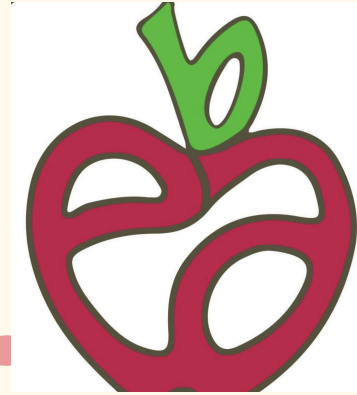


BEA
APRIL



Bits and Briefs



Select each image to
join us on Facebook
and Instagram

Visit our new website
at:

www.blmfldea.org



Email us at:

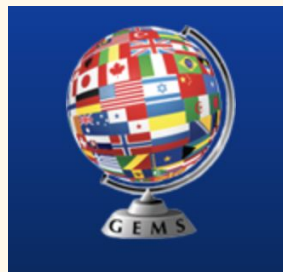
bloomfielddeductionassociation@gmail.com



BEA Monthly Spotlight



Nominate a co-worker [here](#) to share with us all of the phenomenal work they are doing!



BEA Monthly Spotlight



Shout out to Laurel Literacy Academy's 1st grade team. It's been expressed that, "turning lemons into lemonade", should be the motto for this team! Your colleagues share that the children are benefiting from your dedication and commitment to best practice. Cheers to Bonnie Peters, Ginette Kempf, Abi Buckley, Flavia Gilling-Gray, Despina Strompolis, and Mel Gable!

Take Action!



Our BEA Representative Council has voted to create 3 new Representative positions to address concerns specific to our support staff members. These Reps will be charged with fielding questions and concerns specific to special education, social work, school psychologists, and speech and language from members across the district. They will then meet with the Director of Student Support Services monthly similar to how our other Reps meet with building administrators monthly to address concerns and develop solutions. These positions have been prorated for this school year and will pay \$50 a month for the remainder of the school year. They will be posted again next year when we post for all Rep Council positions at the same \$400 pay rate as other Rep positions. Due to the urgent need for these positions, please nominate representatives at the Google Form linked below by April 9th:

[BEA STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE
NOMINATION FORM](#)

Stay in the Know!



A union isn't an outside organization that comes in to help you, a union is YOU and your colleagues coming together to empower each other as a COLLECTIVE.

And trust me, that's way more powerful!

If you are called into a meeting regarding your attendance or anything else that could lead to discipline, you have a right to representation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your building reps and make them aware. We can't help what we don't know!

Stay in the Know!



REACH OUT AND TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!

*Click the image to
learn more!*



Education Committee Advances Bill to Raise Teacher Pay

March 25, 2025

In an important step forward for educators, the Education Committee met yesterday and advanced several key bills—including Senate Bill 1459, which aims to boost teacher salaries.

Stay in the Know!



NEA NEWS

NEA President Becky Pringle: “Unions Exist For Moments Like This.”

Even as the Trump administration works furiously to attack public schools and threaten families, NEA members are mobilizing and speaking up.



Aslee Rezin Garcia/Chicago Sun-Times via AP

Click the image to
learn more!

Take Action!



2025 Summary of Legislative Priorities

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Salary Enhancement – Increase teachers' starting salaries and provide tiered salary enhancement so that educators across the salary schedule are compensated comparably to other similarly educated professionals

Fairness in the Workplace – Require a "just cause" standard of discipline providing teachers the same rights, protections, and justice enjoyed by noncertified staff

Expand Access – Expand and fully fund educator diversity scholarships for students in all districts

Support for Aspiring Educators – Reduce fees for teaching certification programs and eliminate costs of edTPA for college students

Successful School Communities

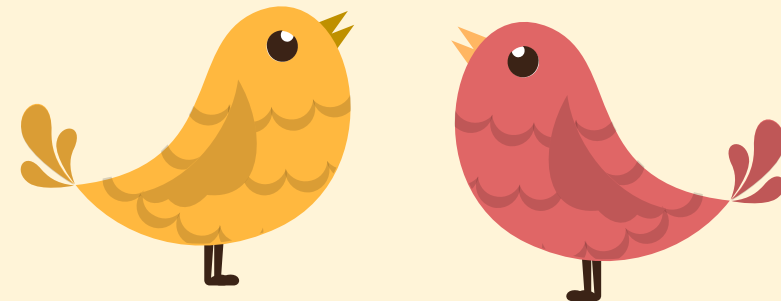
Special Education – Reduce or cap caseloads for special education teachers and paraeducators

Class Size – Provide district incentives to reduce class sizes

English Learners – Reduce or cap caseloads for EL teachers and paraeducators

School Indoor Air Quality – Provide long-term funding for school HVAC repairs and establish minimum and maximum indoor temperature standards

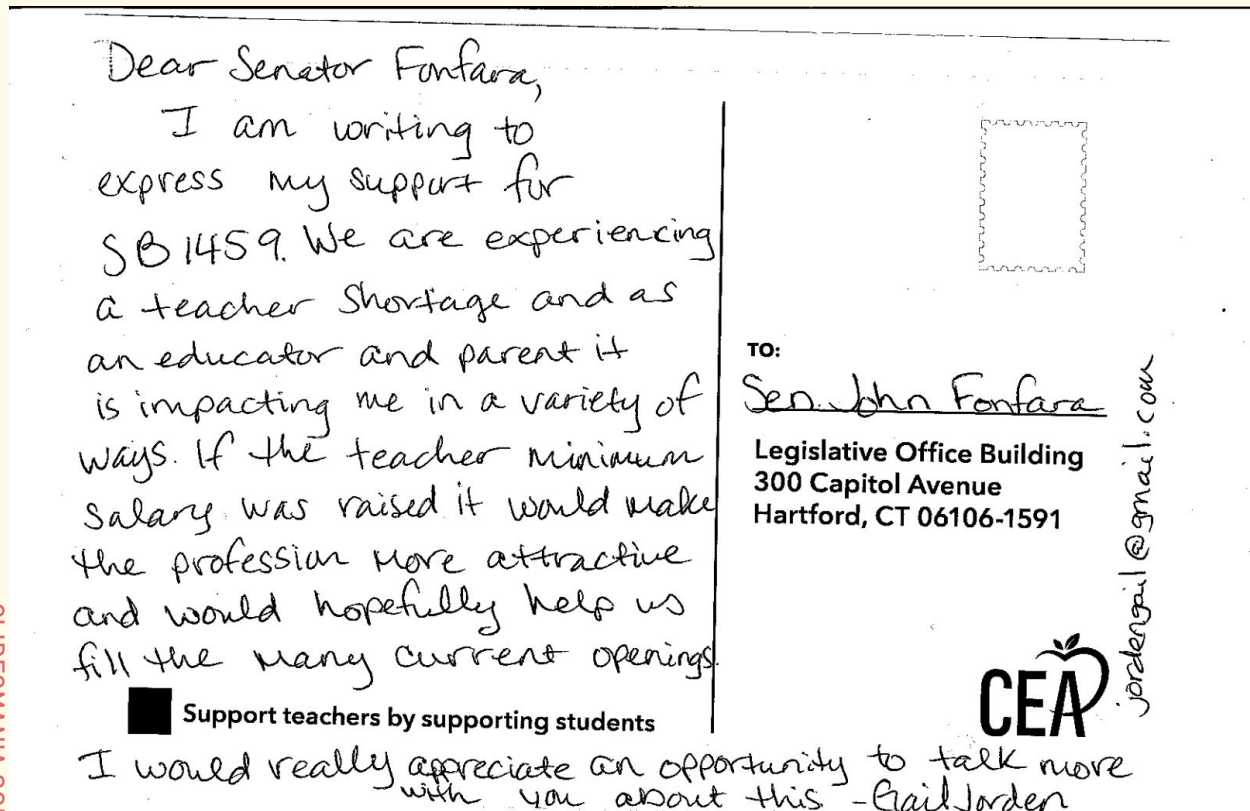
Believe it or not, your senators and representatives want to hear from you! Take a moment to read through the guide to letter writing on the next slide and reach out to your legislative representatives today!



Take Action!

Find out who your legislators are [here](#).

Example:



Dear Senator Fonfara,

I am writing to express my support for SB 1459. We are experiencing a teacher shortage and as an educator and parent it is impacting me in a variety of ways. If the teacher minimum salary was raised it would make the profession more attractive and would hopefully help us fill the many current openings.

■ Support teachers by supporting students

I would really appreciate an opportunity to talk more with you about this - *Erin Jordan*

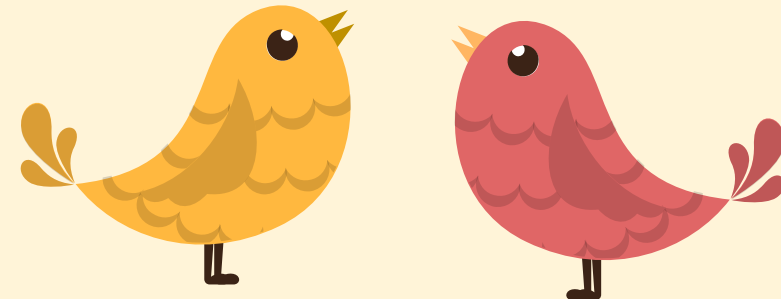
TO:
Sen. John Fonfara
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CEA
jordanerail@gmail.com



7 Tests of Just Cause

CEA Legislative Letter Writing Guide



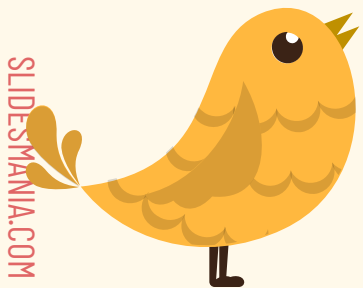
Our Executive Board carries on!



Congratulations to our Executive Board members who were all elected for another term! Please feel free to reach out and congratulate them for all they do!



Melinda, Marissa, Gail, Lynn, Lynne



Upcoming Events!



ARE YOU READY FOR THE REVOLUTION?

IT'S A HARTFORD COUNTY CEA SOCIAL!

**SATURDAY
APRIL 5TH
2PM-4PM**



REVOLUTIONS

60 BIDWELL ROAD
SOUTH WINDSOR CT

**MEET YOUR LEADERS
&
WIN PRIZES**

**\$15- FOOD, SHOES AND
GAMES INCLUDED!**

TO REGISTER:



[Download](#) [Share](#) [Print](#)

**HANDS
OFF!**

**MASS MOBILIZATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

handsoff2025.com



Upcoming Events!



April 9 @ 4:00 pm - 6:15 pm

| Retirement Workshop- Virtual

Virtual CT, United States

CEA Retirement Specialist Robyn Kaplan-Cho, will cover a wide range of issues related to the State Teachers' Retirement System and will offer time for questions following the presentation.

**THINKING ABOUT
RETIREMENT LATELY?**



Upcoming Events!



Know Your Rights: Special Education & Challenging Behavior Law

May 20 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Navigating the complexities of special education and addressing challenging student behaviors can be overwhelming. There are new laws that you need to be aware of that can help you in the classroom.

We invite you to participate in one of two upcoming Know Your Rights virtual webinars, where you'll gain essential knowledge to advocate for yourself and your students.

In the Special Education & Challenging Behavior Law webinar you will learn:

- What you can and should do as a participant in the planning and placement team (PPT) process.
- A detailed overview of Connecticut's new Challenging Behavior Law, going into effect next school year.
- How these changes impact your role as an educator and what rights you have under the law.

These webinars, presented by CEA specialist Robyn Kaplan-Cho, are open to CEA members only and are limited to the first 80 registrants. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed and empowered in these challenging times for educators!



Upcoming Events!



Exclusive CEA Membership Champion Deals! Click [here](#) to learn more



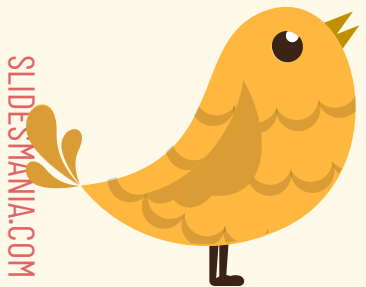
Special Offer

CEA members can get early access to tickets to **Eddie B.: If These Classroom Walls Could Talk** on June 6th, 2025! Click the 'Special Offer' button below and enter the code **CLASS** to buy tickets (standard CEA discount is not applicable to this offer).

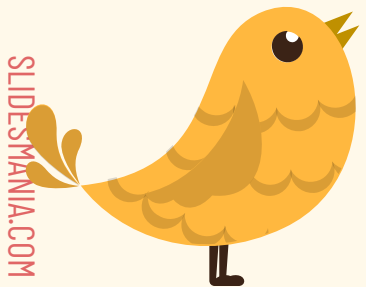
CEA Members can enjoy discounted tickets to select show using the discount code **CEA2425***

Upcoming shows

- **Stomp** – Tuesday 4.01.25 | 7:30pm



BEA at the Diversity Summit!



BEA Officers

President: Gail Jorden

Vice President: Marissa Mancini

Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio

Secretary: Lynne Dumas

Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady



Building Representatives

Wintonbury (Pre-K)

Lisa Thomas 2024-2025

Amy Lomnicky 2024-2026

Laurel (Grades Pre-K – 2)

Rose Rose - 2024-2026

Melanie Gabel 2023-2025

Metacomet (Grades 3 – 4)

James Verano 2023-2025

Elka Spencer 2023-2025

Carmen Arace (Grades 5 – 8)

Jacqueline Springer 2024-2026

Cheryl Bleiler 2023-2025

GEMS (Grades 6 – 12)

Amelia Dodd - 2024-2026

Thomas Rubino 2023-2025

Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Ross Siegel 2023-2025

Jennifer Neal 2023-2025

Colleen McCaughey 2023-2025

Mary Jarvis 2023-2025



Chairs, Committees, and Vital Roles 2024-2025



Grievance Chair: [Katrina Kucinskas](#)

Grievance Committee:

Marissa Mancini

Melinda Mellady

Rose Rose

Lynne Dumas

Pamela Parker

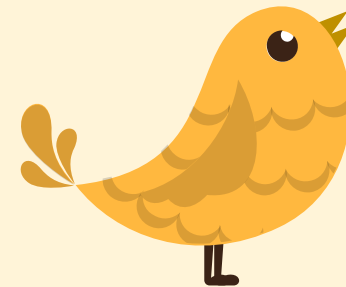
Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs

Committee Chair: [Elka Spencer](#)

Website Design: [Lamar Turner](#)

Political Action Chair: [Magnolia Coates](#)

Young and Union Ambassador: [Michelle Bibeau](#)



CEA is here to help members focus on themselves and their own well-being.



While many factors contribute to the high levels of stress teachers are experiencing, perhaps most significant are the impacts of the pandemic on students, teachers, and their families; the increase in the number of students coming to school with serious mental health and emotional problems, violent outbursts, and withdrawn behaviors; the current political landscape, marked by a lack of trust and respect; and the teacher shortage that has educators working harder than ever.



Positive Directions is a nonprofit behavioral health organization providing a continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery supports for mental health and/or substance use challenges. Their state-licensed outpatient treatment clinic consists of a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and prescribers providing individual and group therapy, as well as medical management, to adolescents and adults. Treatment areas include anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, and more.



Register for the free counseling sessions at cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling.



Have questions? Want more info?
Email teacherwell-being@cea.org.

TEACHER WELL-BEING

Get The Support You Need



CEA has contracted to offer free confidential mental health group counseling for our members to provide support, healing, and innovative strategies that foster wellness and avoid burnout.

TEACHER WELL-BEING IS PARAMOUNT

With the right support for managing stress, opportunities to connect with colleagues, and access to counseling experts, CEA is helping teachers focus on their own mental health and wellness.

"After the past few years, taking care of teachers is vital. Teachers who have strategies to manage their own stress and secondary trauma are in a good place, where they can give their best to caring for and educating their students."

Kate Dias
CEA President



TEACHERS' HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

If you are feeling overwhelmed or highly anxious, you are **not** alone.

We understand that teaching is difficult work, and the pandemic has put even greater pressure on educators.

CEA, in partnership with Positive Directions, has designed a special program that focuses on your mental health needs and helps prevent burnout.

Licensed clinicians will facilitate two virtual group counseling sessions for CEA members:

- 1. General Support Group**
Trained clinicians will help educators manage stress and learn effective coping strategies to prevent burnout.
- 2. DCF Support Group**
When a teacher is accused of improper conduct, it can be scary and stressful. Licensed clinicians will lead this group and provide counseling and support for educators involved in Department of Children and Families investigations. The DCF Support Group will offer tools for building resilience and dealing with the emotional trauma and upheaval caused by accusations of wrongdoing and attacks on a teacher's reputation.

Both groups will be conducted by trained clinicians and are confidential. Only CEA members will participate in these sessions, and space is limited.

Providing these unique counseling sessions will help teachers manage their symptoms and reinforce that they are not alone.



Register for the free counseling sessions at cea.org/mental-health-support-group-counseling.



CEA has contracted Positive Directions to offer free confidential mental health group counseling for our members. See the enlarged flyer [here](#).

