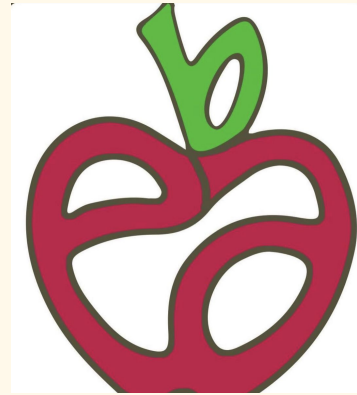
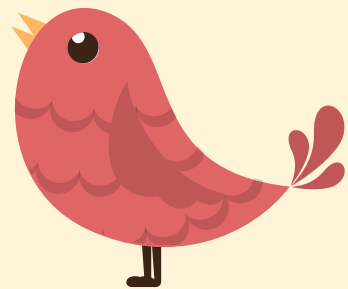


BEA
MAY



Bits and Briefs





Visit our new website
at:

www.blmfldea.org



Select each image to
join us on Facebook
and Instagram



Email us at:

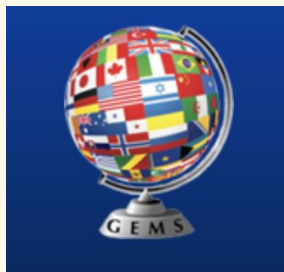
bloomfieldeducationassociation@gmail.com



BEA Monthly Spotlight



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



BEA Monthly Spotlight



This month we are recognizing Evelyn Rodriguez at Bloomfield High School. Evelyn's colleagues share that she has been supportive of her colleagues checking in on them to make sure they are holding up. She plays music in the morning to brighten everyone's day and shows them the light at the end of the tunnel.

BEA Monthly Spotlight



We are also recognizing Shanna Crimi, Matthew Bessett, and Courtney Bouchard for the hard work and dedication they put into the production of Guys and Dolls at Carmen Arace. From the actors to the stage hands and set design, the entire production was amazing. Great job team!

Stay in the Know!



The Constitution and Bylaws Committee have reviewed our document and made some amendments.

Click the image to review the document.

Please give any feedback on suggested amendments to your Building Rep by **Friday, May 30** as we will vote on the changes on June 3.

BEA Constitution and Bylaws Working Document

When adding and removing language

New language: bold, italics

[Removal: bolded brackets]

BLOOMFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

Revised: _____

BLOOMFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Stay in the Know!



2025-2026 Plan and Next Steps

The plan that Dr. Youngberg has shared for next school year and beyond has garnered many questions. Several members have reached out to her personally, while others have completed our survey. Presently, I am reviewing the survey and the new job descriptions she has shared. The next step will be to share your questions with her and give her feedback on the proposed job descriptions she has shared with me. I will keep you in the loop!

Our survey for questions or concerns will remain open for you to complete.

Stay in the Know!



REACH OUT AND TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!



*Click the image to
learn more!*

Educators Weigh in on New Special Education Bill Before Legislature

April 22, 2025

After months of listening sessions and information gathering, the legislature's Special Education Committee held a press conference and public hearing on a bill to address the crises facing special education.

Stay in the Know!



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Court Grants Preliminary Injunction Against Department of Education's Unlawful Directive

– In a victory for students, parents, and educators, a federal judge has granted a request for a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) February 14, 2025, "Dear Colleague" letter against the plaintiffs, their members, and any entity that employs, contracts with, or works with one or more of Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' members. The court's ruling blocks ED's unprecedented and unlawful attempt to restrict discussions and programs on diversity, equity, and inclusion in educational institutions, and its threat to withhold federal funding for engaging in such efforts.

Click the image to learn more!

Take Action!



Fairness in the Workplace – Establish a “just cause” legal standard and binding arbitrator decision for termination to ensure fairness and due process during teacher dismissal proceedings ([Senate Bill 1371](#)).

Address Special Education Crisis – Provide support and resources for special education and educators through actions such as:

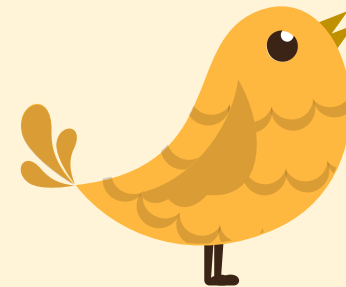
- Creating a New SPED Cost Sharing “Offset” Grants to Districts
- Increasing District Excess Cost Reimbursements for Outplaced Students
- Developing a Special Educator Workload Formula
- Providing Instructional Support and Training
- Raising the Age of Developmental Delay Designation
- Controlling Costs of Private Special Education Providers ([Senate Bill 1561](#) & [House Bill 7277](#) + Excess Cost SPED funding [House Bill 6866](#))

Invest in Educators – Invest in educators and invest in public education.

- Provide additional funding for ECS (without reducing education funding), special education, and aspiring educators ([House Bill 6866](#))
- Support Aspiring Educators with expanded scholarship opportunities ([Senate Bill 1513](#))
- Enhance educators’ salaries & establish a minimum starting salary (not currently included in active bills)

Support Retired Teachers – Continue to protect and enhance the state’s commitment to funding the pension and health insurance systems that honor retirees and help attract and retain a diverse educator workforce. Restore the state’s 1/3 contribution to the TRS health insurance fund (Reduced in [House Bill 6866](#)).

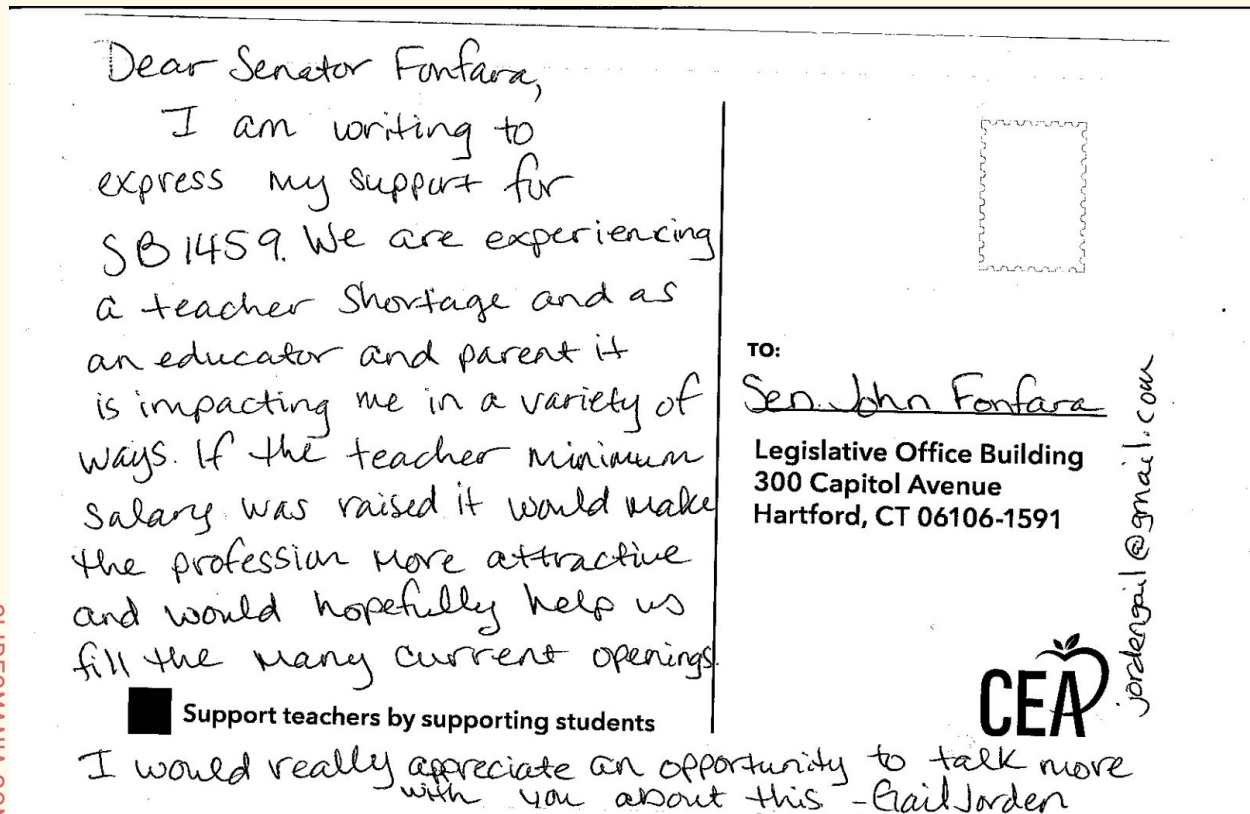
Believe it or not, your senators and representatives want to hear from you! Take a moment to read through the guide to letter writing on the next slide and reach out to your legislative representatives today!



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*

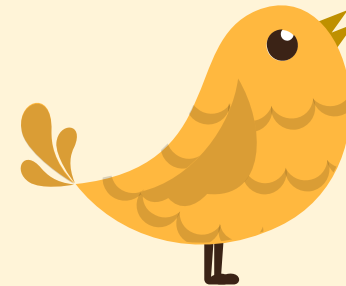
TO:
Sen. John Fonfara
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CEA
jordanerail@gmail.com



7 Tests of Just Cause

CEA Legislative Letter Writing Guide



Welcome our new SSS Reps!





Congratulations to Melissa Nahas, Carli Michael, and Sherry Willis for being elected to lead the charge as our District Wide Student Support Staff Representatives



Please reach out to them with any directives, questions or concerns you think will need to be resolved via Melissa Sutton.



Upcoming Events!



Attention: *Educator Job Fair!*

CEA is hosting its 2nd annual free education job fair to help local school districts find qualified candidates to fill anticipated and vacant certified educator positions and help address the ongoing teacher shortage facing schools across the state.



Saturday, May 3
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Newington High School
605 Willard Ave, Newington, CT

CEA members, Aspiring Educators, and the public are invited to connect with dozens of representatives from school districts across the state to discuss teaching positions available for the 2025-2026 school year.

The job fair will be held at Newington High School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the first hour reserved for CEA members.

10 to 10:30 a.m. for CEA Aspiring Educators
10:30 to 11 a.m. for active CEA members
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all members and the public

*The job fair is free, but registration is **required!***

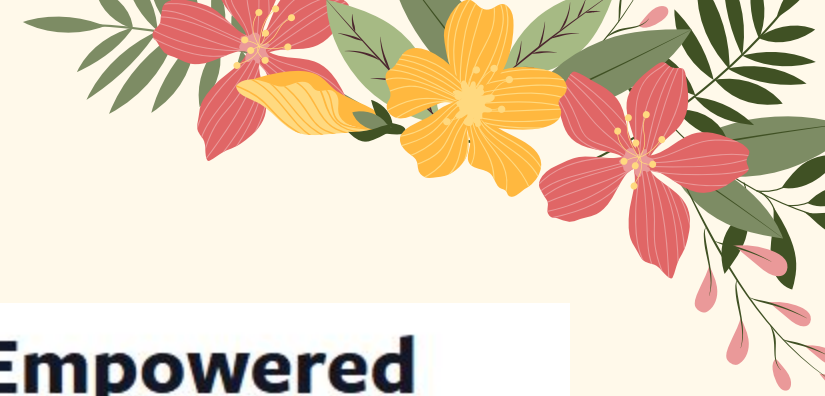


REGISTER TODAY!

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Elizabeth Sked at elizabeths@cea.org.

SCAN ME

Upcoming Events!



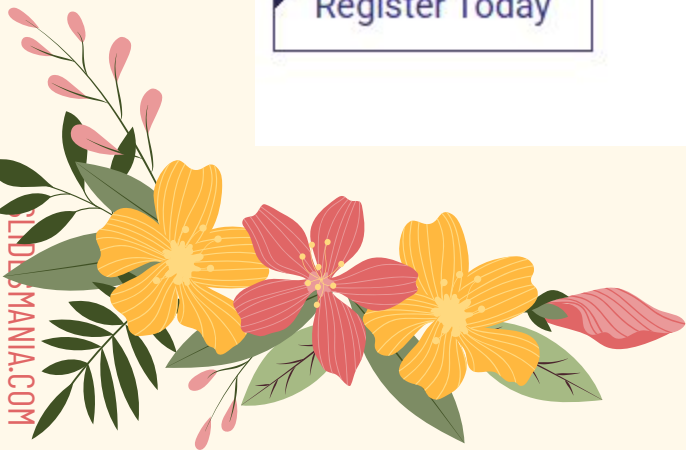
What're The Facts? Stay Informed and Empowered

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

In today's rapidly changing education landscape, teachers can count on CEA for up-to-date information, essential resources, and the support they need to navigate new challenges.

CEA is actively tracking key policies, analyzing their impact, and providing you with the tools and resources you need to stay ahead.

[Register Today](#)



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!



LEDSMANIA.COM

BEA
Paint and Sip
Social

SATURDAY, MAY 31
12:00-2:00
MUSE PAINTBAR
77 ISHAM RD. WEST HARTFORD
\$25 PER PERSON

INCLUDES:
PAINTING INSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES AND
ONE DRINK

CASHAPP
\$GAILJORDEN

venmo
@GAIL-JORDEN

PAYMENT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
DUE BY MAY 24!

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



Connecticut Sun

Uncasville

The Connecticut Sun are offering discounted tickets to CEA members at select Teacher Appreciation Games throughout the season.



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

Metacomet (Grades 3 – 4)

James Verano 2023-2025

Elka Spencer 2023-2025

Districtwide Student

Support Staff Reps

Carli Michael 2025

Melissa Nahas 2025

Sherry Willis 2025

Laurel (Grades Pre-K – 2)

Rose Rose - 2024-2026

Melanie Gabel 2023-2025

Carmen Arace (Grades 5 – 8)

Jacqueline Springer 2024-2026

Cheryl Bleiler 2023-2025

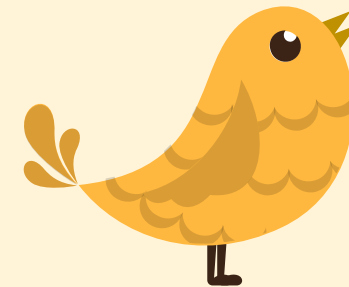
Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

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

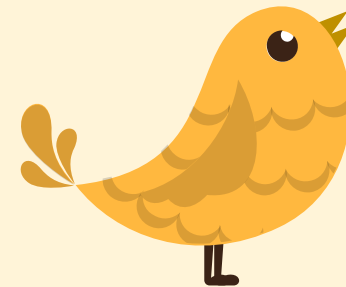
Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs

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](#).