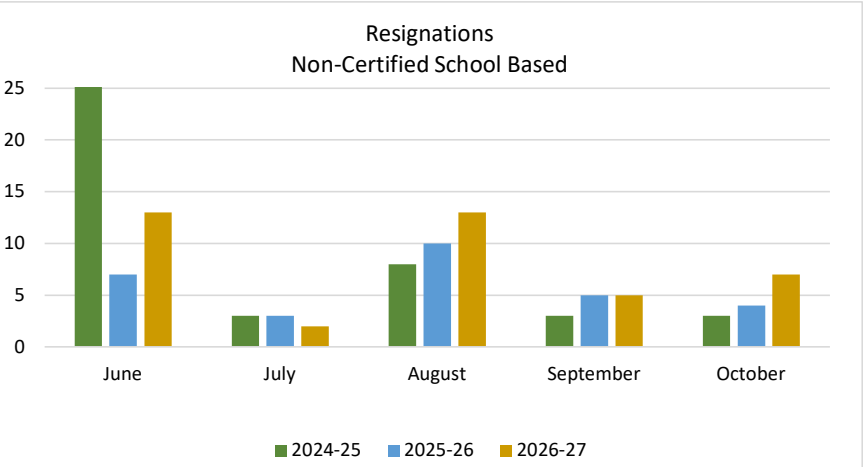


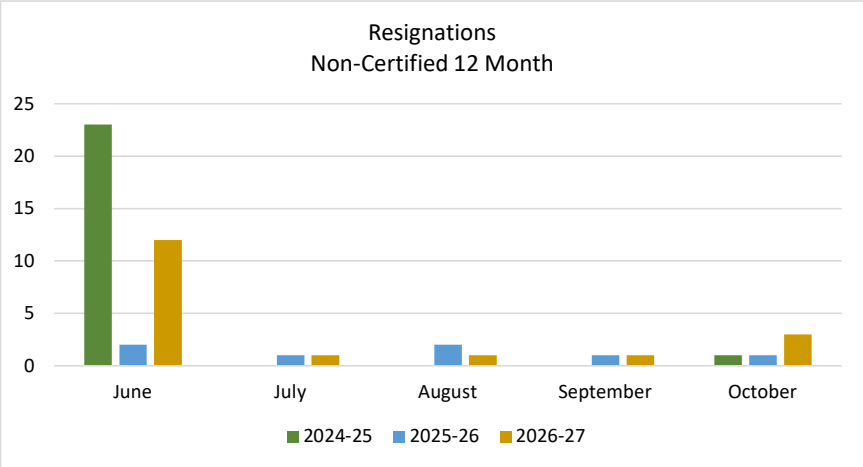
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	DEPT	DATE	PAY	RATE	COMMENTS
ARIAS	CINDY	SUBSTITUTE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/19/2026	PER DIEM	$130.00	REPLACEMENT
CARLSON	TORI	SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	MSMHS	10/01/2026	PER DIEM	$150.00	REPLACEMENT
CASTILLO VALENTIN	TAYNA	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/13/2026	HOURLY	$19.44	REPLACEMENT
DICKISON	MADISON	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/13/2026	HOURLY	$20.41	REPLACEMENT
FALVEY	KELLY	TEACHER	MSMHS	10/07/2026	SALARY	$102,010.00	REPLACEMENT
GIANNELLI	JENNA	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/13/2026	HOURLY	$20.41	REPLACEMENT
HOBBY THOMAS	JACQUELINE	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	10/19/2026	PER DIEM	$130.00	REPLACEMENT
KARLINER	DAVID	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/26/2026	PER DIEM	$130.00	REPLACEMENT
LORA	JOHALY	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	RMMS	10/15/2026	PER DIEM	$130.00	REPLACEMENT
LUCAS	MICHELE	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/26/2026	HOURLY	$20.99	REPLACEMENT
ROGERS	HEATHER	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/01/2026	HOURLY	$24.08	REPLACEMENT
SMITH	STACEY	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/29/2026	HOURLY	$21.04	REPLACEMENT
TEPER	SCOTT	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/27/2026	HOURLY	$24.08	REPLACEMENT

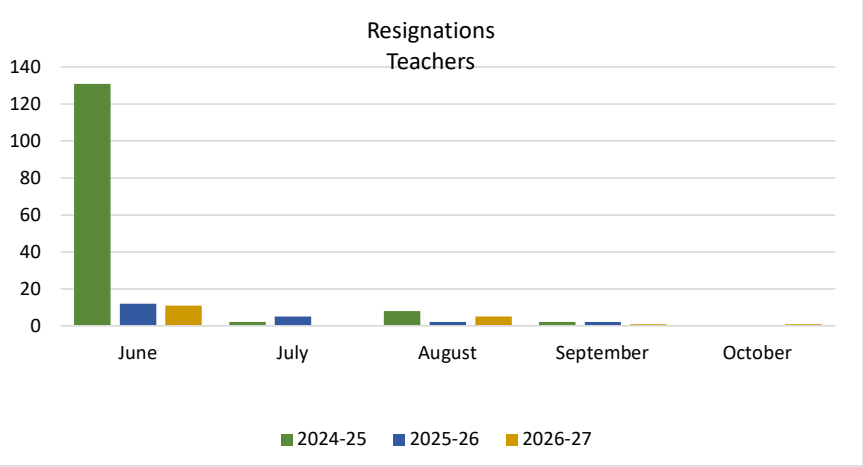
DEPARTMENT KEY	
MSMHS - MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL	
RMMS - REGIONAL MULTICULTURAL MAGNET SCHOOL	
SSS - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	
TFS - THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL	

Resignation Trend Report
October 2026









OCTOBER 2026

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	JOB TITLE	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMMENTS
BROWN	ALIZE	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/16/2026	TERMINATED
CASTILLO VALENTIN	TAYNA	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/22/2026	RESIGNED
CHASE	STEPHEN	COOR OF TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS	IT	10/02/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION
FURTICK	ALICK	JOB COACH	SSS	10/23/2026	RESIGNED
GLUCK	CYNTHYA	REGISTERED BEHV TECHNICIAN	SSS	10/23/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION
GUILBERT	SHAWNEE	INTERVENTION SPECIALIST	SSS	10/02/2026	RESIGNED
MCANALLY	DONNA	ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	10/16/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION
MOORE	JACQUELYN	MEDICAL ASSISTANT SPECIALIST	SSS	10/14/2026	TERMINATED
MORALES	VALERY	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	09/25/2026	RESIGNED
NACHTWEY	CHRISTOPHER	SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR	TFS	09/25/2026	RESIGNED
RICARD	RACHEL	SENIOR ACCOUNTANT	BUS	10/30/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION
SIKORSKI	CIARA	ECE HEAD TEACHER	CCELC	10/23/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION
WILLIAMS	ELIZABETH	TEACHER	SSS	10/16/2026	RESIGNED - NEW POSITION

DEPARTMENT KEY
BUS - BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
CCELC - CREATING CONNECTIONS EARLY LEARNING CENTER
IT - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SSS - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
TFS - THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

Executive Committee

MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Friday, October 23, 2026
44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 | 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Present: Robert Mitchell, Chair; Dale Bernardoni, Vice Chair; Jennifer Favalora, Fiscal Officer; Beverly Washington, Secretary; Maryann O'Donnell, Superintendent of Schools Clinton; and Katherine Ericson, LEARN Executive Director

Not Attending: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of Schools New London

Guests: N/A

Meeting began at 8:33 a.m.

1. Review November 2026 Board of Directors' Agenda

Executive Director Ericson reviewed the draft agenda with the Executive Committee. The Committee discussed the need for Board approval of the State Supplemental Funds. LEARN is awaiting confirmation of the final funding amount to be distributed to the magnet schools. Once the state's contribution is confirmed, LEARN will seek Board approval for the proposed expenditures.

2. Review Executive Director's Goals

Executive Director Ericson shared her leadership goals with the Executive Committee.

3. Connecticut K-12 Blue Ribbon Committee

Executive Director Ericson shared a summary of the meeting highlights from the Blue Ribbon Committee as it relates to LEARN. Over the past few months, the committee has examined the potential role of Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) in supporting the State's effort to create efficiencies and develop cost-effective strategies to support education systems. Joan Wade, Executive Director of AESA, has been invited to present on several occasions and share a national perspective on how states across the country strategically utilize Educational Service Centers. Executive Director Ericson noted that the increased focus and ongoing discussion around RESCs increases the visibility and supports efforts to build understanding about the role and value of RESCs.

4. LEARN Agency Updates

Executive Director Ericson reported that she and her leadership team continue to visit districts in the LEARN region as a mechanism for building relationships, increasing LEARN's awareness of the work across LEARN districts, as well as receiving feedback from districts around LEARN services.

5. L.I.L.A. at MassCUE

LEARN's Office of Teaching and LEARNing team recently presented L.I.L.A. at MassCUE, a regional educational technology conference affiliated with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The presentation generated significant interest, with attendees making serious inquiries about the tool. The response suggests promising opportunities for the App to expand on a national scale.

6. Regional Shared Service Solutions (RSSS) Update

Executive Director Ericson hosted a Regional Shared Service Solutions (RSSS) discussion with some superintendents currently participating in the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) grant program. District Leaders discussed the grant's impact on their districts, shared insights on the grant's conclusion in 2028, and brainstormed possible ideas for a future regional funding application.

7. Quote Request Summary: **Biagiarelli Electric LLC**

Executive Director Ericson shared the need for LEARN to update its door swipe mechanisms. The contracted company previously installed, maintained, and updated the current system. The total proposed amount is $21,700.00 and the work includes upgrading the existing security door panels to ensure compatibility with the current keycard access system. The four LEARN sites (HH, RMMS, OALA, MSMHS) requiring panel updates are Hatchetts Hill, Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy (OALA), and Marine Science Magnet High School (MSMHS). The updates will allow for continued use of the current system.

8. Quote Request Summary: **SHI**

SHI provided pricing for LEARN's Microsoft renewals through the competitively bid CT RESC Alliance contract. As the pricing was obtained through an established competitively bid contract, three additional quotes were not requested. The total quote amount is $37,313.49.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 a.m.

- **Presented by Robert Mitchell**
- **Second by Beverly Washington**
- **Motion Passed, unanimously**

Respectfully submitted by: Jamella A. A. Etienne

LEARN: BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING, 51 DANIELS AVE., WATERFORD

SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING
Date: October 8, 2026
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: On-site with a virtual option

Meeting Minutes

Building Committee Members: Robert (Bob) Mitchell, Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Dale Bernardoni, Vice-Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Jennifer (Jen) Favalora, Fiscal Officer LEARN Board of Directors; Craig Esposito, Past-Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Kate Ericson, Executive Director

Meeting Attendees: Kaitlyn Chapin, Newman Architects; John Holden, Newman Architects; Nick Conti, Gilbane, Inc.; Taylor Crouse, Gilbane, Inc.; Charles (Chuck) Warrington, Colliers Engineering and Design; Margaret Molnar-Ryan, Colliers Engineering and Design; Ryan Donlon, Ed.D., LEARN Associate Executive Director

Building Committee Staff: Julie Pendleton, LEARN Coordinator of Special Projects

Agenda

1.0 Change Orders/ATPs

Change Orders/ATPs for Discussion and Possible Action

ATP-0050, PR 038, Classroom Furred High Walls

Proposed Motion: To approve ATP-0050, PR 038 for Classroom Furred High Walls in the amount of $94,440.00

2.0 Adjournment

Meeting Minutes

1.0 Change Orders/ATPs

ATP-0050, PR 038, Classroom Furred High Walls

- Motion: To approve ATP-0050, PR 038 for Classroom Furred High Walls in the amount of $94,440.00
  - Presented by: Craig Esposito
  - Seconded by: Robert Mitchell
  - Motion carried unanimously

2.0 Adjournment

- Presented by: Kate Ericson
- Seconded by: Dale Bernardoni
- Motion carried unanimously

LEARN: BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING, 51 DANIELS AVE., WATERFORD

Date: October 23, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: LEARN, 44 Hatchetts Hill Rd. Old Lyme

Meeting Minutes

Building Committee Members: 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 Chair LEARN Board of Directors; Kate Ericson, LEARN Executive Director

Meeting Attendees: Margaret Molnar-Ryan, Collier's Engineering and Design; Molly Haas, RDG; Nick Conti, Gilbane, Inc.; Taylor Crouse, Gilbane, Inc.; John Holden, Newman Architects; Katelyn Chapin, Newman Architects; Joe Hollerun; Dylan Russell; Erica Pudvelis, Collier's Engineering and Design; Gary Cymbala, SSC

Building Committee Staff: Julie Pendleton, LEARN Coordinator of Special Projects

Agenda

1.0 Approval of Minutes - Discussion and Possible Action

2.0 Updates & Reports

3.0 Financial Update

4.0 Other Reports

5.0 Old Business

6.0 New Business

7.0 Adjournment

Minutes

1.0 Approval of Minutes - Discussion and Possible Action

- Motion: To approve meeting minutes of September 25, 2026
  Presented by Beverly Washington
  Seconded by Robert Mitchell
  Motion carried unanimously
- Motion: To approve the supplemental meeting minutes of October 8, 2026
  Presented by Robert Mitchell
  Seconded by Dale Bernardoni
  Motion carried unanimously

2.0 Updates & Reports

- Architects: Newman Architects, PC/RDG Architects
  - General updates
    - Phase 4 Drawings & Specifications
      The review with the State for Technology, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, and Playgrounds will take place on Wednesday.

- Construction Manager: Gilbane
  - General Updates
    - Gilbane provided a detailed overview of the construction work to date.
      Highlights include:
      Exterior
      - Roofing installation is nearing completion.
      - Brick veneer installation is progressing. The west side is complete, and work is beginning on the east side.
      - Sheathing and blocking installation are underway.
      - Vapor barriers have been installed in select areas.
      - Glass has arrived, and installation is beginning.
      - The loading dock concrete has been poured.
        Interior & Building Systems
      - Piping and utility modifications are underway.
      - Water lines are being installed, tested, and flushed.
      - Electrical switchgear has arrived.
        Kitchen Equipment
      - The kitchen hood has been delivered.

      Upcoming Deliveries
      - The generator is expected to arrive within the next two weeks.
      - The cooler and freezer are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

  - Discussion and possible action
    - PR-028 EVAC Microphones ATP-052

    Motion: To approve PR-028, ATP-052 for EVAC Microphones in the amount of $6,757.00
    Presented by Robert Mitchell
    Seconded by Jennifer Favalora
    Motion carried unanimously

    - ASI-012 Ceiling Height Coordination ATP-057

    Motion: To approve ASI-012, ATP-057 Wing D, E Ceiling Height Coordination in the amount of $ 6,579.00
    Presented by Craig Esposito
    Seconded by Beverly Washington
    Motion carried unanimously

    - PR-041 Roof Drainage

    Motion: To approve PR-041, ATP-060 Roof Drainage at Expansion Joint in the amount of $ 10,881.00
    Presented by Craig Esposito
    Seconded by Beverly Washington
    Motion carried unanimously

    - PR-039 Acoustic Putty Pads

    Motion: To approve PR-039, ATP-061 Acoustic Putty Pads at AV Devices in the amount of $ 5,564.00
    Presented by Beverly Washington
    Seconded by Robert Mitchell
    Motion carried unanimously

3.0 Financial Update

- Colliers reported the project remains in a good fiscal position.

Discussion and Possible Action	Amount	Motion	Vote
Invoices for Project #245-0090MAG/N/PF	$6,269,765.69	To approve the invoices for Project #245-0090MAG/N/PF	• Presented by Kate Ericson • Seconded by Dale Bernardoni • Motion carried unanimously

4.0 Other Reports

- None

5.0 Old Business

- None

6.0 New Business

- None

7.0 Adjournment

- Presented by Robert Mitchell
- Seconded by Beverly Washington
- Motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GOALS 2026-2027

Goal Area One: Educational Leadership

To establish and maintain high-quality relationships that support the vision of the agency, to innovate, connect, and serve the educational community.

- Launch LEARN's district wide Numeracy Team to support high-quality math instruction across all LEARN schools.
- Continue partnership with the HILL for Literacy for systemic and systematic change in literacy instruction, based on the **Science of Reading** (leading to district decision on literacy materials).
- Build a compelling marketing program for LEARN's dual enrollment program with the goal of growing the program into the middle school.
- Integrate the tenets of Textured Leadership into the LEARN Leadership team expectations.
- Support the shifts of the **Early Childhood in Education** Team to meet the changing needs of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC).
- Use feedback from Listening Sessions with LEARN Region Superintendents to design or improve LEARN services.

Goal Area Two: Operational Management

To provide effective facilitation of the day-to-day operations of LEARN to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all staff and those we serve.

- Closeout Project 2 for The Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy.
- Prepare for the move out of the Friendship School to the new the Early LEARNing Campus.
- Plan the transition of Regional Multicultural Magnet School's (RMMS) Second Grade to The Friendship School (TFS).
- Prepare for the new grade 8 to open at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) for the 2026-2027 School Year.
- Update and maintain, district and school-based safety plans through the facilitation of the All-Hazards School Security and Safety Committee.
- Launch the inaugural year of the Annenberg Institute partnership across Eastern Connecticut.
- Support the launch of LEARN's AI tool, LILA, beyond Connecticut borders.

Goal Area Three: Community and Board Relationships

To promote positive relationships that enable us to establish and lead the vision of LEARN, and to communicate and operationalize that vision in action.

- Create a year-long calendar of public relations activities to engage LEARN's state delegation in on-going dialogue around magnet funding and special education programming.
- Mobilize families and students to advocate for magnet funding at the state level.
- Continue to build relationships through my board membership on Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.
- Represent the Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Collaborative.