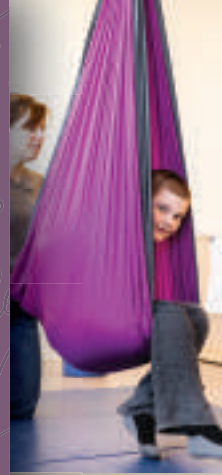
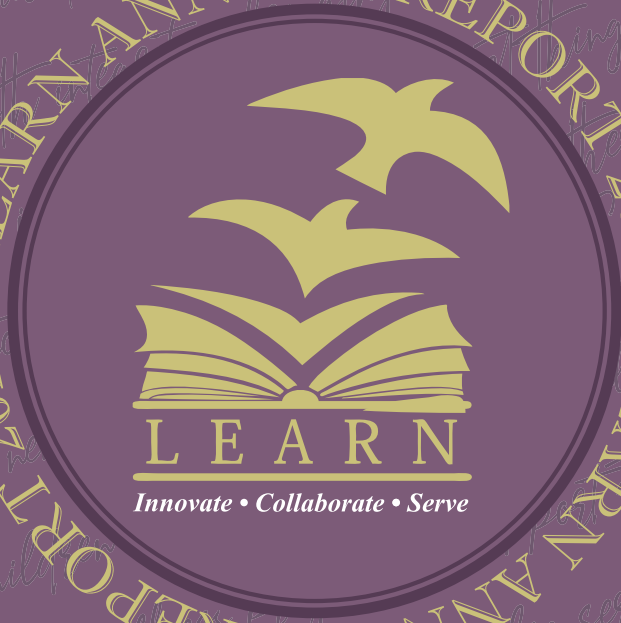


ARK
Service Center. In the
of each individual's contributions to
depends on each and every one of our staff, teachers, and
students achieve, that our educators learn, and that our families are supported,
communication, and acting with
to a series of new contribu
we opened the doors of the ne
learning environment for child
also provides a diagnostic and well
meet their unique needs. This revitalized facility also serves as the home
Support Services. Our consultative and related services also contin
districts, schools, teachers, and students across all of our member sch
of practice and roundtables, to include opportunities for clinical
ers, behavior analysts, and speech language pathol
regional solutions to our member districts
rive. This year, of particular note, the
International Baccalaureat
development

LEARN ANNUAL REPORT 2019 • LEARN ANNUAL REPORT 2019 • LEARN ANNUAL REPORT 2019





LEARN
THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR



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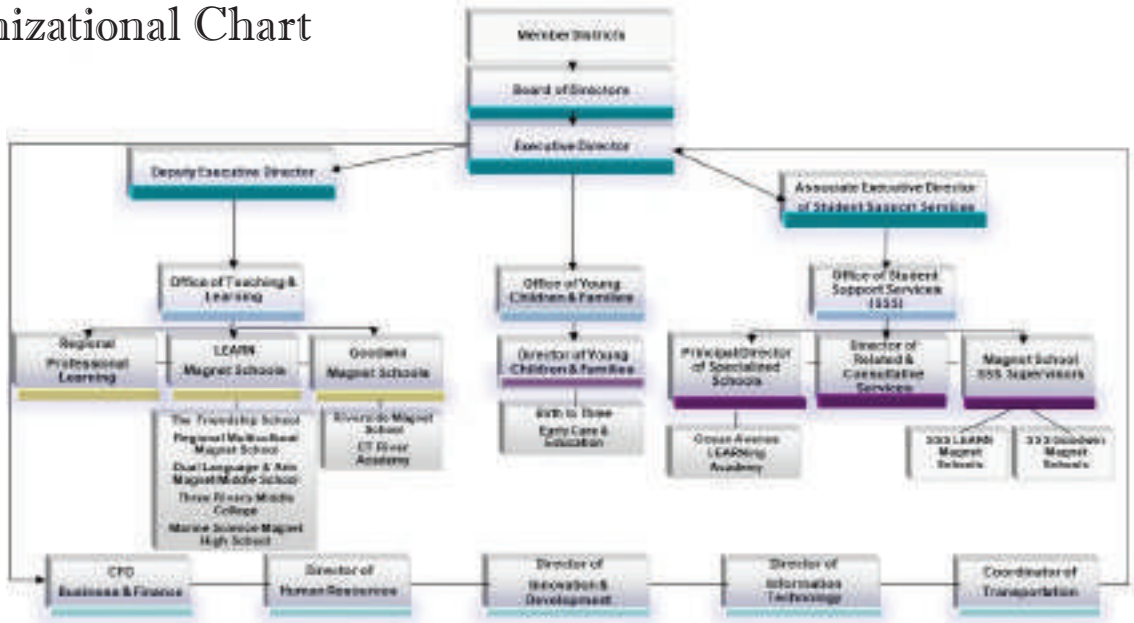
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LEARN Districts 2018-19

LEARN Organizational Chart

- Executive Leadership
- Operations & Resource Management
- Program & Service Offices
- Member Programs & Services
- School-based Programs & Services



Board of Directors & District Superintendents

Chester

Theresa Ann Myers
Ruth Levy, *Superintendent*

Clinton

Vacant
Maryann O'Donnell, *Superintendent*

Deep River

Imran Munawar
Ruth Levy, *Superintendent*

East Haddam

Karin Blaschik
Brian Reas, *Superintendent*

East Hampton

Joanne Barmasse
Paul Smith, *Superintendent*

East Lyme

Tim Hagen
Jeffrey Newton, *Superintendent*

Essex

Carolyn Rotella
Ruth Levy, *Superintendent*

Groton

Rita Volkmann
Michael Graner, *Superintendent*

Guilford

(Alt. BOE members)
Gary Kaisen, Vinny Baglio, Kate Balestracci
Paul Freeman, *Superintendent*

LEARN

Dr. Eileen Howley, *Executive Director*

Ledyard

Stephanie Calhoun
Jason Hartling, *Superintendent*

Madison

Emily Rosenthal
Thomas Scarice, *Superintendent*

Montville

Colleen Rix, Robert Mitchell
Laurie Pallin, *Superintendent*

New London

Jeffery Hart
Cynthia Ritchie, *Superintendent*

North Stonington

Pamela Potemri
Peter Nero, *Superintendent*

Norwich

Aaron (Al) Daniels
Abby Dolliver, *Superintendent*

Old Saybrook

Jan Furman
Jan Perruccio, *Superintendent*

Preston

Cindy Luty
Roy Seitsinger, *Superintendent*

Region #4 Essex, Deep River & Chester

Ruth Levy, *Superintendent*

Region #17 Haddam & Killingworth

Suzanne Sack
Howard Thiery, *Superintendent*

Region #18 Lyme & Old Lyme

Stacey Leonardo
Ian Neviasser, *Superintendent*
Joseph Onofrio II, *Superintendent*

Stonington

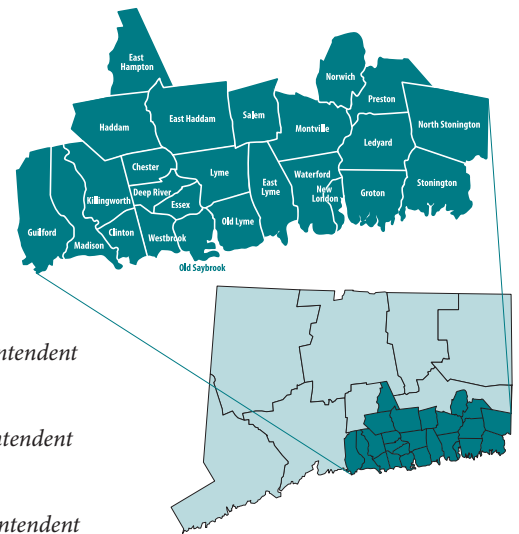
Craig Esposito,
ALT Deborah Downie
Van W. Riley, *Superintendent*

Waterford

Christopher Jones
Tom Giard III, *Superintendent*

Westbrook

Dee Adorno
Patricia Ciccone, *Superintendent*



LEARN Executive Committee

Craig Esposito, *Chairperson*
Tim Hagen, *Vice Chairperson*
Joanne Barmasse, *Fiscal Officer*
Rita Volkmann, *Secretary*

Dr. Eileen Howley, *LEARN Executive Director*
Paul Freeman, *Guilford Superintendent*
Abby Dolliver, *Norwich Superintendent*

Message from the Executive Director



I am delighted to share the LEARN 2018-2019 Annual Report, a summary of the work of our Regional Educational Service Center. In the fall of 2018, at our agency-wide virtual Convocation, I stressed the importance of each individual's contributions to LEARN. The growth and development at LEARN depends on each and every one of our staff, teachers, and leaders. Our staff are the reason that our students achieve, that our educators learn, and that our families are supported. By living our core values of embracing diversity, acting with integrity, bringing in creativity and innovation, cultivating relationships, ensuring communication, and acting in a spirit of service, great things become possible.

Living those core values has led to a series of new contributions to our region and to one another at LEARN. In January 2019, we opened the doors of the new Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy, a high quality learning environment for children with autism, developmental disabilities, and complex needs. The Academy also provides a diagnostic and wellness program to support students in trauma and to identify the best placements to meet their unique needs. This revitalized facility also serves as the home for our Office of Student Support Services. Our consultative and related services also continue to grow as our staff support school districts, schools, teachers, and students across all of our member school districts. We expanded our communities of practice and roundtables to include opportunities for clinical staff, such as school psychologists, social workers, behavior analysts, and speech language pathologists. LEARN is proud to offer high quality regional solutions to our member districts and support efforts across the state.

Our magnet schools continue to thrive. This year, of particular note, the Regional Multicultural Magnet School earned the distinction of an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). This transdisciplinary framework focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both at school and beyond. We could not be prouder of the entire school community and their commitment to this effort. This report highlights each of our school's many accomplishments. Our international efforts continue with the Vermont International Academy and our partnership across the globe with China. Our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and service is LEARN's commitment to our region's future.

This June, the LEARN Board of Directors appointed Kate Ericson as the next Executive Director. I could not have asked for a better educator to lead this agency than Kate. In her time as Deputy Executive Director, she rose to the challenges our schools have faced and been an advocate for students and teachers. I have no doubt she will be a great leader for LEARN.

As I enter into retirement, I know that the future of LEARN is bright. Our mission and vision are clear. Our partnerships continue to deepen. Our schools continue to thrive. Our special education and specialized programs and services are the hallmark of what regional educational service centers were intended to provide. I have every confidence that our programs and services will continue to grow and meet the changing needs of our region and beyond. I look forward to watching LEARN continue to evolve through the many contributions, gifts, and talents of our staff, educators, and leaders.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Executive Director of LEARN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen S. Howley".

Dr. Eileen S. Howley
Executive Director



LEARN Leadership Team 2018-19

Executive Director



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Tara Amatrudo, Principal
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Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Principal
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www.msmhs.com

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Carole Glenn
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Mission Framework

The LEARN mission framework, approved by the LEARN Governing Board of Directors, is grounded in the key principles of innovating, collaborating, and serving the educational community. Our vision is that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service. Achieving this mission requires shared responsibility, grounded in a set of beliefs about the importance of continuous learning, growth, and development in every aspect of our collective work. The LEARN mission framework captures the many facets of our programs and services.

The mission framework has several parts to promote organizational coherence and clarity. It is designed to support organizational decision making and action. First, the framework includes the mission and vision—describing our main purposes for existing and how we function as an organization. That mission and vision are supported by our core organizational values; that is, how we will do our work and how we will treat one another and those we serve. Our core values are rooted in our culture and reinforced through how we design our structures and systems, our resource allocation and alignment, as well as the many communities in which we engage.

Our theory of action articulates the leadership actions that we believe will move us toward our goals and help us achieve our mission. Innovation, collaboration, and service is what it means to be part of LEARN. We shape and live these beliefs through our specific agency goals. The agency goals form the foundation of individual departmental planning. Departmental goals link to the agency goals and are supported by specific strategic action steps and indicators of progress and accountability. School and departmental development planning are the means to drive the work. A coherent system depends upon the use of data and results to inform our next steps and continuous progress toward our mission. Connecting with our various stakeholders, collecting data, feedback, and input from our members is a key starting point for our

strategic decision making. Strategic action planning that is grounded in and drawn from data and driven by the organizational goals and mission, helps to create coherence, alignment, and shared effort toward improvement.

This continuous improvement model is grounded in the notion that “leadership” must be distributed. That is, all members of the LEARN community should have opportunities to contribute to the actions and decisions that most directly affect their work. In other words, the knowledge-base of the entire staff is valued as a critical variable for improvement. Driven by our mission framework, grounded in a set of core beliefs for how we will work, creating and articulating a clear vision for the future, and establishing and setting a set of strategic goals and action steps to support it, we continue to move the organization forward.



AGENCY GOAL

One



To provide exemplary and innovative school based programs that *advance achievement* for all students and nurture the *cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being* of students in safe, respectful, and *diverse learning* communities.



LEARN
SCHOOL BASED
PROGRAMS



The Friendship School

LEARN SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

The Friendship School

Waterford / Pre-kindergarten through Kindergarten



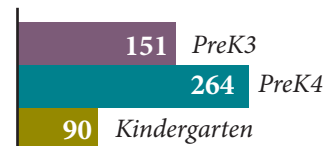
When students move on from The Friendship School, they have more than just the basic skills they'll need for elementary school. They are curious, imaginative, and ready to learn more about their world.

TFS is an NAEYC-accredited interdistrict magnet school, assuring families of a quality and engaging program complete with passionate teachers and a safe setting. As an inquiry-based school, TFS encourages children to ask questions and seek answers through experience. It serves pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students from towns all across southeastern Connecticut.

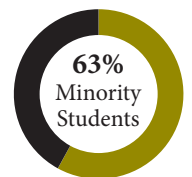
The school prides itself on diversity where students of all backgrounds and incomes receive excellent instruction in the basics as well as the arts. In 2018-19, the school introduced a Creative Movement program that allows students to explore and express themselves through dance.

TFS is also proud of its relationship with its Waterford community and beyond. The school has partnerships with organizations like the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center that enhance the educational experience.

By the Numbers



Educating 505 Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
16 Towns

23 English Learners

49 Special Education

317 Free/Reduced Lunch

383 Applications Submitted in 18/19



Regional Multicultural Magnet School

New London / Kindergarten through Grade 5

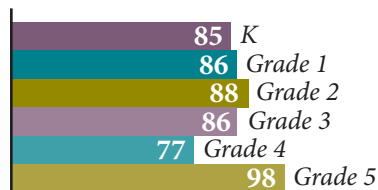


Students and families of Regional Multicultural Magnet School already know the commitment to presenting education without borders or limits. As the oldest elementary interdistrict magnet school in the country, RMMS has a tradition of inclusiveness and challenging all students to think beyond the classroom. The school's devotion to helping students develop their intellect and accept all cultures led to a new milestone: RMMS is officially an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School.

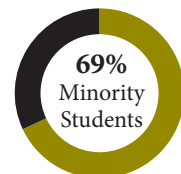
There are only a handful of elementary schools in New England that successfully navigated the accreditation process, allowing them to offer the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). IB schools throughout the world seek to help students develop intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills. The PYP framework encourages students to ask questions and become lifelong learners. It was a natural progression for RMMS to seek accreditation as the next step in its future and service to students ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

RMMS has added more STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programming, such as robotics for students in every grade level. The school continues to add services, programs, and events that build on its mission, such as the Multicultural Dance Festival.

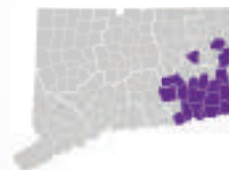
By the Numbers



Educating 520 Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
19 Towns

72 English Learners

65 Special Education

333 Free/Reduced
Lunch

252 Applications
Submitted in 18/19

LEARN
SCHOOL BASED
PROGRAMS



LEARN
SCHOOL BASED
PROGRAMS

Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School

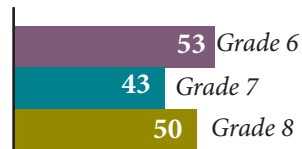
Waterford / Grade 6 through Grade 8



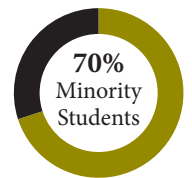
From invention conventions to robotics competitions, Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School is helping create learners who redefine success. At DL&AMMS, students have a great deal of choice in their education and a number of fun and challenging electives to choose. Technology is part of the experience, with every 6th, 7th, and 8th grader learning the skills they'll need for high school and beyond.

As an interdistrict magnet school, DL&AMMS draws students from throughout the New London region. Class sizes are small and students can connect with their teachers and peers. The students contribute to the community as well. In 2018-19, the Teen Outreach Program (TOP), a national initiative, promoted positive development through role models, peer mentorship, interactive discussion, and service.

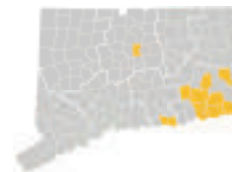
By the Numbers



Educating **146** Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
12 Towns

17 English Learners 28 Special Education

108 Free/Reduced Lunch

119 Applications Submitted in 18/19



Marine Science Magnet High School

Groton / Grade 9 through Grade 12

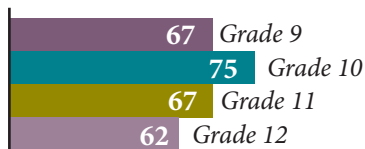


All high schools seek to provide their students with the best possible college preparation. Marine Science Magnet High School takes it a step beyond, with dozens of Advanced Placement offerings in a number of subject areas. Frequently named a top public high school, MSMHS helps students become great scholars, earn transferrable credits, and advises them on scholarships and the college admissions process. MSMHS students regularly earn millions of dollars in scholarship awards to many different institutions, continuing a legacy of success stretching back to the school's founding.

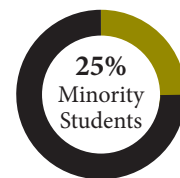
With its superior college preparation, the MSMHS curriculum is rich with opportunities for growth and makes great use of the school's marine theme. With the school's campus in Groton, the Thames River and Long Island Sound provide the perfect environment for study and research. Students are learning critical skills that will make them stewards of the shoreline.

In 2018-19, MSMHS once again earned recognition from U.S. News & World Report, which named the school as the 17th best high school in Connecticut and the best overall school in the state's southeastern region.

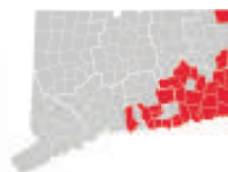
By the Numbers



Educating 271 Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
27 Towns

1 English Learner 32 Special Education

58 Free/Reduced Lunch

473 Applications Submitted in 18/19

LEARN
SCHOOL BASED
PROGRAMS



LEARN SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

Three Rivers Middle College

Norwich / Grade 11 through Grade 12

LEARN / Three Rivers Community College Magnet School

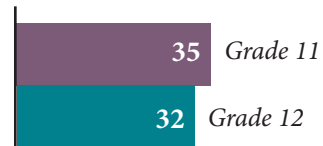


As they complete their high school education while also gaining college credits, students truly become engaged at Three Rivers Middle College. Teachers transform their classrooms into crime labs, students become science and math problem solvers, and even the most reluctant learners find encouragement from educators dedicated to student success. In the process, TRMC provides the opportunity to earn transferrable credits and make significant progress toward a college degree.

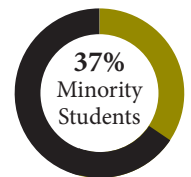
TRMC's program focuses on high school juniors and seniors who take prep and college level courses at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. Teachers understand the adjustment between high school and college and work with their students to best prepare them for higher education. Students learn critical study habits, take the SAT for free, and potentially leave high school with an Associate Degree already in hand.

Lessons go beyond a basic curriculum, with teachers focused on identifying innovative strategies to motivate students. For example, Pamela Santerre sought to engage students more deeply in her English classes, so she wrote a proposal for crime kits and literature. Inspired, students became sleuths as well as writers. The lesson's appeal and approach garnered the attention the Dalio Foundation, which awarded Santerre a \$10,000 grant in the 2018-19 school year.

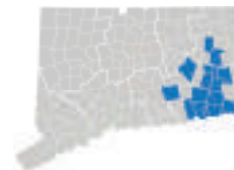
By the Numbers



Educating **67** Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
16 Towns

1 English Learner 7 Special Education

30 Free/Reduced Lunch

65 Applications Submitted in 18/19

The LEARN/Goodwin College Partnership

Students conducting research on the Connecticut River. High school juniors and seniors taking college classes in an actual lecture hall. Early Childhood majors working and playing with youngsters and gaining understanding of their world. These opportunities are all possible through the partnership between LEARN and Goodwin College, an example of a public/private partnership that is proving beneficial to all involved. The College's Riverside Campus in East Hartford plays host to two interdistrict magnet schools cooperatively managed by LEARN and Goodwin: Riverside Magnet School and the Connecticut River Academy.

Goodwin's location in the heart of the Sheff Region further emphasizes the importance of this partnership. RMS and CTRA are highly diverse schools that offer rigorous and engaging themes and curricula, with student success rates increasing each year. Each school has developed networks of involved and satisfied parents contributing to their children's education. The schools' success works toward the goals of the Sheff vs. O'Neill lawsuit to end the de facto segregation of Hartford schools and provide equal educational opportunities for all students.



LEARN
SCHOOL BASED
PROGRAMS

Riverside Magnet School

East Hartford / Pre-kindergarten through Grade 5
LEARN / Goodwin College Magnet School



At Riverside Magnet School, expansion means more than just a new building and adding a grade level. The school offers choice and a Reggio Emilia style program that encourages students from pre-kindergarten through the 5th grade to expand their worlds, ask questions, and develop their imaginations. In the process, the school is establishing itself in a critical region of Connecticut where more opportunities like RMS are needed for students across all backgrounds.

LEARN and Goodwin College cooperatively run the school, working together to offer an excellent educational environment and a strong relationship with the community. RMS has become a top choice for early childhood and elementary education, leading to a building and grade expansion that are now complete. The school began as a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten program in 2013 and added a grade level in every subsequent year. In June, the school saw its first cohort of 5th graders reach the end of its RMS journey.

Officials renovated the former Willowbrook School building located across the parcel from RMS's first facility, just outside Goodwin's River Campus in East Hartford. In the fall, Goodwin and LEARN officials cut the ribbon on the renovation, which expanded RMS's capacity by 19,000 square feet and added classrooms, library and media areas, a kitchen, and a new playground.

Connecticut River Academy

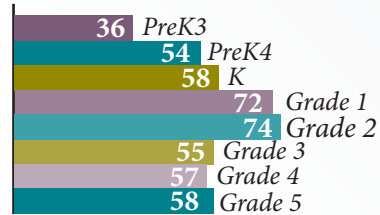
East Hartford / Grade 9 through Grade 12
Goodwin College Magnet School

There are countless college and workplace opportunities for Connecticut students eager to learn the skills and put in the necessary work. The Connecticut River Academy (CTRA) is providing students with the critical techniques and knowledge to earn credentials and helping the state fill needs in the environmental and manufacturing workforce.

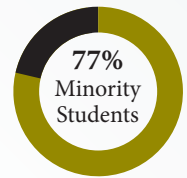
CTRA is one of Greater Hartford's most progressive and innovative institutions. The curriculum focuses on environmental science and the namesake river is a valuable resource, with students and teachers conducting research on the high school's own vessel. CTRA also has an advanced manufacturing track in conjunction with Goodwin College, allowing students to use high tech resources and tools and learn skills to be hired in a key sector of Connecticut's economy. Additionally, the relationship and proximity to Goodwin enable more than 80 percent of CTRA students to take college classes and earn transferrable credits. The Academy's mission, practices, and diversity earned accolades as a National Magnet School of Distinction in 2018-19.

LEARN SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

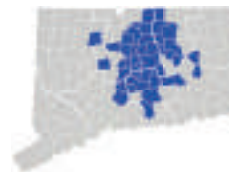
By the Numbers



Educating **464** Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
40 Towns

83 English Learners

49 Special Education

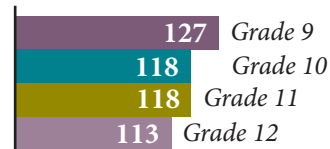
306 Free/Reduced Lunch

588 First Choice Applications Submitted in 18/19

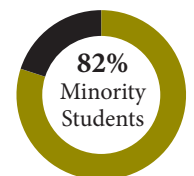


**CONNECTICUT
RIVER ACADEMY
AT GOODWIN COLLEGE**

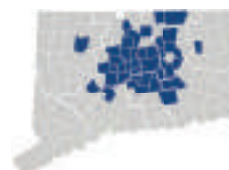
By the Numbers



Educating **476** Students



Student Ethnicity



Students from
37 Towns

341 Free/Reduced Lunch

323 First Choice Applications Submitted in 18/19

39 English Learners **78** Special Education

REGIONALISM *in*

By working together, LEARN-area superintendents are committed to efforts that support robust programs for students. Despite declining enrollments, our local communities expect high quality programs and services. Our local superintendents find ways to support programs while working to address new challenges. Collaboration throughout the region creates new solutions to problems related to school funding, promotes wise spending practices, and helps districts meet state and federal mandates.

LEARN hosted a Superintendents' Summit on September 20, 2018, on "Reimagining Regional Resources." The Summit provided an opportunity for Superintendents to examine the current conditions regarding regionalism, including the barriers to success. LEARN Superintendents affirmed their commitment to regional efforts.



Shared Solutions



Cooperative Arrangements

Salem, East Lyme

Salem students attend East Lyme High School to take part in shared programs.



Shared Staffing

Groton, Old Saybrook, Region 4, Waterford, Westbrook

Allows the towns to hire one individual across districts to fill a vacancy that would otherwise be difficult to fill town by town.



Shared Programs

Clinton, Madison, Guilford

STRIVE is a partnership to create programs for students with special needs.



Shared Health Cooperative

LEARN, Old Saybrook, Clinton Board of Ed., Clinton Town, North Stonington & Region 18

The Eastern CT Health and Medical Collaborative, established in 2013, helps reduce costs for medical, dental, and prescription drug benefits.



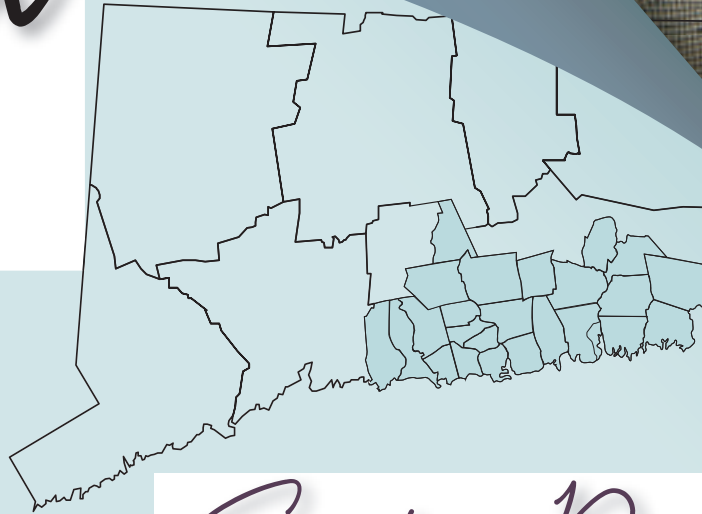
Cooperative Sports Program

East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, NFA, Old Saybrook, Region 4, Region 17, Region 18, Stonington, Westbrook

Shared sports programs enable students to participate in the sports of their choice.

REGIONALISM
IN ACTION

Action



Existing Structures

Existing Programs



Calendar

Our region was the first to establish a voluntary regional calendar. This promotes regional professional development days and saves money on transportation costs.



Military Superintendents Liaison Committee (MSLC)

MSLC is a partnership between the Naval Submarine Base, US Coast Guard Academy, National Guard, and local school districts to improve experiences for military and highly mobile students.



Development Facilitators

Educators trained in facilitating professional development promote learning communities to help certified individuals refine skills and better support students.



Snow Chains & Networks

Through regionally established networks, local superintendents collectively manage school closings, delays, and emergency cancellations.



Regional Specialized Services

LEARN offers specialized assistance and related services such as BCBA supports, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language services, consultative services, and student evaluations.



Special Education Placements

High quality outplacement programs for students with a broad array of disabilities and complex needs are available through LEARN.



Schools of Choice

The region has more than 25 years of experience supporting schools of choice to reduce racial isolation. Intra and interdistrict magnet schools in Groton, Norwich, and LEARN recently received a \$15 million federal grant.



Online Learning Programs

From credit recovery to advanced placement courses, LEARN's online learning programs support all districts.

2018 Teacher of the Year



Special Education Teacher Erika Piver's dedication to teamwork, patience, and building relationships earned her the respect of her peers and recognition as LEARN's Teacher of the Year.

Piver, of Stonington, has grown professionally through LEARN. She said the agency supported her decision to become a special education teacher after she was first employed as an intervention specialist.

Her students inspire her and she takes great joy in the small victories she sees them make every day. Piver encourages them to never give up and works closely with her colleagues to help students maximize their abilities.

"We have an amazing team of professionals who work every day to ensure all of our students are given the best education possible," Piver said.

In addition to Student Support Services, most of LEARN's magnet schools selected a Teacher of the Year. Each was peer-nominated for their dedication, passion, and devotion to educating and caring for their students. They are:



The Friendship School
(Waterford)
Diane Felty
Pre-Kindergarten



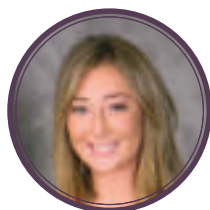
Riverside Magnet School at
Goodwin College
(East Hartford)
Catherine Phillips
3rd Grade



Regional Multicultural
Magnet School
(New London)
Kristin Gemaly
4th/5th Grade



Dual Language & Arts
Magnet Middle School
(Waterford)
Britney Lisee
6th Grade



Marine Science Magnet
High School (Groton)
Anna Scott
School Counselor



Connecticut River
Academy at
Goodwin College
(East Hartford)
Michelle Pac
Math

AGENCY GOAL

MEMBER
PROGRAMS
& SERVICES

Two

To provide *leadership* in the delivery of high quality regional or local programs and services that *enhance teaching and learning* for all students and educators and *improve the quality* of public education.



Student Support Services

LEARN's Office of Student Support Services (SSS) experienced a year of accomplishments that went beyond the opening of the LEARNing Academy. The agency provided support to all of LEARN's member districts as well as many public school districts beyond the southeastern region of the state. SSS's trademark event returned bigger than ever as the 3rd Annual Disability Summit drew more than 750 people to the Mohegan Sun Convention Center in March. The event is Connecticut's largest collection of experts, vendors, and service providers.

Specialized Programs for Children and Consultative Services

The agency continued to prioritize the needs of children and the belief that all student needs must be met. The new diagnostic wellness center served 20 students through psychiatric evaluations, consults, evaluations, and short term placements. LEARN served 64 students through outplacement programs in the 2018-19 school year.

Professional Learning

SSS held Communities of Practice meetings for various related services groups in the LEARN region, including BCBA's, Speech Pathologists, School Psychologists, and Social Workers. The agency facilitated IEP stakeholder groups to revise paperwork and processes for the Connecticut State Department of Education and led the revision of the guidelines for the state's Speech and Language Program. LEARN's Sarah Moon was state appointed as technical assistance liaison for speech and language programs.

Working collaboratively with UConn-Avery Point, LEARN helped to expand the Special Education Certification and Master's Degree programs to the region. SSS experts also delivered customized professional learning sessions on dyslexia and provided technical assistance to the SDE to support the School Climate Transformation Grant.

Magnet School Special Education and Leadership

This year, SSS served more than 300 students with IEPs at LEARN's seven magnet schools. SSS promoted Sarah Moon to Director of Special Services and Erica Page to Director of Specialized programs and principal of the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy.



MEMBER
PROGRAMS
& SERVICES



MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Ocean Avenue LEARning Academy

New London / Pre-kindergarten through Age 21



When Dr. Eileen Howley began her tenure at LEARN, member districts were clear that they needed expanded special education services to help meet the needs of all students. LEARN rose to the challenge and grew Student Support Services (SSS) through programs and expertise designed to support all manners of social, emotional, developmental, and other learning needs. This year, SSS celebrated a major step with the opening of its new home at 660 Ocean Avenue in New London.

The Ocean Avenue LEARning Academy consolidates several LEARN programs, along with the majority of SSS staff, into a renovated state-of-the-art facility. LEARN purchased the former synagogue in 2017 and worked diligently with the city of New London to convert the building into a fully accessible school. It opened in the fall of 2018 and students and staff showed great patience while the final renovations were completed.

The facility supports students with developmental disabilities such as autism, emotional and behavioral challenges, and complex medical needs. LEARN's Transition Academy for students age 18-21 remains at its current location on Boston Post Road in East Lyme.

The Academy currently supports 57 students ranging in age from pre-kindergarten through age 21. The school was designed to accommodate future program growth and can serve up to 100 students. In addition to classrooms, the building offers a gross motor skills room, nurse's office and exam room, related services spaces, and a large meeting space for events and professional learning opportunities.

The diagnostic and wellness center offers specialized services and recommendations for districts with students requiring short-term placement and comprehensive evaluation.



Young Children & Families

LEARN's Office of Young Children & Families (YCF) contributes to the well-being and development of children, families, and early childhood professionals across LEARN's member districts. YCF's Birth to Three team provides services through a coaching model, supporting families to enhance their child's development and connect them to services in their communities. Expert providers represent various disciplines including Developmental Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech & Language Pathologists, and School Psychologists, and successfully support families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities.

The Early Care & Education team works with programs and early childhood professionals throughout LEARN's service region, supporting them in continuous program improvement and implementing best practices.

The team provides customized professional learning, technical assistance, and coaching to meet the needs of community-based programs and providers as well as LEARN's member districts. In addition,

the team supports six districts through grant coordination and liaison services, and supports programs and districts working towards earning NAEYC Accreditation.

LEARN's Family Resource Center helps ensure that Stonington children have the critical readiness skills to be successful in kindergarten; make certain that children with possible developmental delays are identified through the referral process; support early childhood providers with appropriate information and education; and provide Stonington families of young children with the support, education, and information they need to increase their confidence in parenting. This program has been operating for more than 20 years.

Through the McKinney-Vento grant, LEARN provides playgroups, parental support and engagement resources, and connect families experiencing homelessness to high quality early education programs for their children. These efforts contribute to children's later success in school, and increase parents' efficacy in advocating for their children.

When a group of early childhood educators from China visited Connecticut last fall, YCF contributed to their experience by coordinating visits to The Friendship School and Connecticut College Children's Program and providing Professional Development. In addition, the YCF team contributed to their experience attending the NAEYC Annual Conference in Washington, DC by connecting them to the International reception hosted by NAEYC, and working with them to arrange visits to programs in the area.

The contributions of LEARN's YCF team have supported over 1,000 early childhood providers and more than 10,000 children and families across the LEARN region "to ensure that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support and service."

MEMBER
PROGRAMS
& SERVICES

MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES



MEMBER MATRIX OF SERVICES

	Chester	Clinton	Deep River	East Haddam	East Hampton	East Lyme	Essex	Groton	Guilford	Ledyard	Madison	Montville	New London	North Stonington	Norwich	Old Saybrook	Preston	Region #4	Region #17	Region #18	Salem	Stonington	Waterford	Westbrook	Other
Development Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Interdistrict Student Programs	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X	X
Office of Teaching and Learning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Magnet School Programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Roundtable & Councils	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Student Support Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transportation Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X
Web-Based Courses for Students		X		X		X		X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X

Early Care & Education		X			X			X		X	X		X	X	X							X	X	X	X
Partners for Birth to Three	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

AGENCY GOAL

Three



To provide *cost effective* and efficient regional and organizational services to better meet our *members' needs*.



LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMS
& SERVICES

Leadership Programs & Services



Regional Councils & Roundtables

LEARN hosted 22 curriculum-based roundtables and support groups, including Administrators (principals, assistant principals, guidance), Early Childhood, English Language Arts, English Learners, Learning Arts Council, Library Media, Mathematics, Science, Social Students, SSS Communities of Practice, and Technology.

Consortia Agreements

LEARN provided the framework for 16 districts (Clinton, Chester, Deep River, East Hampton, East Lyme, Essex, ISAAC, Integrated Day Charter School, LEARN, Ledyard, North Stonington, Old Saybrook, Region 4, RMMS, Waterford, and Westbrook) to obtain bilingual resources and meet commitments under Title III of ESEA. LEARN also manages the federal Perkins Grant for nine different member districts.



Career & Technical Education

LEARN provided career education support through its sponsorship of a six-member consortium (East Haddam, Ledyard, North Stonington, Westbrook, Region 4, and Region 18), focusing on program improvement.

The Connecticut Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers

LEARN is a proud member of the RESC Alliance, working along with partners EASTCONN, CREC, ACES, CES, and EdAdvance. For more information, please visit www.rescalliance.org.



Minority Recruitment

LEARN was a key member in the RESC Alliance effort to design statewide programs and secure funding to increase the number of minority educators in Connecticut. LEARN leads the effort to encourage Connecticut youth to choose teaching as a profession.

Teacher Education & Mentoring Program (TEAM)

LEARN supported the TEAM initiative for mentoring and certifying beginning teachers. This work included developing training, providing orientation sessions, and assisting districts to develop and implement guidelines.

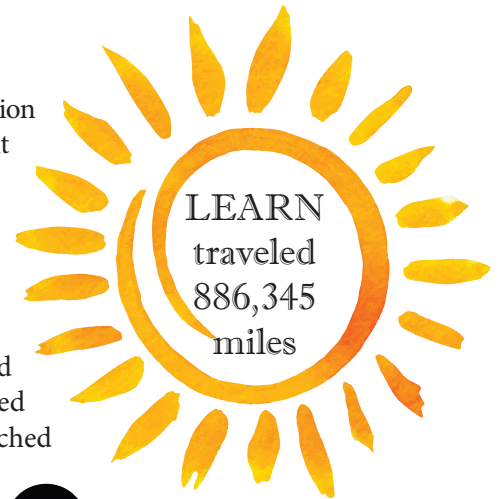
Grant Programs

LEARN secured funding and provided opportunities for students in two different inter-district grant programs. Students in grades K-5 gained skills in reading, science, and the arts as they participated with diverse partner schools.

Executive Services, the Business Office, Information Technology, and the Transportation Department

Executive Services, the Business Office, Information Technology, and the Transportation Department continued to work diligently to provide cost effective and efficient regional and organizational services to better meet the needs of our clients.

LEARN improved business practices by continuing its upgrading and streamlining of operational systems. These activities included the Business Office's development of the agency's first comprehensive agency-wide budget. The Business Office and Information Technology worked together to implement an upgrade to the MUNIS general ledger system. Human Resources continued to implement the TeleCare Program, which is a tele-triage service provided by LEARN's workers' compensation carrier. In addition, Human Resources launched a new accident reporting process, installed an employee assistance program, increased staff capacity, and initiated a biennial doctor's wellness checkup program. The Information Technology department continued its migration of data to Microsoft Sharepoint. The Transportation Department provided 886,345 miles of student transportation. The goal of Executive Services is to continue to maximize efficiencies and reduce paper usage.



During the 2018-19 school year, LEARN Transportation carried students 886,345 miles to destinations throughout Connecticut. To put that in perspective, that's roughly the diameter of the sun!



Office of Innovation and Development

The Office of Innovation and Development took its new moniker to heart in 2018-19 through a number of initiatives that bore fruit for LEARN, its schools, and its member districts. The department was instrumental in renovation efforts for the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy and the continued search for a permanent home for Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School. International partnerships were solidified, with LEARN welcoming Chinese delegations to Connecticut to visit schools and observe best practices in special education, elementary, and high school learning. The visit followed signed agreements with LEARN, the Vermont International Academy, and Goodwin College for hosting Chinese students and creating opportunities for American educators in China.

The department instituted a virtual Convocation for LEARN employees, utilizing social media to allow staff to interact from several different locations. Innovation and Development also contributed to the LEARN website, oversaw LEARN program and school Facebook and Twitter accounts, and led social media training opportunities for employees. Additionally, more than 100 paraprofessionals received their credentials through the ParaPro Assessment Test, which departmental staff administers on a regular basis.

LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMS
& SERVICES





*West Side STEM
Middle School, Groton*

The EXPECT Grant

LEARN continued its oversight of the five-year \$14.8 million US Department of Education funded Magnet Schools Assistance Program. The EXPECT project (Equity eXcellence & Pride across Eastern CT) includes six magnet schools and partners with two school districts and one institution of higher education. The primary goal of EXPECT is the creation of high-quality and rigorous learning opportunities for students within diverse communities.

The six schools included in the project are the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (New London), Connecticut River Academy (East Hartford), Cutler Arts & Humanities Magnet Middle School (Groton), West Side STEM Magnet Middle School (Groton), Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School (Norwich), and Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School (Norwich). One critical element of this project is the provision of a wide-range of professional development for the faculties at each partner school. This past year, each teacher received, on average, a minimum of 100 hours of professional development related to the magnet theme at their school and systemic reform activities designed to deepen the educational experience for their students.

In addition to supporting this extensive professional development, US Department of Education funds were used to purchase equipment and supplies in advancement of each school's unique magnet theme. During the 2018-2019 school year, schools purchased classroom libraries, theater lighting equipment, virtual reality goggles, video recording equipment, and 3-D printers. Each school is working with key community partners who offer in-class instruction, field trip opportunities, professional development to teachers, and out-of-school time learning experiences. Partners include the Mystic Museum of Art, New England Science & Sailing, Project O, Mystic Seaport, Arts for Learning CT, Connecticut College, Goodwin College, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut, and Mystic Aquarium.



*Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet
Middle School, Norwich*



Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School, Norwich



*Cutler Arts and Humanities Magnet
Middle School, Groton*

Interagency Collaboration

LEARN is pleased to collaborate with a large number of partners. The agency appreciates all organizations, businesses, and people who support our goal of enhancing the broad spectrum of educational services. LEARN works in collaboration with school districts, community and state agencies, educational organizations, funding sources, and businesses both statewide and nationally to provide programs that expand learning opportunities in the educational community. Please visit www.learn.k12.ct.us for a full listing of our interagency collaborations.

American School for the Deaf	Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents	East Hampton Memorial Elementary School	Children's Center
Amistad America	Connecticut Association of Schools	Easter Seals	9 Town Transit
Association for Infant Mental Health	Connecticut Association of School Personnel Administrators	Educational Playcare, Madison	Norwich Public Schools and Family Resource Centers
Attachment Network of CT	Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children	Even Start	Old Lyme Early Childhood Council
Autism Spectrum Resource Center	Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services	FAVOR	Otis Library, Norwich
William H. Backus Hospital	CT Center for School Change	Florence Griswold Museum	Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
Beach Babies Learning Center, Old Saybrook	Connecticut Charts a Course	Global Child School Inc.	Pfizer
Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern CT	Connecticut College	Goodwin College	Project Oceanology
Calvary Nursery School, Stonington	Connecticut Bureau of Aquaculture	Graustein Memorial Fund	OIC of New London
"The Center" A Drop in Community Learning & Resource Center Inc.	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Groton Public Schools	Partners for Youth with Disabilities
Chamber of Commerce - Eastern CT	CT AHEAD - Association on Higher Education and Disability	Griswold Preschool Development Grant	Read to Grow
Child Health and Development Institute	Connecticut Health Foundation	Town of Groton	Reading Is Fundamental
Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT	CT Parent Advocacy Center	Groton Public Library	RESC Alliance
Child Works Preschool/Shiloh Development Corp.	CT State Department of Education	Groton Rotary Club	Riverfront Children's Center
Children's Trust Fund	Community Foundation of Eastern CT	Head Start	Safe Futures
Children's Museum of Southeastern CT	Connecticut Association for Community Transportation	Hispanic Alliance	Sarah, Inc. KidSteps
Children's Village, Wolcott	Connecticut Department of Children and Families	Infoline	Shoreline East
Circle Nursery School, Madison	Connecticut Department of Developmental Services	League of Innovative Schools	Smith's Acres
Clinton Child Care	CT Office of Early Childhood	Ledgelight Health District	Sprague Public Schools
Clinton Public Schools	Covenant Shelter of New London	Ledyard Public Schools	St. Vincent DePaul Place
Collaborative for Educational Services - MA	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Lightspeed Technology	State Education Resource Center
Community Health Center	Dime Bank, Norwich	Lisbon Public Schools	Stonington Community Center
	Disabilities Network of Eastern CT	Lawrence and Memorial Hospital	Stonington Youth and Family Services
	Department of Social Services	Lyman Allyn Museum	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
	Decadent Wellness	Magnet Schools of America	Three Rivers Community College
	Early Childhood Alliance	Mayflower Montessori School	TRANSCEN, Inc.
		Middlesex Chamber of Commerce	Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.
		Military/Superintendents Committee	The Kennedy Center
		Mitchell College	UCP of Eastern Connecticut
		Academy at Mount Saint John	United Community and Family Services
		MLK Foundation	United States Coast Guard Academy
		Mystic Aquarium	United Way of Connecticut
		Mystic Museum of Art	United Way of Southeastern Connecticut
		Mystic Seaport	University of Connecticut
		Mystic YMCA	Vermont International Academy
		National Association for the Education of Young Children	Waterford Community Center
		New England Assistive Technology	Waterford Public Library
		New London Human Services Network	Westbrook Early Childhood Council
		New London Public Library	Yale University
		New London Public Schools	
		New London Youth Affairs	
		Niantic Community Church	

Fiscal Year 2018-19

Sources of Funding

LEARN'S funding comes predominantly from local boards of education and other educational agencies for a variety of services and programs, including student tuition, special education services, and professional education programs for educators (37.9%). The Connecticut State Department of Education provides various grants for inter-district programming and other educational initiatives (33.7%). Funds in the "other" category include amounts related to operations at two magnet schools at Goodwin College and grants from local organizations (17.1%). The remainder of our funding comes from federal grants, including Title grants and the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant (11.3%).

Annual Agency Revenues By Department

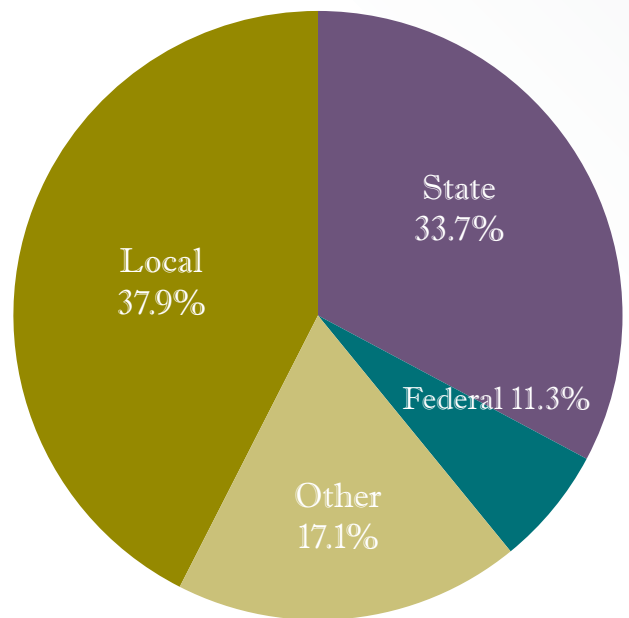
Regional Multicultural Magnet School	\$ 5,913,000
The Friendship School	6,255,000
Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle School	1,669,000
Marine Science Magnet High School	3,761,000
Three Rivers Middle College.....	944,000
Riverside Magnet School.....	4,711,000
Connecticut River Academy	4,412,000
Student Support Services	12,980,000
Young Children & Families/Early Childcare & Education	2,646,000
Office of Teaching & Learning.....	570,000
Transportation	1,345,000
Innovation & Development	4,198,000
Executive Services & Business/Finance.....	1,163,000
Information Technology.....	-
Food Services	1,240,000
Capital Projects.....	2,162,000
Total Revenues 2018-19	\$ 53,939,000

Funds Managed for Others

Eastern CT Health & Medical Cooperative: Health Insurance and related claims	\$ 27,713,000
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Revenue Sources 2018-19



Budgets & Revenues



		2018-19 ACTUAL	2019-20 BUDGET
CT River Academy @ Goodwin - State	O	\$4,411,578	\$4,480,615
CTRA Special Education Services	L	959,827	965,431
CTRA Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	190,956	211,000
Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle Sch - State	S	1,153,400	1,125,750
Dual Language & Arts Magnet Middle Sch - Local	L	387,192	397,800
DLAMMS Special Education Services	L	447,017	452,914
DLAMMS Title Grants	F	63,137	62,887
DLAMMS Teen Outreach Program	S	63,681	-
DLAMMS Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	105,178	116,400
DLAMMS Misc grants	L	2,000	-
Development Magnet Schools Assistance Progr (MSAP)	F	4,109,647	4,015,214
DVLP New London Programs	L	43,650	43,650
DVLP Development Services	L	44,332	29,750
DVLP Virtual High School / Virtual Learning Academy	L	128,910	150,000
Early Childhood Education School Readiness	S	1,536,421	1,550,171
ECE Preschool/Family Resource	S	110,000	110,000
ECE Regional Programs/Misc	L	235,872	261,219
Goodwin Riverside Magnet School - State	O	4,711,276	4,626,708
G-RMS Special Education Services	L	623,116	654,782
G-RMS Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	260,107	231,550
Marine Science Magnet High School - State	S	2,140,900	2,033,855
Marine Science Magnet High School - Local	L	1,620,580	1,620,580
MSMHS Special Education Services	L	494,232	472,455
MSMHS Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	98,772	141,100
MSMHS Misc	L	-	5,000
Management: Business/Executive Services	O	122,413	47,000
MGT Food Services/Free & Reduced	F	56,448	135,000
MGT RESC Funding & Education Cost Share (ECS)	S	-	-
MGT Universal Service Fund Program (USF)	F	31,454	30,000
MGT Fingerprinting	L	14,319	20,000
MGT RESC Membership	L	9,950	9,950
MGT Regional Services incl Goodwin Partnership	L	984,985	1,026,830
MGT Facilities / Capital Projects	S	2,161,898	1,483,515
Partners in Birth to 3 Programming	S	763,656	860,688
Teaching & Learning Engl Lang Acquisition (Title III)	F	68,736	118,329
TL Perkins - Vocational Applied Technologies	F	103,418	104,850
TL Training/Prof Development Workshops	L	131,845	95,000
TL Title Grants (Title I & II)	F	96,788	85,165
TL Interdistrict & Other MiscGrants	S	39,816	-
Regional Multicultural Magnet Sch - State	S	4,108,000	3,790,025
Regional Multicultural Magnet Sch - Local	L	1,438,632	1,506,260
RMMS Special Education Services	L	1,127,572	1,241,348
RMMS Magnet Kingdom (School Age Progr)	L	130,401	154,603
RMMS Title Grants	F	201,137	191,791
RMMS Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	251,804	240,000
RMMS Nature's Classroom	L	27,291	26,010
RMMS Misc Grants	S	7,896	7,847
SSS Elementary Sch Programs	L	2,686,940	92,400
SSS Middle School Programs	L	2,059,794	443,750
SSS High School Programs	L	735,777	375,000
SSS Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy	L	-	5,985,930
SSS Transition Program	L	310,121	357,396
SSS Special Needs Summer School	L	435,362	473,648
SSS Related Services & Contracts/ABA Consulting	L	2,310,031	2,507,282
SSS Disability Summit	L	8,595	8,500
SSS Ledyard Vo-Ag Special Education	L	450,824	300,000
SSS Misc grants	S	30,000	-
The Friendship School - State	S	3,973,700	3,775,015
The Friendship School - State - Pre-K	S	1,342,440	1,271,160
The Friendship School - Local	L	734,388	699,120
TFS Special Education Services	L	249,236	270,156
TFS Title Grants	F	164,515	162,196
TFS Food Services/Free & Reduced	F/L	268,144	222,500
TFS Misc	L	10,274	10,500
Three Rivers Middle Magnet College - State	S	529,300	502,835
Three Rivers Middle Magnet College - Local	L	397,670	400,660
TRMC Special Education Services	L	51,262	57,196
TRMC Title Grants	F	17,417	16,980
TRMC Food Services/Free & Reduced	F	8,468	500
TRMC Misc	L	-	-
Transportation - CHOICE Program	S	196,473	230,000
Transportation - Special Education	L	1,148,354	1,226,700

AGENCY TOTAL: **\$53,939,325** **\$54,322,466**

* F = Federal S = State L = Local O = Other

Introducing Katherine Ericson

LEARN's New Executive Director

LEARN's future is bright under the leadership of Katherine Ericson, the RESC's new Executive Director. She is the former Deputy Executive Director and worked closely with her mentor, Dr. Eileen Howley, to set the course for the agency.

"I am humbled by this tremendous opportunity afforded to me by the LEARN Board," Ericson said. "I welcome the opportunity to work alongside the remarkable educational leaders, teachers, staff, and community members in southeastern Connecticut. I am honored to lead LEARN's dedicated team of professionals."

Ericson has been with LEARN for four years and previously served as Chief Academic Officer of the New London Public Schools. She taught history at both Griswold and New London high schools. Ericson holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and history from Boston College, a master's degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University, and administrative credentials from Sacred Heart University and the University of Connecticut.

Ericson becomes just the fourth executive director in LEARN's 52-year history. Francis Robinson was the RESC's first executive director, serving from 1967-89. Dr. Virginia Z. Seccombe succeeded him, serving until her retirement in 2012. Howley served as executive director from 2012-19.

In addition to acting as LEARN's CEO and superintendent to LEARN's seven magnet schools, Ericson also joins the leadership team of the Connecticut RESC Alliance. The consortium consists of the state's six RESCs and serves all public school systems within the state.



- Chester
- Clinton
- Deep River
- East Haddam
- East Hampton
- East Lyme
- Essex
- Groton
- Guilford
- Ledyard
- Madison
- Montville
- New London
- North Stonington
- Norwich
- Old Saybrook
- Preston
- Region #4
- Region #17
- Region #18
- Salem
- Stonington
- Waterford
- Westbrook

LEARN

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