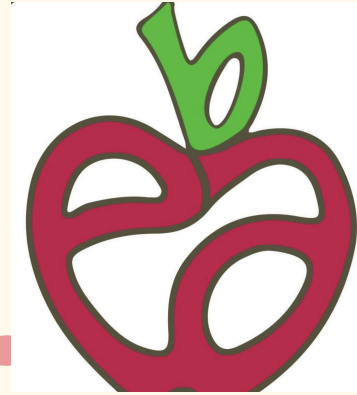


BEA  
APRIL



*Bits and Briefs*



Select each image to  
join us on Facebook  
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Visit our new website  
at:

[www.blmfldea.org](http://www.blmfldea.org)



Email us at:

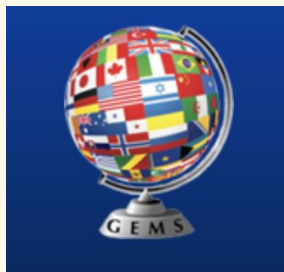
[bloomfielddeductionassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfielddeductionassociation@gmail.com)



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



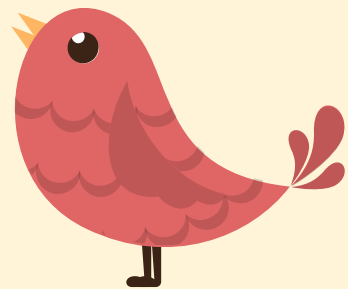
Nominate a co-worker [here](#) to share with us all of the phenomenal work they are doing!



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Shout out to Jennifer Carter of Global Experience Magnet School. Her colleagues share that Ms. Carter is incredible with the students - whether they have accommodations or are simply struggling, Jenna modified and works with them all to achieve mastery! She also posts all her class lectures in Presentation slides and attaches videos for those who need repeated instruction. She grades her papers DAILY and returns them to students to see and correct their work. She works with both middle and high school students this year, her high school includes a Pre-Calculus and Honors Pre-Calculus in the same class. Ms. Carter is a remarkable educator!



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



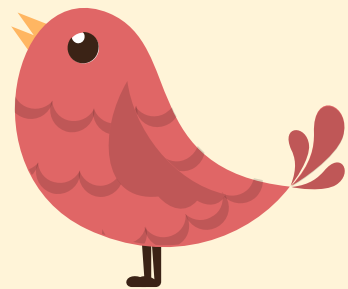
Congratulations to Jenny Gravelle of Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School! Her coworkers share that Jenny recently joined the WECMS staff full time after filling in while also maintaining her caseload at Laurel. She has jumped into our chaos and is doing great work with our kiddos. Her flexibility and professionalism have not gone unnoticed. Thank you Jenny!



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Huge congrats to Lamar Turner of Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School! Colleagues share that Mr. Turner is a dedicated inclusive teacher that helps all children rise to their potential by having high expectations. He is the go-to guy for everything technology related and will always make time to help his colleagues through technology frustrations. He also is a great baker and monthly brings his co-workers together to celebrate their birthdays and enjoy each others company.



# BEA Monthly Spotlight



Shout out to Sarah Abdelrehim of Laurel Literacy Academy! Her coworkers say Sarah has many facets to her position at Laurel. She is a wonderful resource to teachers looking for behavior management tips. Sarah helps children that are struggling with big behaviors to reset, get back to their classrooms, and be successful. She has such a calm demeanor with the children and staff she works with. Lastly, Sarah leads a team that throws the greatest end of the year parties.

# Take Action!



# NOMINATIONS



**Elections time! Self-nominations are accepted!**

**Please click the link below for the school you work at to  
nominate Building Reps:**

[Wintonbury Building Rep  
Nominations](#)

[Arace Building Rep Nominations](#)

[Laurel Building Rep  
Nominations](#)

\*Metacomet, BHS, and GEMS are at capacity\*  
for Building Reps for 2026-2027

# Take Action!



Join us Wednesday, April 8th for Lobby Day at the Capitol!

Speak to your legislators about Fair Termination Rights, the Bell to Bell Cell Phone Ban and other priority legislation being considered this session.

Click the image below to register:

## Lobby Day

April 8 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Join with your fellow CEA active, retired, and aspiring members for our annual CEA Lobby Day at the State Capitol.

It is vital that every one of our legislators hear directly from their educators about the issues impacting our members, our students, and public education. This unique event allows for members to join together at the State Capitol to lobby your legislators directly.

Please keep in mind that this will be a CEA member only event.

[Register Here](#)



# Take Action!



Join us Thursday, April 9th 7:00pm at  
Bloomfield Town Hall 800 Bloomfield Ave.

In order to support the Board of Education Budget for 2026-2027 school year.




# Stay in the Know!



To learn more about the Separation and Recall Agreement in the event there is a reduction in staff, please review pages 25-26 of our contract which can be found on our website.

## Contracts - Constitution - Bylaws

- BEA Contract 2025- 2028 Active
- BEA Contract 2022- 2025
- BEA Contract 2021 2022
- BEA Contract 2018- 2021
- BEA Constitution & Bylaws



**Bloomfield Education Association**

# Stay in the Know!



Effective Monday, March 16, 2026, the following process will be required for FMLA:

If you plan to use FMLA for intermittent time off:

You must email both Human Resources ([HRinfo@blmfld.org](mailto:HRinfo@blmfld.org)) and your supervisor to notify us that the absence is FMLA-related.

FMLA time must be approved and must meet Federal and Connecticut FMLA guidelines.

In the ESS system, you should enter the absence as sick time.

Once HR confirms eligibility and approval, HR will update the entry in ESS to FMLA, as appropriate.

This change is necessary because our current systems do not allow multiple departments to track and manage FMLA in a centralized way. This process ensures HR is aware of who is using FMLA, allows us to confirm eligibility, and supports accurate tracking and compliance.

If medical or other supporting documentation is required, it should be submitted to HR along with your email notification. HR will follow up directly if additional information is needed.

# Stay in the Know!



REACH OUT AND TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!

Click the images to learn more!



## Turning Voice into Action: CEA Members Advance Equity and Leadership

March 31, 2026

At CEA's Summit on Diversity nearly 100 educators from across the state joined together for a powerful day of connection, leadership, and storytelling focused on equity and belonging in education.

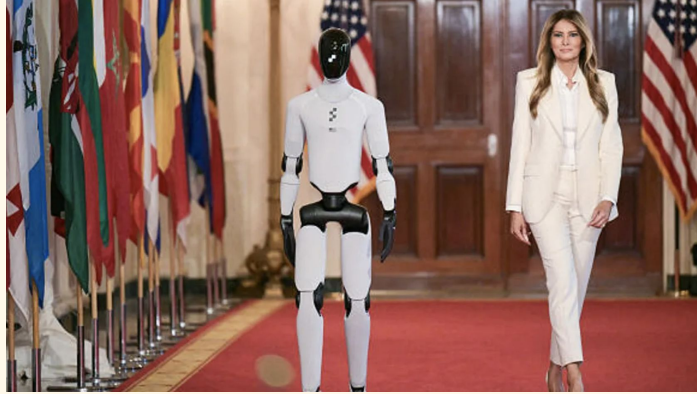


## One Month to Go: Make Your Voice Heard at the Capitol

April 1, 2026

"With just over one month left in the legislative session, it's the loudest voices that will get heard," CEA President Kate Dias told members who attended CEA's March Madness Virtual County Forum last night. She encouraged local leaders to schedule back-home meetings, respond to CEA action alerts, and come to CEA Lobby Day.

# Stay in the Know!



Click the article to  
learn more!

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **NEA President Becky Pringle responds to Melania Trump's push for students to be educated by artificial intelligence**

March 26, 2026

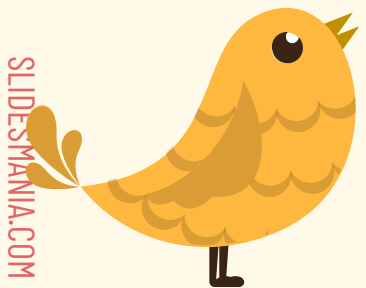
Pringle: "No technology – no matter how advanced – can replace the human connection at the heart of teaching and learning."

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



## Kidzone

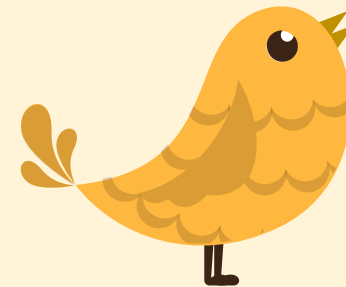
Kidzone is a one-stop shop for family fun and is offering teachers a 20% discount on admission!



# BEA and CEA



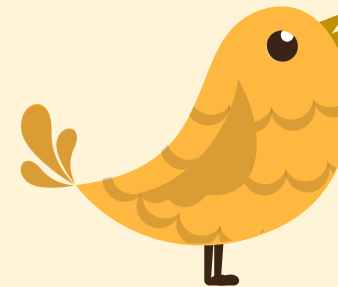
Elka Spencer and Gail Jordan attended the Diversity Summit hosted by REDAC. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes greeted us virtually and Senator Gadkar-Wilcox shared her wisdom and tips on how she perseveres being the first south Asian woman in the State Senate.



# BEA Spring Social



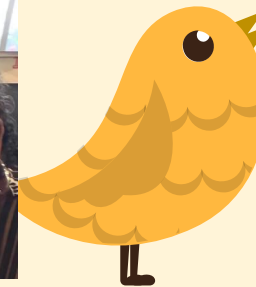
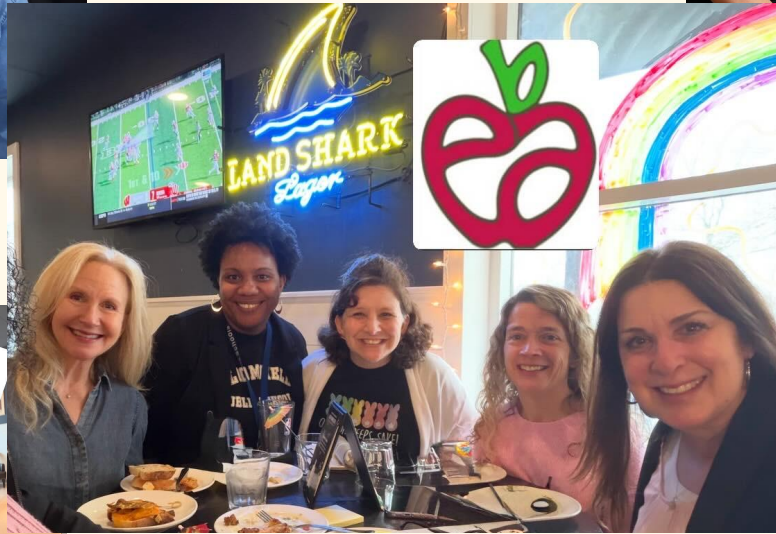
Members from across schools gathered at TJ's Burritos to connect.



# BEA Spring Social



Members from across schools gathered at TJ's Burritos to connect.



# BEA Officers

President: Gail Jorden

Vice President: Marissa Mancini

Treasurer: Lynn DeBlasio

Secretary: Lynne Dumas

Membership Chair: Melinda Mellady



## Building Representatives

Wintonbury (Pre-K)

Amy Lomnicky 2024-2026

Jennifer Pearl 2025-2027

Laurel (Grades Pre-K – 2)

Rose Rose - 2024-2026

Melanie Gabel 2025-2027

Metacomet (Grades 3 – 4)

James Verano 2025-2027

Elka Spencer 2025-2027

Carmen Arace (Grades 5 – 8)

Cheryl Bleiler 2026-2026

Dorothea Jones 2025-2027

GEMS (Grades 6 – 12)

Amelia Dodd - 2024-2026

Thomas Rubino 2025-2027

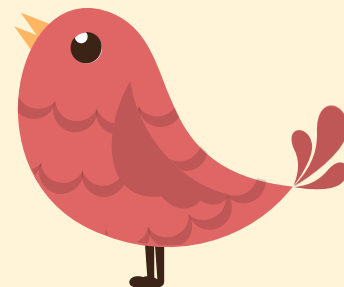
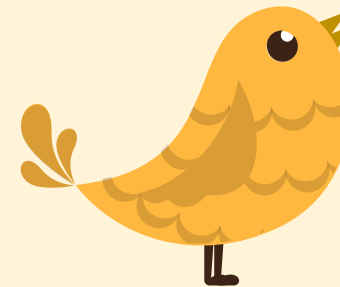
Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Shannon Trombino 2025-2027

Jennifer Neal 2025-2027

Colleen McCaughey 2025-2027

Mary Jarvis 2025-2027



# Chairs, Committees, and Vital Roles 2024-2025

Grievance Chair: [Katrina Kucinkas](#)

Grievance Committee:

Marissa Mancini

Rose Rose

Pamela Parker

Felicia Johnson

Shannon Trombino

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Chair: Lynne DeBlasio

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Committee:

Elka Spencer

Jennifer Neal

Melinda Mellady

Tom Rubino

Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs

Committee Chair: [Elka Spencer](#)

Website Design: [Lamar Turner](#)

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

Political Action Chair: [Magnolia Coates](#)

Political Action Committee:

Tom Rubino

Madeline Holliday

