

March 2025
BEA Bits and Briefs

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www.blmfldea.org



Select each image to join us on Facebook or Instagram.

Visit our website at:

www.blmfldea.org



Email us at : bloomfieldeducationassociation@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



Dothy Sohan is a special education teacher at BHS and is being recognized by her colleagues for being friendly, dedicated to her students, and helpful to staff. Ms. Sohan, you are so appreciated!

BEA Monthly Spotlight



Jessica Bridgeforth is a special education teacher at the high school and she is being recognized by her colleagues for being kind, thoughtful, and responsive. Great job Ms. Bridgeforth, the world could always use more kindness!

A Penny for your Thoughts

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on the following surveys:

[BEA End of Year Social Survey](#)

[BEA Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs Commission Survey](#)

Memorandums of Agreement

This year we have had our fair share of MOA's. Please take a moment to see them listed below:

Wintonbury, Laurel, Metacomet, and Arace Staff Meeting and Data Entry

MOA's

Extra-Curricular School Activities Stipends

Subcontracting MOA

Staff Substitute MOA

SPED Caseload MOA

GEMS Athletic Coaching and After School Activities MOA

WECMS After School Activities MOA

CEA is coming for a visit!

Building Healthy, Thriving Learning Communities: What Better Advocate to Have for Public Education than YOU?

Teachers, school counselors, social workers, and psychologists—help us share your stories with legislators.

Help shape state & federal decisions on:

- Teacher salaries
- Student behavior
- Public education funding
- School indoor air quality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Recruitment & Retention
- Sp. Ed Caseloads & More.

Refreshments will be served!

3/26 - 12:40pm-2:00pm

Carmen Arace Intermediate School Teachers Lounge

FOR INFORMATION & RSVP:



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Refreshments will be served!

3/27 - 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Bloomfield High School Teachers Lounge

FOR INFORMATION & RSVP:



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- Student behavior
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- School indoor air quality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Recruitment & Retention
- Sp. Ed Caseloads & More.

Refreshments will be served!

3/26 - 2:15pm-3:00
3/27 - 2:15pm -3:00

Laurel Literacy Academy Teachers Lounge

FOR INFORMATION & RSVP:



All member voices are wanted! If you can, find time to stop by one of the 3 schools at the listed times to share your thoughts!

Stay in the know!



- [Bloomfield proposed 2025-2026 Budget](#)
- [2.25.25 Budget Presentation Video](#)
- [3.3.25 Public Comment on Budget Video](#)
- [3.4.25 Board Deliberation on Budget Video](#)

Stay in the know!

- Emails have gone out to teachers that may be impacted by the PowerSchool security breach. Please contact Jason Titelbaum (jtitelbaum@blmfld.org) if you have additional questions.
- After coming to an agreement on the grant funded stipends, BEA rescinded the Unfair Labor Practice charge against Bloomfield.
- Unusual Incident Report forms are the last page of our union contract and are to be completed at the discretion of the teacher. No administrator can deny you completing and turning one in. Make sure to keep a copy for yourself and we encourage you to send a copy to Gail Jordan at gjorden@blmfld.org.

Stay in the know!

- If you are uncomfortable using your personal device for the 2-step authentication process now required for our @bloomfieldschools.org log-ins, you can request a duo token through your school technology facilitator. CEA legal says using our personal devices is fine because it does not require us to download an app and is just a text or email.
- CEA has been making calls to personal phones to confirm contact information for members and complete a short survey. This is a more personalized attempt at connecting with members.

CEA RA Representatives!

Please join me in congratulating the following members in stepping up to represent Bloomfield at the annual Connecticut Representative Assembly:

Magnolia Coates of Laurel Literacy Academy

Elka Spencer of Metacomet Elementary School

Jennifer Neal of Bloomfield High School

Glenn Spencer of Bloomfield High School



Upcoming Events

*Click on the
flyer to
register!*



Upcoming Events

CEA Summit on Diversity: Elevating Your Leadership Potential

LEARNING | ADVANCING | NETWORKING

**Saturday,
March 29, 2025**
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Amarante's Sea Cliff
62 Cove St., New Haven, CT

Highlights:

- Breakout sessions on leadership development, advocacy, and equity
- Networking opportunities with fellow educators
- Resources and strategies for professional growth

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a transformative experience that will enhance your leadership skills and connect you with a community of like-minded educators.



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Miguel Cardona, former U.S. Secretary of Education and Connecticut Education Commissioner



Come together with diverse educators across the state to empower, inspire, and elevate leadership within our schools and communities.

REGISTER TODAY

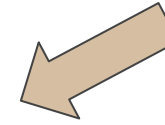
cea.org/event/summit-on-diversity



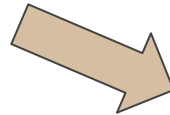
Sponsored by CEA and hosted by the Racial and Ethnic Diversity Affairs Commission (REDAC)



Click on the flyer to register!



Click on the flyer to register!



CEA Top News Stories

[CEA Members and Staff Urge Legislators to Treat Teachers Fairly and Pass Just Cause](#)

Feb 27, 2025 05:02 pm



In this politically charged atmosphere teachers on both sides of the aisle may wish to exercise their First Amendment rights and comment publicly on matters of public concern, but the lack of just cause and binding arbitration in state teacher termination statutes means that teachers can put their jobs at risk when they speak out.

← Click the image to see the article in its entirety!

NEA Top News Stories

Click the image to see
the article in its
entirety!



PRESS RELEASE

NEA President: "Trump and Musk have aimed their wrecking ball at public schools...to pay for tax handouts for billionaires"

March 6, 2025

National Education Association President Becky Pringle released the following statement reacting to Donald Trump's reported Executive Order pushing to end the Department of Education

Member Champion Deals

Click the
image to learn
more --->

Tickets at Work



Through CEA's partnership with TicketsAtWork.com, this February receive discounts on Spa Weekends, Simply Chocolate, FragranceNet, Edible Arrangements, and more.

With CEA's partnership with TicketsatWork members are saving at least \$50 on their purchases every month. TicketsatWork is updated daily with seasonal offers and exclusive savings on everything from home entertainment to your everyday needs.

Visit online today for the latest discounts on Apple TV+, The Farmer's Dog, Sam's Club, and much more. This program is here to make sure you have what you need to enjoy your holidays!

Visit TicketsAtWork.com to set up an account, select Company Code and enter **CEA** to get to saving.

Legislative Breakfast!



Red for Ed Day!



BEA Officers 2024-2025

President: Gail Jorden

Vice President: Marissa Mancini

Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio

Secretary: Lynne Dumas

Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady

BEA Building Reps 2024-2025

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 Kucinkas

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.



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



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.

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.

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



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.

