



# ANNUAL REPORT







## CES MISSION

Our mission is to identify and provide quality educational opportunities for educators, students, families, and communities.



## CES VISION

With a strong commitment from a diverse and highly qualified staff, Cooperative Educational Services (CES) is the primary educational resource for the communities we serve. We are a model of leadership promoting a community of lifelong learning. We assure student success through regional collaboration, leadership, resources, and support.

Each year we strive to realize our vision by being the first point of contact for our member districts related to any kind of educational service. In order to accomplish this we will continue our research and development efforts to remain on the cutting edge of the programs, services and technical assistance that we offer. Excellent communication with our members and our partners, along with continued strong support from the Representative Council, will guide and assist us on this journey.



## OUR GUIDING BELIEFS

- Leadership, communication, innovation, and creative thinking promote positive change and growth.
- Every student has a right to high-quality education.
- Student-centered instruction recognizes the individual abilities of each learner.
- The unique cultural and developmental differences of our students are recognized and valued.
- Partnerships among families, schools, communities, and state agencies are essential for the achievement of common goals and conservation of financial services.
- Every educator has the responsibility to be a lifelong learner.
- The commitment of our dedicated staff is valued.
- Our effectiveness as an organization contributes to our clients' success.
- It is important to reflect upon and continually evaluate the services we provide.
- It is important to nurture growth of progressive learning and communities.
- Every staff member represents the mission, core beliefs, and vision of CES.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. CHARLES DUMAIS

CES is the capacity-building partner for school districts in lower Fairfield County, Connecticut, to provide their educators and leaders with the cutting-edge training, support, and resources to best prepare students for the 21st century. Our leadership team, educational specialists, and consultants provide the guidance, instruction, and technical assistance to further enhance the capacity of school districts to meet their continuous improvement goals in a changing world. The 16 districts (17 towns) in our catchment area comprise a public school enrollment of nearly 119,000 students served by 11,823 certified educators.

We fulfill our mission to identify and provide quality educational opportunities for educators, students, families, and communities by providing a myriad of high-quality services to member districts that would be more costly for them to procure on their own. Examples include special education transportation and audiological services. Likewise, we have the capacity to assist school districts with short-term or one-time projects such as enrollment studies, executive searches, special education program reviews, technology leadership program reviews, communication plan development, and any other projects that arise. Furthermore, our Professional Development Services (PDS) team is a district resource for grant coordination, interdistrict summer school programs, and specialized staff development to reach district goals and training to meet the requirements of state and federal educational initiatives.

CES also serves as a model for direct educational programs via our School Readiness program, extensive Special Education and related services programs, and/or interdistrict magnet schools (Six to Six Magnet School and the Regional Center for the Arts). All told, we have more than a thousand students from the region attending our specialized CES school programs.

CES is well-regarded throughout the state for its high-quality programs and professional development services. It is critical that all school districts build internal capacity, find cost efficiencies, and maximize the impact of every dollar spent to support student growth and achievement. CES is the “go-to” resource to help area districts achieve these goals.

Agility ~ Impact ~ Relevance

Sincerely,



## ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER LA BELLE

The Associate Executive Director’s office oversees Human Resources, including all hiring and onboarding, staff evaluations, certification and licensing, fingerprinting services, paid and unpaid leaves, ADA accommodations, unemployment claims, and workers compensation. The office also serves as district facilitator for the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM). Additionally, the Associate Executive Director develops and implements agency policy and leads curriculum development and school improvement planning. The office is responsible for Safe School Climate Coordination, and Title I, II & IX Coordination, 504 Coordination, and all other federal grants such as ESSER.

The office is also responsible for special projects and new business opportunities, such as human resource audits. In 2021-22, The Associate Executive Director’s office provided leadership coaching to new administrators at CES and collaboratively implemented instructional rounds at Six to Six Magnet School. Additionally, we continued to oversee the implementation of all COVID-19 processes and procedures for agency staff, students, and families. This included collaboration with local and state health officials throughout the pandemic and the timely dissemination of information to all stakeholders.

*Christopher La Belle*





# CES LEADERSHIP



Members of the CES Leadership team during a retreat at WorkspaceCT in Bethel.



**Charles Dumais, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director



**Suzanne Clement**  
Early Childhood  
Coordinator



**Dr. Lori Elliott**  
Director of Professional  
Development Services



**Ivelisse Guzman**  
Director of School  
Readiness



**Dr. Michael McGrath**  
Director of Special  
Education



**Christopher La Belle**  
Associate Executive Director



**Anna  
Nelmes-Stoughton**  
Principal of Six to Six  
Magnet School



**Eric Nyquist**  
Principal of Regional  
Center for the Arts/Open  
Choice Coordinator



**Margaret Sullivan**  
Director of Finance and  
Operations



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## CES LOCATIONS

**Central Offices**  
 40 Lindeman Drive  
 Trumbull, CT 06611  
 203-365-8803  
[www.cestrumbull.org](http://www.cestrumbull.org)

**Six to Six Magnet School**  
 601 Pearl Harbor St.  
 Bridgeport, CT 06610  
 203-365-8200  
[www.cestrumbull.org/six-to-six](http://www.cestrumbull.org/six-to-six)

**Regional Center for the Arts**  
 23 Oakview Drive  
 Trumbull, CT 06611  
 203-365-8857  
[www.cestrumbull.org/rca](http://www.cestrumbull.org/rca)

**Special Education**  
 25 Oakview Drive  
 40 Lindeman Drive  
 7 Cambridge Drive  
 Trumbull, CT 06611  
 203-365-8840  
[www.cestrumbull.org/sped](http://www.cestrumbull.org/sped)

**School Readiness**  
 40 Lindeman Drive  
 Trumbull, CT 06611  
 203-365-8997  
[www.cestrumbull.org/sr](http://www.cestrumbull.org/sr)

**WorkspaceCT**  
 16 Trowbridge Drive  
 Bethel, CT 06801  
 855-937-2747  
[www.workspacect.org](http://www.workspacect.org)





## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### Goal 1

To create and expand high-quality services.

#### Strategic initiatives

- A) Increase speech and language pathology services used by districts.
- B) Expand professional development services for school psychologists through the Center for Clinical Supervision.
- C) Improve CES training and professional learning provided to school districts through evaluating services provided using a series of micro surveys.

### Goal 2

All CES learners demonstrate continuous growth academically, socially, and emotionally.

#### Strategic initiatives

- A) Implement high-quality curriculum designed to improve student learning in all school-based programs in literacy, mathematics, science, and social and emotional content.
- B) Implement high-quality professional development designed to improve staff learning in all school-based programs.



## CES REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The CES 2021-22 Representative Council consists of the following members and their respective Boards of Education:

**Bridgeport:** John Weldon

**Darien:** Vacant

**Easton/Redding/Region 9:** Laura Gibbons

**Fairfield:** Christine Vitale and Bonnie Rotelli

**Greenwich:** Karen Hirsh

**Monroe:** Nick Kapoor

**New Canaan:** Vacant

**Norwalk:** Mary Ellen Flaherty-Ludwig

**Ridgefield:** Tina Malhotra

**Shelton:** Kate Kutash (Vice President and Kathy Yolish (alternate)

**Stamford:** Andy George (President) and Becky Hamman

**Stratford:** Andrea Corcoran

**Trumbull:** Marie Petitti and Julia McNamee (alternate)

**Weston:** David Felton

**Westport:** Robert Harrington

**Wilton:** Debbie Low (Secretary)



## MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR MEMBER DISTRICTS

At Cooperative Educational Services, we believe in the process of continuous improvement. Each year, we adjust our programming to meet the needs of our member districts. As a result, gathering data to evaluate our success and determine our focus and priorities is a continuous process at CES. We hold council meetings for various education professionals such as special education directors, curriculum specialists, assistant superintendents, school principals, subject area specialists, human resources personnel, and technology coordinators. During these council meetings we solicit feedback from our members to help us determine future initiatives. The executive director also meets monthly with the CES Representative Council and with the superintendents of member districts. All of the divisions at CES hold meetings with their constituents so our services are customized to meet the unique needs of each district.

The Leadership Institute at CES, which is a separate entity comprised of leaders from our participating member districts, meets quarterly to address the continuum of leadership needs, from teacher leadership to administrative leadership. Through dialogue with the Leadership Institute Board, we are able to establish programs and support that reflect the needs of our member districts.

Each year, our Special Education division solicits feedback from parents, and our Six to Six Magnet School meets regularly with the School Planning and Management Team (SPMT), which includes both parents and staff. The Regional Center for the Arts (RCA) has an active parent advisory group supporting fundraising efforts and all of RCA's student productions. We are also in continuous contact with representatives from the State Department of Education in order to assist our districts with state mandates such as school improvement plans, policy development, and teacher and administrator evaluation models.

As a service center, we must always be prepared to assist our districts according to their individual needs. We compile an annual profile of our member districts that includes their goals, school data reports, comprehensive school improvement plans, and additional relevant information to further customize our services. Often state or federal mandates or economic conditions determine needs. We strive to provide lower-cost, high-quality options to satisfy the needs of our member districts.



*The new CES property at 40 Oakview Drive, Trumbull.*

In partnership with EdAdvance, the Upper Fairfield County and Litchfield County RESC, we are operating WorkspaceCT, a collaboratively run facility in Bethel, Conn., that serves as a learning center with a focus on creativity and innovation for students, teachers, administrators, and community members. The unique regional venture between two Connecticut RESCs allows both to better serve our communities.

CES has purchased 40 Oakview Drive, a three-story, 65,000 square foot facility on 6 acres within walking distance of our other Trumbull properties. The new building will serve as the home of our three Developmental Learning programs, bring greater coordination, and smoother transitions to the students and districts that we serve. Additionally, the acquisition will allow us to reorganize our Therapeutic Day Program (TDP) and expand our School Readiness program to bring high-quality services to a larger population.

The Leadership Team at CES is comprised of the executive director, the associate executive director, director of special education, the director of finance and operations, an Early Childhood coordinator, the director of our Professional Development Services division, the directors of our magnet schools, and the director of our School Readiness program. Our team regularly meets collectively and individually with key constituents to assess needs and obtain recommendations in planning future programs and services.





## CES DIVISION PROFILES



RCA students rehearse on the main stage for an upcoming show.

### Regional Center for the Arts

The Regional Center for the Arts is a part-time interdistrict magnet school in Trumbull. Our mission is to bring together students of diverse cultural heritage and background to develop in all students the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and self-discipline to reach their fullest artistic potential, to live a productive life, and to contribute to society as creative, engaging citizens.

We offer our high school students an opportunity to develop their creative potential by studying with working professionals in their chosen field, learning skills and techniques that will enable them to continue on to further study and a career in the performing arts. After taking core academic courses at their district schools, students are transported to RCA from 1:30-4:45 p.m. to study dance, music, voice, theatre, musical theatre, creative media/film and technical theatre.

Enrollment at RCA had seen a sharp decline over the past few years due to numerous factors, including the pandemic, which presented recruitment challenges, and an increase in state credit requirements for high school graduation. During the 2021-22 school year, new RCA leadership made it a priority to increase awareness of the program and increase enrollment. Enrollment in 2021-22 was 157, while enrollment at the start of the 2022-23 year is 194. This increase of almost 25 percent

year to year is a positive and exciting development. While we often lose a number of students in the first month as they realize the dedication that RCA requires, we are encouraged by the numbers and even more by the excitement that has been generated by those applying for the first time this year. We appreciate the positive partnerships we have with our sending districts and their superintendents.

For the past two years, RCA has run a highly successful summer camp for middle school students called “A Taste Of RCA.” Many of the students who attended the first two camps are enrolled in the fall of 2022. The camp, free of charge thanks to grant funding, is expected to run again for the summer of 2023.

While we continue to put great emphasis on recruiting, RCA administration will focus on increasing the program’s visibility in the community. Now that audiences are welcomed back to live performances, we will attempt to increase awareness about all of our performances — up to 30 per year. We are working with a newly revitalized parent organization, POPS (Parents of Performing Students), to be an active partner in that effort.

Among other activities, POPS awards scholarships to college-bound seniors who plan to major in the performing arts at the next level.

### Executive Searches

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, CES Executive Searches helped the following districts secure executive leaders: Avon, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Mansfield, New Britain, New Fairfield, Region 8, Region 14, and Wolcott.

The CES team is led by distinguished educational leaders who have served as superintendents and are certified practitioners of the competency-based interview process developed by

leadership expert William Bryan of The Bryan Group. We bring state-of-the-art behavioral science to the art of search selection, and provide districts with the absolute highest likelihood of success in identifying and securing a candidate with whom the Board of Education will have a sustainable, strong working relationship.





## CES DIVISION PROFILES



CES Executive Director Dr. Charles Dumais was one of the guest readers at School Readiness during Read Across America Week.

### School Readiness

School Readiness is a full-day, full-year, NAEYC-accredited child care program serving 90 preschool children between the ages of 2.9 and 5 years. Ninety percent of our students are from Bridgeport, Conn., and 10 percent are from other districts but have a parent who works or attends school in Bridgeport. Our hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 50 weeks per year. Each child is required to attend a minimum of six hours each day.

Our program philosophy centers on the belief that each child is a unique learner with his/her own cultural identity, learning style, temperament, and developmental pattern. Each of these factors influences how a child learns and grows, and development and learning are interconnected in the preschool years. We believe each child's family is an important partner in the daily care and education of their children. Supporting our mission is the Family Advisory Board, which meets throughout the year to discuss policies, procedures, curriculum, and family advocacy.

### Open Choice

The Open Choice program is an interdistrict program with the goal of improving academic achievement; reducing racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; and providing a choice of educational programs for students enrolled in public schools. Through Open Choice, students may attend a school outside of their home district.

Participating school districts annually declare how many seats will be available based on enrollment numbers, and students are chosen through a selection process from a pool of applicants. Each year we receive more than 700 applications by families hoping to have children involved in Open Choice.

For the 2021-22 school year, there were 296 students from Bridgeport attending school in Easton/Region 9, Fairfield,

Our curriculum approach is based on the tenets of emergent curriculum and the Project Approach. Topics chosen for in-depth curriculum studies reflect the interests and experiences of children and families in the program and the community in which they live. Teachers engage in the cycle of intentional teaching, consistently observing and assessing children's growth and using this information to plan and implement the highest-quality learning experiences for the group and the individual children.

Serving as the basis for planning are the CT Early Learning and Development Standards for Birth to Five (CT ELDS), which detail what children should know and be able to do. Teachers use the Creative Curriculum for Preschool as a resource to support in-depth curriculum studies. The Connecticut Documentation and Observation for Teaching System (CT DOTS) is the assessment tool used to monitor our students' progress on the skills, abilities, and behaviors in the CT ELDS.

Trumbull, Weston, and Westport through Open Choice. We anticipate total enrollment to be 307 next year, including nine students from a new region.

During the past year, we began a rollout of the program to include the Norwalk and Danbury regions as part of the state's plan to expand Open Choice. We placed nine students from Norwalk in a neighboring suburban district for next year and are working with other districts to increase those opportunities for the following school year. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure enough seats in the Danbury region to make the program viable for this year. We will continue to meet with boards of education in that region and hope to launch the program in that region for the 2023-24 school year.



## CES DIVISION PROFILES

### Special Education

Programs within the division offer a variety of specialized services for students with significant disabilities. These programs provide both school-based centers for students 3 to 21 years of age with developmental and emotional disabilities. The division is also responsive to district needs for program development. In 2021-22, the division provided special education placements for 347 students and extended-year services to 247 students.

**Preschool-Primary Learning Center (PLC)** is for students ages 3-12 who fall within the Autism Spectrum Disorder continuum. PLC utilizes a low student-to-staff ratio, positive behavioral support, functional communication training, many transactional supports inclusive of extensive use of visual supports, sensory diets, academic and functional academic instruction, and highly trained lead-support instructional teams. In 2021-22, PLC served 57 students from 15 school districts.

**Developmental Learning Center (DLC)** is an intensive program for students 12-21 years of age with significant developmental disabilities such as autism, neurological impairments, pervasive developmental disorders, and intellectual disorders with and without challenging behaviors. DLC offers middle and high school components that focus on applied academics, development of functional skills, communication and social skill development, pre-vocational/vocational training, and development of recreational/leisure skills via center-based and community-based instructional experiences. In 2021-22, DLC served 59 students from 17 school districts.

**Transition Learning Center (TLC)** is a regional program for students ages 18-21 with developmental disabilities including Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual Disability. Students benefit from an individualized transition program designed to prepare them for life after high school. Students are grouped homogeneously by social-emotional stages. The program offers positive support within structured community and school-based environments that incorporate functional academics. The program also emphasizes opportunities for community-based vocational training and volunteering to enable students to build confidence and independence, while developing appropriate work skills. Social and personal management skills are enhanced through a variety of transition activities. Social/recreational experiences utilize community resources in order to generalize learned skills to real life settings. In 2021-22, TLC served 54 students from 16 districts.

**Reaching Independence through Supported Education (RISE)** is a regional program for students with limited cognitive functioning, 18 to 21 years of age, on the campus of Sacred Heart University. This program provides students with opportunities to develop vocational, social and personal management skills through a variety of campus- and community-based transition activities. Many of the activities include university students ("peer buddies") of similar age. In 2021-22, RISE provided placements for 15 students from 7 school districts.

**Therapeutic Day Program (TDP)** is for students from grades K-12 who present with a variety of significant behavioral and emotional disabilities. TDP offers a comprehensive treatment



*Special Education staffers are committed to kindness.*

approach that includes educational, psychological, psychiatric, and parent counseling/support services aimed at improving students' overall functioning. It utilizes a highly structured learning environment, low staff-to-student ratios and intensive school-based therapeutic services to build and develop each student's academic, behavioral, emotional and social functioning. In 2021-22, TDP served 162 students from 32 different school districts.

**Special Education Related Services Unit** provides a variety of consultation, diagnostic and therapy services for students with disabilities. This unit also aims to address special education inservice needs of personnel who work with students with disabilities.

**Audiological Services** provides audiological evaluations, auditory-processing evaluations and classroom consultation for students referred by school districts. In 2021-22, there were 114 evaluations and re-evaluations and 125 hours of consultation services to students in 13 districts.

**Behavior Psychology Services** involves delivery of assessment, consultation and training services via CES specialists in areas of applied behavioral analysis and positive behavior intervention and support. In 2021-22, the program provided training, technical assistance and weekly consultation to classrooms for students with a variety of disabilities for districts statewide.

**Professional Development Services** responds to local school district needs for inservice training/workshops on topics related to special education. In 2021-22, we provided five Physical Management Training (PMT) sessions to 86 newly hired CES staff.

**Regional Assistive Technology Center** provides evaluation and consultation services to school district staff to assist in determining technology needs for their students. In 2021-22, the center provided 38 evaluations and 80 individual consultations and attended 33 PPTs, as well as provided 43 trainings to students/staff and parents from 10 districts.





## CES DIVISION PROFILES

### Professional Development Services

During 2021-22, the PDS team continued to provide professional learning workshops, in-district trainings and supports, and coaching sessions utilizing in-person meeting spaces and online platforms in order to best meet the needs of educators and leaders across the region. Some of the hottest topics for the 2021-22 included:

- Affirming Diversity & Planning for Equity
- Connecting Cognitive Science, Enhanced Literacy, and Classroom Practices
- Creative Literacy in a Play-based Classroom
- Cultivating Liberation: Becoming an Anti-Biased, Anti-Racist Educator Leader
- Coordinating Curriculum Development and Delivery
- Developing and Applying and Curriculum Equity Audit
- Fostering Social Connections for Children with Challenging Behaviors
- Increasing Educator Diversity: A RESC Alliance Initiative
- Integrated STEM: City Centers
- Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) tools, standards, and assessments
- Note-taking and Classroom Observations
- Praxis Test Preparation: Technology Education
- SRBI/MTSS: Updating, Developing, and Implementing Effective Systems of Support
- TEAM District Facilitator Updates
- TEAM Initial Support Training
- TEAM Initial Reviewer Training
- Time-saving Google Tips Series
- Using CT ELDS in the Cycle of Intentional Teaching
- Using Loose Parts and Found Materials with Preschoolers
- Using the CT Core Knowledge and Competency Framework in Reflective Supervision
- Technology in the Office: Using Microsoft Tools Effectively & Efficiently

The annual statewide registration for district membership in CTREAP continues to be coordinated by PDS. In 2021-22, a total of 253 schools and districts registered to use the employment recruitment service.

**The Leadership Institute at CES** offers various professional development options, including participation in content area councils, as well as the Administrator Aspirant and New Administrator Induction programs. This year, the Leadership Institute at CES also hosted events such as:

- Get STEM-spined! an event for science, math, media, and technology teachers and leaders
- A live webinar with Dr. Richard Gentry, author of several books including “Brain Words: How the Science of Reading Informs Teaching”
- Guest speaker Maisa L. Tisdale, President and CEO Founder of the Freeman Center

**The Leadership Aspirant Program** had 20 participants from across the CES region in 2021-22. The purpose of the program is to expose interested future leaders to a variety of administrator and leadership roles, provide opportunities to meet and dialogue with outstanding administrator role models, and learn leadership skills “first-hand” by attending seminars and shadowing administrator practitioners. The design is a one-year, cohort-style program and participants include



*A PDS workshop at WorkspaceCT in Bethel allowed teachers from around the region, including these from Six to Six Magnet School, to work in teams as they created a Rube Goldberg-inspired ‘machine’ that sends an email.*

current educators who are interested in exploring administrator career pathways and other leadership roles, including those who have earned or are in the process of earning the 092 certification, as well as those who are still gauging interest in earning the 092 certification.

**The Administrator Induction Program** had 47 participants from across the CES region and more in 2021-22. The program supports beginning administrators and experienced administrators who are new to their schools, districts, and/or roles. The program provides relevant leadership professional development opportunities while also providing new administrators the opportunity to network with other new administrators in similar positions, both within and across districts. The program is designed as a two-year, cohort-style program. Participants include school and district administrators who are new to their school, district, and/or role.

**CES Early Childhood (EC)** Teaching and Learning Specialists continued providing training, consultation, technical assistance, and coaching to early care and education programs throughout Fairfield County in virtual and in-person formats. CES served as the state partner on the national research project “Variations In Implementation of Quality Interventions (VIQI): Examining the Quality-Child Outcomes Relationship in Child Care and Early Education.” Through funding from the CT OEC, CES has delivered NAEYC Accreditation Support and has served a lead role in coordinating statewide coaching and training around Standards, Curriculum and Assessment, and training support around Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals. CES has also been a part of GEER, a CT OEC initiative focused on early childhood technology practices. Through funding from the CT State Department of Education, CES continues to be part of the development and facilitation of statewide forums and roundtables for early childhood special education teachers and administrators, and through funding from the CT Department of Health, CES has supported programs engaged in GoNAPSACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care). CES continues to serve on the management team of the Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER), alongside Yale School of Medicine and Educational Development Center (EDC).



## CES DIVISION PROFILES



*The 2022 graduates wait for ceremonies to begin.*

### Six to Six Magnet School

The Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School is a regional magnet school serving students from age 3 through eighth grade. The magnet focus is mathematics, science and technology. We have developed long-standing partnerships with the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, the Eli Whitney Museum, and the Goldstone Apple Valley Remote Telescope program through NASA.

Six to Six has adopted the Comer/Zigler model (CoZi) of school governance and family support. Our School Planning and Management Team (SPMT) consist of representatives from all constituencies. The SPMT has led initiatives on the development of our School Improvement Plan, school-family-community partnerships and school procedures. The school is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to provide high-quality before- and after-school care, hence its name as the Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School.

Six to Six understands that the social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum. Therefore, we incorporate strategies in our classrooms that bring



*Students and staff at Six to Six.*

together social and academic learning throughout the day through the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Responsive Classroom. Enrollment at Six to Six is through an application/lottery process that was developed to ensure diversity in our student population. In 2021-22, there were 469 students enrolled.





## CES DIVISION PROFILES

### Administrative Services

**The Fiscal Services Office** oversees CES's many financial areas, utilizing MUNIS (Municipal Information System) software, a program widely used by school districts across the United States. Fiscal Services provides oversight of the agency's \$58 million budget, including:

- Annual budget development and monitoring
- Receipt and disbursement of all agency funds
- Annual financial audit including all state and federal reporting
- Payroll processing for more than 500 employees
- MUNIS financial software utilization and security
- Purchasing
- Procurement and cost-monitoring of agency-wide insurances

In addition, the Fiscal Services Office is responsible for benefit enrollment, administration and processing of all employee health, dental, disability, life and 403(b) programs.

**Facility Services** is responsible for the operation of all CES buildings, ensuring a safe, clean environment for students, staff and visitors. The Facilities staff performs all building preventive maintenance services and work-order initiated general repairs, and is responsible for oversight of round-the-clock security monitoring. In addition, the Facilities manager supervises all interior and exterior construction projects, waste management, utilities, indoor air quality, HVAC, purchasing of custodial and maintenance consumables, and landscape management, including snow removal.

#### Facility Service projects in 2021-22

- **16-18 Trowbridge Drive, Bethel:** Together with EdAdvance purchased the property and established WorkspaceCT
- **40 Oakview Drive:** Purchased property and started designing to move Learning Center programs to the property
- **Six to Six Magnet School:** Replaced roof on middle school

**Information Technology Services** coordinates network and telephone services between CES buildings. Other responsibilities include maintaining state-of-the-art hardware inventory; providing Internet and email services and help desk assistance for all staff; troubleshooting and repairing hardware and software problems; and, upon request, providing technology consultation to member districts.

#### IT projects in 2021-22

- Implementing Verkada cameras agency-wide
- Completing fully hosted server cloud migration
- Upgrading Cisco phone solution
- Migrating the CES on-premise MUNIS environment to Tyler-hosted Saas



*The CES vehicle fleet travels more than half a million miles a year transporting students to and from schools and on field trips and other activities.*

**Transportation Services** owns and oversees a fleet of 36 vehicles and provides specialized student transportation to member and non-member districts. Each year, CES vehicles travel more than 520,000 miles carrying students to and from school on a daily basis, as well as field trips and other school activities. In addition to student transportation, CES also has a contract with Norwalk Transit District to operate eight CES-owned specialized vehicles to transport elderly and disabled individuals.

CES has an aggressive preventative maintenance program ensuring safe, reliable transportation services, whereby each vehicle is inspected and serviced on a regular 90-day schedule as well as every driver conducting a pre-trip and post-trip inspections. CES follows Connecticut and Department of Transportation laws requiring every driver to have a pre-employment drug test and drug and alcohol tests throughout employment. All CES transportation vehicles are equipped with GPS and two-way radios allowing continuous communication with, and monitoring by, dispatchers.

#### Administrative Services also manages:

- Employee annual notices of assignment
- Employee incentive programs, including tuition reimbursement
- Worksite safety program
- Agency-wide emergency response program, creation of All-Hazards School Agency and Safety Plan, conducting evacuation, shelter-in-place and fire drills in accordance with Connecticut statutes and local ordinances
- Student Data Privacy in accordance with Connecticut statutes



## CES DIVISION PROFILES

### WorkspaceCT

WorkspaceCT is a collaborative space in Bethel, Conn., owned and operated by CES and Litchfield-based EdAdvance since June 2019. The RESCs work in partnership with our representative school districts and municipalities to build a vibrant community of learning dedicated to preparing all students for success beyond school. Through our collaborative use of the 32,000-square-foot facility, we strive to provide learners of all ages personal and professional educational experiences that support growth, value creativity, and inspire innovation, self-direction, and meaningful engagement. Our focus will always be on developing and honoring the student’s voice — encouraging courageous choices, authentic learning, and personal ownership of learning. We believe all students and adults can benefit from WorkspaceCT learning opportunities and we will work to make them available to anyone who wants to engage and grow.

Learn more about the facility and opportunities there at [www.workspacect.org](http://www.workspacect.org).



Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont visited WorkspaceCT as part of the state’s Manufacturing Month in October 2021.



## CONNECT WITH CES



[bit.ly/cesonfb](https://bit.ly/cesonfb)  
**CES Facebook**

[bit.ly/6to6onfb](https://bit.ly/6to6onfb)  
**Six to Six Facebook**

[bit.ly/rcaonfb](https://bit.ly/rcaonfb)  
**RCA Facebook**

[bit.ly/cesschoolreadiness](https://bit.ly/cesschoolreadiness)  
**School Readiness Facebook**



@CES\_Connecticut  
**CES Twitter**

@charlesdumais  
**CES Executive Director  
Dr. Charles Dumais**



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**CES Instagram**

[bit.ly/rcainsta](https://bit.ly/rcainsta)  
**RCA Instagram**



[bit.ly/ces\\_videos](https://bit.ly/ces_videos)  
**Videos from All CES divisions**



[bit.ly/ceslinkedin](https://bit.ly/ceslinkedin)  
**CES LinkedIn**

*"It is the policy of C.E.S. that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any service or program on account of race, color, religious creed, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, residence, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability including, but not limited to, blindness, or pregnancy and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding C.E.S. nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Associate Executive Director's office, C.E.S., 40 Lindeman Dr., Trumbull, CT 06611; 203-365-8831."*





## CHANGES IN PROGRAM EMPHASES

### Professional Development Services

As the global pandemic continued, PDS staff remained dedicated to providing services aligned with educators' and leaders' real-time needs. Workshops and personalized supports were developed to assist schools, districts, and communities as they worked to improve students' social-emotional and academic success. As our member districts continued to experience shifting needs over the last year, the PDS team worked to support our educators and leaders in varied settings and delivery models, including in-person workshops, live webinars, and opportunities for asynchronous professional learning.

### Regional Center for the Arts

RCA has incorporated new computers into the creative media department that will allow students to have a more professional experience. We hope to purchase new cameras and other equipment in the future in order to continue to provide our students with an experience similar to that which they would find in a professional setting. The curriculum has new elective courses co-taught by members of multiple departments in order to encourage collaboration between performing arts departments at the school.

### School Readiness

We learned many things from the pandemic, including how many ways we communicate with our families. Teachers continue to use tools such as emails, text messages, phone calls, online meetings, and an Internet platform called Brightwheel to communicate with families. Teachers shared photos, videos of classroom activities, messages, and learning-experience plans on Brightwheel. As our doors open for the 2022-23 school year, we look forward to extending our partnership with families in and out of the classroom.

### Six to Six Magnet School

This past year, Six to Six prioritized health, safety, and social and emotional well-being given the context of COVID. We continued important curriculum revision and updated our technology school-wide to ensure every student was equipped with a one-to-one device to access the curriculum. The school-based Instructional Leadership Team designed new processes for curriculum revisions and pacing adjustments as well as enhancing parent and family outreach and support.

Six to Six continues to focus on data-driven decision-making, differentiated instruction, and tiered interventions and supports to ensure student growth. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, students continued to demonstrate growth in all areas of learning and they were welcomed into a safe, happy, and caring school environment each day.

### Special Education

The division provided high-quality services to approximately 347 students. While most of these students were educated within our facilities, some of our older students received services in the community and at Sacred Heart University through our RISE program. Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, all programs were again able to remain open the entire school year.

In response to districts' needs, we expanded our diagnostic and evaluation services and conducted a number of evaluations in Spanish and Portuguese. We completed more than 30 psychological evaluations for a dozen districts.

Our Assistive Technology Center and Audiological units also expanded evaluation and consultative services. Each unit provides direct evaluation, staff training, case consultations, and other professional development in the region. The 2021-22 school year was one of these units' busiest.

Through the RESC Alliance, we provided training and support for professionals around the state. These included Assistive Technology Communities of Practice, Special Education Communities of Practice, School Psychology Communities of Practice, Life Course Planning training, and a regional transition fair. Our consultants trained hundreds of special educators and administrators on the first phase of the new IEP — writing high-quality IEPs. We have also planned to support the roll out of CTSEDS. Our consultants will be running daily training sessions and technical assistance throughout the school year.

After a long and detailed process, our Learning Centers were certified by the Center for Developmental Therapies as official training sites and two of our staff members were certified as DT trainers, a rare honor awarded to few institutions worldwide. It affirms our status as a leading provider of high-quality services to students with autism and developmental disabilities.

The division continues to maintain valuable partnerships with the Beardsley Zoo, Kennedy Center, Sacred Heart University, and the Leir Foundation.

### WorkspaceCT

WorkspaceCT, a joint venture in Bethel between CES and the Litchfield-based RESC EdAdvance, had a busy first full year of operation. New classrooms and offices were constructed to house the ACCESS program and there were multiple upgrades to the network infrastructure. We formed partnerships with the United Way, Naugatuck Valley Community College, the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, Seaperch, ITEEA, and Educational Innovations. We hosted retreats for local school administrators, camps, and field trips for students in local schools. Our Tandem Theatre hosted multiple performances, including a Battle of the Bands.

In all, there were approximately 3,000 hours of meetings, events, professional development, and classes here in 2021-22.



## CHANGES IN THE FUTURE

### Professional Development Services

Understanding the cultural needs of a diverse staff and student body as well as the school community is important to the success of all school systems. As such, the PDS team has named a Coordinator of Culturally Responsive practices. The team and the coordinator will continue to offer multiple entry points for teachers and leaders to have conversations about social justice and equity in order to facilitate teaching and learning spaces that benefit all students, educators, and families both within CES and across the CES region.

PDS sees that the future of professional learning is highly dependent on providing professional learning opportunities and collaborations that address essential practices for districts that are both regional (cost-effective) as well as customized in order to closely align with district goals and measured results. The PDS team will capitalize on an updated website and new social media accounts to ensure easy access points for our region's educators to explore concrete examples of how the PDS team can support all educators through their professional journey.

### Regional Center for the Arts

We are actively looking for opportunities for our students to work in professional settings, including theaters, concert halls and recording studios. Partnering with local businesses in the performing arts will allow our students to form meaningful connections and increase the school's visibility in the community. The highly successful Principal's Advisory Committee will be expanded this year.



*School Readiness students look at classmates' artwork.*

### School Readiness

School Readiness staff will continue to participate on the Social Justice and Equity Advisory team, with our representative sharing information from the team to our staff members as we deepen our practice of equity and inclusion within the community. The program will also undergo the NAEYC accreditation process, with the support of AQIS, Accreditation Quality Improvement Support, provided by the CT Office of Early Childhood.

### Six to Six Magnet School

Six to Six will continue to align and refine curriculum with a priority focus on high-quality interventions including enhanced social, emotional, and behavioral supports given students' post-pandemic needs.



*Special Education graduation ceremonies are held each June for students moving up to new programs.*

### Special Education

The goal of the Special Education division is to remain on the "cutting-edge" of technical changes that directly impact the delivery of specialized instruction to students with disabilities. We are also charged with being a resource to our member districts. The division will continue to provide high-quality training experiences focusing on IEP Quality and the CTSEDS roll out. We will provide support to districts in areas of Multi-tiered Support Training, Assistive Technology Training, and program reviews and consultations.

Through the RESC Alliance, the division will continue its work with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to provide a number of special education initiatives statewide. In particular, CES will support school psychologists through Communities of Practice (CoPs) across the six RESC areas. We will be a training resource for new initiatives on topics such as Assistive Technology, Least Restrictive Environment, and Transition.

The Division will continue to expand bilingual psychological and educational evaluation services and offer support within the region for crisis training and support.





# CES DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

Program Name	Easton/Redding/Region 9																Other	Total
	Bridgeport	Darien	Easton/Redding/Region 9	Fairfield	Greenwich	Monroe	New Canaan	Norwalk	Ridgefield	Shelton	Stamford	Stratford	Trumbull	Weston	Westport	Wilton		
<b>Administrative Services</b>																		
→ Transportation	X					X			X			X	X				2	
<b>Executive Searches Services</b>	X																7	
Open Choice Program	X		X	X				X					X	X	X		7	
<b>Professional Development Services</b>																		
→ Curriculum Council	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	
→ Early Childhood Council	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	
→ ELAR & Early Literacy Council		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		1	
→ ESL/ESOL Council	X		X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		X		10	
→ Leadership Institute at Cooperative Educational Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	16	
→ Administrator Aspirant Program				X	X	X		X			X	X			X		7	
→ Administrator Induction Program	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						1	
→ Library/Media & Technology Integration Council		X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	1	
→ Math Council		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	
→ Science Council			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	10	
→ Social Studies & History Council		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	4	
Regional Center for the Arts (RCA)	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X			X	2	
School Readiness	X									X		X	X				1	
Six to Six Magnet School	X			X	X					X		X	X				15	
<b>Special Education</b>																		
→ Developmental Learning Center (DLC) - School Year	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X				9	
→ DLC/PLC/TLC - Summer	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			16	
→ Preschool-Primary Learning Center (PLC) - School Year	X						X	X		X	X	X	X				8	
→ RISE Transition Program	X		X			X					X			X	X		1	
→ Therapeutic Day Program - School Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	
→ Therapeutic Day Program - Summer	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		16	
→ Transition Learning Center (TLC) - School Year	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X				6	
<b>Special Education Related Services</b>																		
→ Assistive Technology					X					X		X		X	X		4	
→ Audiological			X	X	X					X		X		X	X	X	5	
→ Behavioral Psychology		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		59	
→ Consultation/Diagnostic Services								X		X		X			X		4	



# CES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES



**John Hubert**  
Director of Information Technology



**Jesse Fallon**  
Senior Systems Analyst



**Tanko Awudu**  
Senior Systems Analyst

The IT staff at CES upgrades the agency's technology and keeps it running smoothly and effectively at multiple locations.



# CES FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Budgets as of June 30, 2022

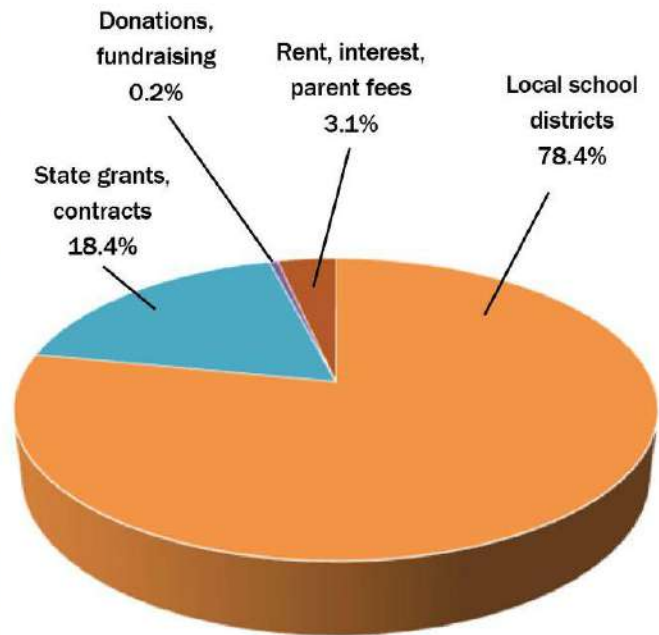
L = Local S = State F = Federal

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION		
Administrative Services	1,219,693	L
Office of Executive Director	665,791	L
Executive Searches	103,010	L
Facility Cost Centers	3,894,330	L
Internet & Technology Services	1,157,139	L
Legal & Professional Costs	15,000	L
Office of Associate Executive Director	608,117	L
Public Relations and Marketing	116,676	L
5K Race	15,200	L
INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CHOICE		
Enhancing Education Choices/Opportunity	338,804	S
Regional Center for Arts	1,704,552	L,S
School Choice/Transportation	1,569,544	S
Six to Six Magnet School	8,878,543	L,S
School Readiness Program	1,307,810	L,S
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES		
Administration	730,909	L,S
CT REAP	153,629	L
Educational Leadership	103,588	L
Professional Development	727,693	L, S,F
Special Projects	438,054	S,F
SPECIAL EDUCATION		
Administration	842,443	L,S
Assistive Technology	254,908	L
Developmental Learning Center - Summer	877,152	L
DLC/Preschool Learning Center	13,272,020	L
Rise Transition Program	454,063	L
Therapeutic Day Program	10,963,368	L
Therapeutic Day Program - Summer	445,022	L
SPECIAL EDUCATION - RELATED SERVICES		
Audio Maintenance	191,865	L
Medical	25,916	L
Physical Education	25,300	L
Professional Development	468,383	L
Behavioral Psychological Services	591,338	L
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
WorkspaceCT	306,422	L
TRANSPORTATION		
Transportation - LEA	1,162,440	L,S
Transportation - Elderly (Norwalk)	751,786	L,S,F

## Expenditures 2021-22

Building Operations	11,447,115
Central Administration	3,425,859
Interdistrict Magnet Schools	9,835,515
Professional Development Services	3,904,935
Open Choice	1,795,361
School Readiness	1,245,355
Special Education	24,444,180
Title I, II, III, IV	212,123
Transportation	2,084,915
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>58,395,358</b>

## Funding sources 2021-22







## CES INTERAGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

### A

ABCO the Paperman • Abilis • Ability Beyond • ACES • All Electric Construction • American Medical Response • American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) • Amity Bowl • Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield • Anti-Defamation League of Connecticut • Aquarion Water Co. • ARI in Stamford • Arts for Healing • Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) • Autism Services and Resource Center

### B

Bagel King • Barnes & Noble • Best Buddies • Better Lessons • Board of Education Services for the Blind • Boys & Girls Village • Blanchette's Sporting Goods • Bounce You • Bridge House • Bridgeport Alliance for Young Children • Bridgeport BOE Early Childhood Consultation Center • Bridgeport BOE Early Childhood Dept. • Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition • Bridgeport Child Guidance • Bridgeport City Hall • Bridgeport Family Resource Center Network • Bridgeport Fire Dept • Bridgeport Higher Education Alliance • Bridgeport Hospital • Bridgeport Parks Department • Bridgeport Police Dept • Bridgeport Provider Network • Bridgeport Public Library • Bridgeport Regional Business Council • Bridgeport Islanders • Bridgeport YMCA • Broadway.com • Bullard Havens Regional Vo-Tech School • Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

### C

CABE • Calvary Church (Trumbull) • CAPSS • Cardinal Sheehan Center • Care 4 Kids • Casey Family Services • Center for Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders • Central CT State University/ITBD • Charter Oak State College • Chartwells • Child & Family Network • Child First • Child Guidance Center of Southern CT • Children's Dentistry & Orthodontics • Chili's • Christ Church (Stamford) • City Line Florist • CLASP (Fairfield) • Coalition for Women and Families • Cathie Collier, R.D.H. • Commerce Park Dental Group • Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo • Conner Printing • Corwin A Sage Company • CT Assoc. for the Education of Young Children • CT Assoc. of Interdistrict Magnet Schools • CT Association of School Personnel Administrators (CASPA) • CT Audubon Society • CT Autism Society • CT Ballet • CT Charts-A-Course • CT Children's Museum (New Haven) • CT Dept. of Education • CT Dept. of Health • CT Dept. of Labor • CT Historical Society • CT Inst. for Sustainable Energy • CT Office of Early Childhood • CT Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc • CT Technical High School System • CT Parenting Education Network • CT Transit • CT Works • Coordinated Transportation Services • CREC • Crossroads Pizza

### D-E

Dept. of Children and Families • Dept. of Developmental Services • Dept. of Mental Health & Addictions • Dept. of Social Services • Developmental Therapy-Teaching Programs (University of Georgia) • Disability Resource Network CT (Derby) • Downtown Cabaret Theatre • Eagle Hill School • Early Childhood Consultation Partnership • EASTCONN • Eastern CT State University • Easton EMS • EdAdvance • Educational Development Center • Eli Whitney Museum • Emergency Care Institute

### F

Fairfield Business Alliance • Fairfield Pizza • Fairfield Prep • Fairfield Public Library • Fairfield University • Family Resource Center • Family Services Woodfield • Famous Fifties Diner • Federation Assoc. of CT • First Book, Fairfield County • Food Rescue USA • First Presbyterian Church (Fairfield) • Fit-Tek • Fone's School of Dental Hygiene • Food Bazaar • Fordham University • Friends of Bridgeport Public Library

### G-H

Gateway Community College • Giove's • Goodwill Industries • Greater Bridgeport Director's Network • Greater Bridgeport Mental Health • Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra • Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT) • Greater Bridgeport/Trumbull Headstart Center • Green Village Initiative • Habitat for Humanity • Hallbrook Intensive Outpatient and Hospital • Hope Center • Housatonic Community College

### I-J-K-L

Jason Project • Jesse Lewis Foundation • JobCorps • Juvenile Probation • Kennedy Center Inc. • Kenneth Boroson Architects • Kids in Crisis of Greenwich • Kidsense Pediatric Therapy • Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA • LEARN • Leir Retreat Center • Leisha's Bakeria • LifeBridge Community Services • Lighthouse Program • Lilian Butler Davies Foundation • Linda's Storytime • Lisa's Takeout • Long Wharf Theatre • Lyman Orchards

### M

Mabel Fischer Grant Foundation • Mad Science of Fairfield & New Haven County • Make-A-Wish Foundation • Maritime Aquarium • Marrakech, Inc. • Marshall's (Bridgeport) • Mayer-Johnson • Mayor's Summer Youth Program • Merit Insurance • MetLife Special Needs Planning • Metro North • Middlebrook Farms • Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center • Monroe Police Dept • Monroe Public Library • Music Together of Norwalk/Newtown LLC • Mystic Aquarium

### N-O-P-Q-R

NASA • NAEYC • Northeastern Technology • Norwalk Community College • Norwalk Transit District • Notre Dame High School • Nutmeg Bowling • Nutmeg Dry Cleaners (Danbury) • Office Depot • Orange Research • Osaka Hibachi • Parent Center of Bridgeport • PEZ • Pearson Education • Pediatric Health Care Associates • People's United Bank • Petco • Phoenix Academy • Planned Parenthood • Platt Systems • Plymouth Early Childhood Council • PMT Associates, Inc. • Porter and Chester Institute • Dr. Barry Prizant • Professional Placement Resources LLC • Project Return • Prospects Program • Pyramid Educational Consultants • Read to Grow, Inc. • Real Learning, Inc. • Regina Quick Center at Fairfield University • Rehabilitation Associates • Reliable Plating • RESC Assistive Technology Alliance • River Valley Retirement Community • Roses for Autism

### S

Sacred Heart University • SERC • Sergio's Pizza • Shipman & Goodwin • Southern CT State University • Spurwink Services • St. Joseph's Center • St. Saviour's Church Nursery School • St. Vincent's Hospital • St. Vincent's Special Needs Center • Stamford Child Guidance • Stern Village • Stew Leonard's • Star, Inc. • Stop & Shop • Stratford Community Services • Stratford Police Dept • Stratford Theatre

### T-U-V-W-Y

Tauk Family Foundation • Teachers' College/Columbia University • Team Toys 4 Kids • TED Masterclass • Trumbull Chamber of Commerce • Trumbull Congregational Church • Trumbull Fire Dept • Trumbull/Monroe Health Dept • Trumbull Mobile Veterinary Clinic • Trumbull Police Dept • Trumbull Public Library • Trumbull Rotary Club • Trumbull Senior Center • United Way of Coastal Fairfield County • University of Bridgeport • UConn College of Agriculture and National Resources • University of New Haven • UCLA-SMP • Vazzy's • Wade's Dairy • Wellness Zone (Bridgeport) • Westchester Family Institute • Western CT State University • Westport Country Playhouse • Woodruff Family YMCA • Yale Child Study Center • Yale New Haven Hospital • Yale University School of Medicine • Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Business Center • YMCA Daycare (Bridgeport)



## CES FOUNDATION



The CES Foundation was created in 2007 with the mission of enhancing learning opportunities for students of CES educational programs, including enrichment grants to CES educators. Since inception the foundation has funded more than \$250,000 for mini-grants to CES educators, program grants for CES schools and programs, and professional development grants for educators in the agency's member districts.

Applicants go through a rigorous application process and present evaluations to the Board of Directors annually.

The classroom-based mini-grants are designed to foster creativity and extend the classroom learning experiences beyond the regular curriculum. The program grants encourage full school or program experimentation and research in best and promising practices that not only enhance the learning opportunities for CES students but also may be shared with CES member districts.

For more information, visit [www.cesfoundation.org](http://www.cesfoundation.org).

### 2021-22 Projects

Four mini-grants were awarded to CES educators in Special Education, School Readiness and the Regional Center for the Arts.

- RCA students benefitted from a lecture/workshop series that featured guests artists whose careers heavily rely on writing skills.
- Grant funds were used to purchase items to assist School Readiness students with communication and social skills. Another grant was used to purchase furniture and other items to create “cozy” space for children to achieve emotional regulation.
- Grants for Six to Six were used to purchase iPads and license for an online platform that helped students gain improved self-awareness skills and social/emotional skills.
- A Special Education grant was used to purchase equipment used by students to create and produce products such as greeting cards, holiday ornaments and more.
- A grant for the TDP program in Special Education was used to purchase electronics used by students to access podcasts that facilitate learning and improved critical thinking.
- Another grant for the TDP program was used to create an outdoor garden.



### Donating Opportunities

Donors are encouraged to give to the CES Foundation and all contributions benefit CES students and programs.

There are a number of ways to give:

**AmazonSmile:** When you visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and designate Cooperative Educational Services Foundation, Inc., as your favorite charity, every purchase you make through Amazon generates a donation to the Foundation. It's easy and costs you nothing.

**Paypal:** [www.cesfoundation.org/how-to-give](http://www.cesfoundation.org/how-to-give)

**United Way:** Designate the CES Foundation as your beneficiary charity.

**Employer Match:** Contact your employer for procedure.

*Questions should be directed to Barbara Pace at 203-365-8803 or [paceb@cestrumbull.org](mailto:paceb@cestrumbull.org).*