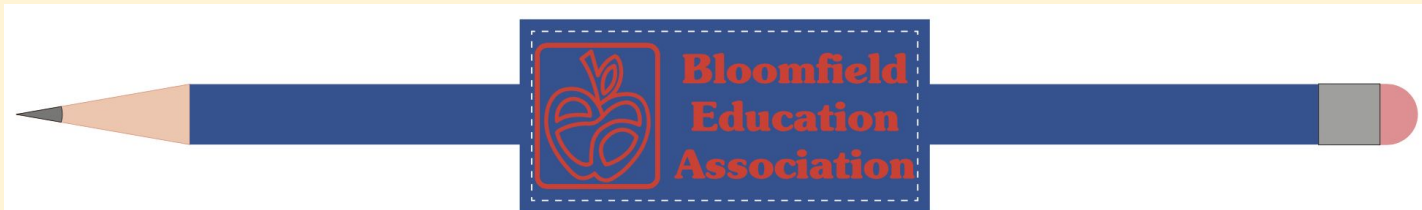


# *October 2025 BEA Bits and Briefs*

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

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

Also find us on Facebook!





Select each image to  
join us on Facebook  
and Instagram

Visit our new website  
at:

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



Email us at:

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


# *BEA Monthly Spotlight*



Carina Putnam, Jennifer Gravelle, Deborah Patterson, Hannah Aliberti, and Irene Dakota of Laurel Literacy Academy are being recognized by their colleague for, “Doing some great work for our students. These lovely ladies have joined Laurel this year and have been rocking it!!” Keep it up ladies!



# *BEA Monthly Spotlight*



The spotlight is shining on Carli Michael of Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School. Her colleague shares that, “Carli is an exceptional special education teacher whose dedication to her students is evident in everything she does. She consistently goes above and beyond to support classroom teachers and ensure each child receives the support they need to thrive. Carli is also a trusted colleague, always willing to lend a helping hand. Her strong moral compass and unwavering integrity make her someone others naturally turn to for guidance and support.” Congratulations on the recognition Carli!

# BEA Monthly Spotlight



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





***Stay in  
the  
know!***

## Yearly Rep Council Meeting Schedule:

-  11/6 BHS Ag Center
-  12/4 Laurel
-  1/8 Wintonbury
-  2/5 Metacomet Library
-  3/5 Arace Library
-  4/2 Laurel
-  5/14 BHS Ag Center

All meetings are 4:00-5:15pm and all members are encouraged to attend!

Signed MOA's for 2025-2026



Please click [here](#) to see the Memorandums of Agreement that have been signed thus far this year.





# *Stay in the know!*

Just a few reminders:


-  If you are asked by admin to give a statement about an incident that you could possibly receive discipline for, tell them that you will get a statement to them as soon as you talk to your union representative. Then contact your building rep immediately!
-  If you are a Special Education teacher, please email me at [bloomfieldeducationassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldeducationassociation@gmail.com) if you are over 16 on your caseload or over 12 if you are self-contained.





# *Stay in the know!*

Just a few reminders:

-  If you are interested in working to develop plans to attract and retain racially and ethnically diverse educators, please reach out to Elka Spencer at [espencer@blmfld.org](mailto:espencer@blmfld.org) to join our Bloomfield Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs Commission.
-  Attention educators that are concerned about the future of education! We are looking for volunteers to join our Political Action Committee. Reach out to Maggie Coates at [mcoates@blmfld.org](mailto:mcoates@blmfld.org) for more information.





*Stay in  
the  
know!*

Getting a degree upgrade? Make sure to follow the steps below from page 7 of our contract!

6. Change of Degree Status - To be placed on Levels Two through Four, a teacher must file a "Degree Change Classification" Form with the office of Human Resources on or before the third Tuesday of November of the school year prior to the change taking effect, and file official transcripts, certificate, or completion of credits must be filed in the Office of the Superintendent prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which the change is to take effect. Once such proof is filed in the Office of Human Resources prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, payments on the appropriate level will be made retroactive to the first day of the teacher work year. If a teacher files the evidence of such degree, certificate, or completion of credits after October 1<sup>st</sup>, the change shall take effect on the following February 1<sup>st</sup>.





*Stay in  
the  
know!*

Know our sick time language! Reach out to your Building Rep with questions.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**LEAVE POLICIES**

A. Sick Leave

1. Each employee is entitled to sick leave with full pay of up to fifteen (15) days in each school year for personal illness, quarantine, or absence because of injury or for illness in the family (spouse, parent (not in-law) or child.) Professional communication, consideration and judgement will be used by both the teacher and administrator to determine whether teacher sick time is required to attend to occasional short-duration personal health and familial health matters. In dialogue between the administrator and teacher, sick time for brief and infrequent absences should generally not be required if student instruction is not directly impacted. Sick time will only be used in ½ day (3.4 hours) or full days (7.25 hours) increments.





*Stay in  
the  
know!*

Know our personal time language! Reach out to your Building Rep with questions.

3. All requests for personal leave shall be submitted for prior approval electronically in ESS at least three business days prior to the requested leave. The form shall state the reason for the requested leave. A teacher shall be entitled to take personal leave only if he or she receives approval from the principal. Where prior approval is not possible due to the emergency nature of leave, the teacher shall submit the request on the first day he or she returns from leave. Administrators will give approval or denial within two (2) business days of receiving of the request.



*Stay in  
the  
know!*

If you received a letter from the Office of the State Comptroller stating that you are out of compliance for HEP, simply contact the Quantum Health Care Coordinators at 833-740-3258 or visit the website [carecompass.ct.gov](http://carecompass.ct.gov) for instructions on what to do to become compliant.

CARE COMPASS Quantum HEALTH REGISTER ARE YOU A PROVIDER?

Beginning April 1, Quantum Health is the State of Connecticut's new administrator for the Health Enhancement Program (HEP). Please register for an account to access your HEP information.

Login [Help](#)

Email Address (User ID)

Password [👁](#)

Remember User ID

LOGIN

[Forgot User ID?](#)  
[Forgot Password?](#)  
Don't have an account? [Register](#)

CARE COMPASS



Click on the article to read more!

*Stay in  
the  
know!*

PRESS RELEASE

**NEA: Trump and Congress need to do their jobs by passing a bipartisan funding agreement**



# Bloomfield BOE Updates

## Bloomfield Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2025

Updated on 9/15/2025

Date	Type of Meeting	Time	Location
January 14, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
January 28, 2025	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
February 11, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
February 27, 2025	Special Budget Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
March 11, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
March 25, 2025	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
April 8, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
April 22, 2025	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
May 13, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
May 27, 2025	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
June 3, 2025 <sup>1</sup>	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
September 9, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
September 30, 2025 <sup>2</sup>	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
October 9, 2025 <sup>3</sup>	Special Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
October 28, 2025	Committee Meetings	6:00 PM	Board Room, BOE
November 18, 2025 <sup>4</sup>	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*
December 9, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 PM	Hybrid Meeting*

### References

- 1: Meeting moved to first Tuesday in anticipation of the last day of school being June 10, 2025
- 2: Meeting moved to fourth Tuesday (September 30) in observance of Rosh Hashanah
- 3: Meeting moved to first Thursday due to schedule conflict
- 4: Meeting moved to third Tuesday (November 18) in observance of Veterans Day

\*Hybrid meetings will be in-person at the Board of Education and virtual via Zoom

1133 Blue Hills Avenue • Bloomfield, CT 06002 • (860) 769-4200 • Fax: (860) 769-4215  
[www.bloomfieldschools.org](http://www.bloomfieldschools.org)



[Link to September 9, 2025 Meeting](#)



[Link to BOE Agendas](#)



[Link to BOE Policies](#)

# Upcoming Events!

## CEA Celebrates

CEA Celebrates will benefit the Connecticut Education Foundation, which provides essentials for children in need, scholarships, holiday gifts for families experiencing hardships, books for students in our poorest districts, and emergency financial assistance for educators.

*Join us in celebrating*

Senator Julie Kushner | Attorney General William Tong  
Principal Paul Guzzo | Early Career Educator Ashley Beal | Retiree William Myers

GOLD APPLE SPONSOR \$1,500	Premium reserved table for 10 and recognition in the program book.
SILVER APPLE SPONSOR \$500	Tickets for 4 people and recognition in the program book.
EDUCATION CHAMPION \$300	Full page color congratulatory advertisement within the gala booklet.
EDUCATION SUPPORTER \$175	Half page color congratulatory advertisement in the gala booklet.
GALA TICKET \$120	Admission into the event.
EDUCATION ADVOCATE \$100	Quarter page color congratulatory advertisement in the gala booklet.

Purchase your tickets  
at [cea.org](http://cea.org)

OCTOBER 24, 2025  
5:30-10:30 P.M.  
ANTHONY'S OCEAN VIEW  
NEW HAVEN, CT



There is still time to purchase a ticket for \$60 to this year's CEA Celebrates Gala which will celebrate one of our very own, Paul Guzzo!

[Fill out the form for discounted tickets here.](#)



# Upcoming Events!

Click on the images to register!

## Retirement Workshop- Virtual

October 15 @ 4:00 pm - 6:15 pm

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.

[Workshop Registration](#)

[Add to calendar](#)



## NEA Online Training: How to Fight Back for Immigrant Rights

October 15 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Topic: Fighting Back Against ICE Raids in Our Schools**

At this unprecedented time of attacks on immigrant students and families, we know that schools are not exempt from the increased ICE presence and threats, and consequent chilling effects on students and families we are seeing around the country. NEA is hosting an online training and organizing series to highlight members and NEA staff around the country that are doing incredible work in the schools and communities to stand up for immigrant rights. Through sharing their stories and tactics, members and staff can learn and be inspired to take tangible next steps for immigrant rights in their own school districts and states.

# Upcoming Events!

Click on the images to register!

THU

30

October 30 @ 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.



THU

13

November 13 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  CEA Pride Meeting

## CEA Pride Meeting

Virtual CT, United States

 Virtual Event

Join us online every second Thursday of the month for CEA Pride meetings. We will discuss current issues, supports, and advancing LGBTQ+ rights for staff and students. All are welcome!...



# Upcoming Events!

Click on  
the image  
to register!

3RD ANNUAL REIMAGING EDUCATION CONFERENCE

## Powered by Curiosity: Reimagining Learning from Pre-K to 12



Join educators, administrators, and advocates for a dynamic conference celebrating the power of joyful learning at every age.

### Breakout sessions by educators for educators

- Playful learning
- Inquiry-based learning
- Student engagement
- Human-centered technology integration

### Additional Teacher Leadership Fellowship Academy workshop:

- Developing and empowering teacher leadership in times of chaos



Featuring "Teacher Tom" Hobson

Educator, author, humorist,  
international speaker

Tuesday, November 4, 2025  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hartford Sheraton South  
100 Capital Blvd., Rocky Hill



REGISTER TODAY

[mobilize.us/cea/event/829449](https://mobilize.us/cea/event/829449)

# Upcoming Events!

Click on  
the image  
to register!

**HARTFORD COUNTY**  
**13**  
NOVEMBER  
2026  
**Fall** CEA  
**ENGAGEMENT**

CALLING ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED MEMBERS - JOIN US!

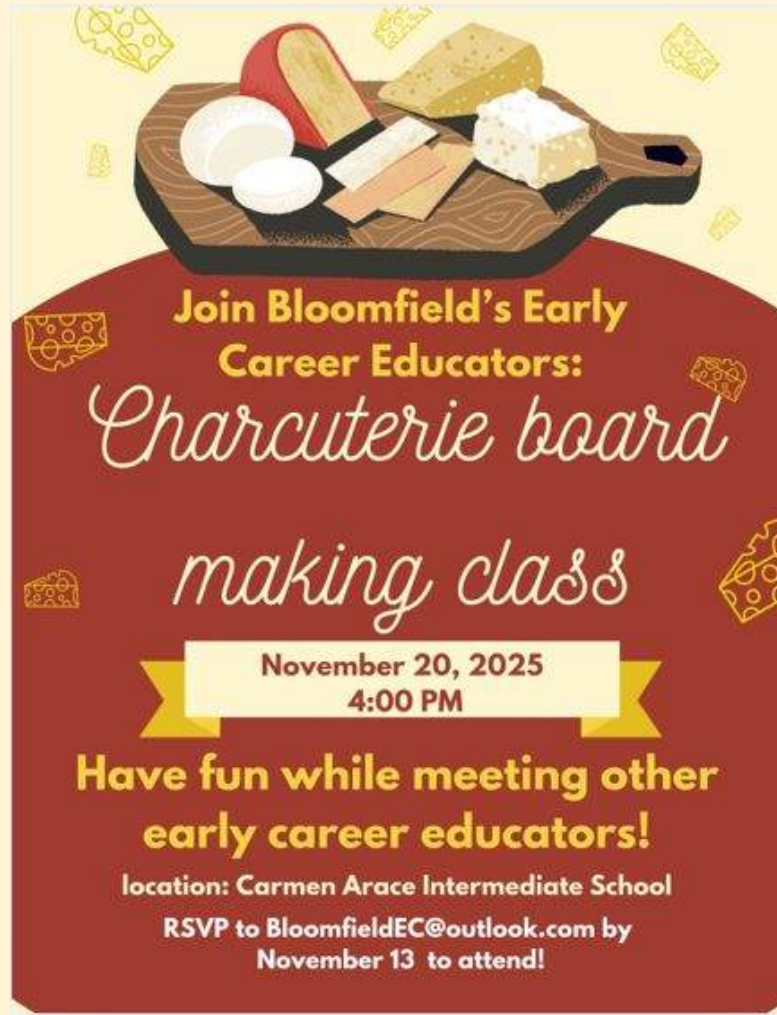
**Featured Presentations:**

- 🍂 **Financial Planning & Retirement Readiness:** Interactive strategies to plan your future
- 🍂 **Member Benefits Spotlight:** Discover how membership works for you

Register TODAY!  
Scan Here or [Click Here](#)

**4:00-7:30PM**  
PARTICIPATE | PLAN | PLAY  
165 Adams St., Manchester, CT  
\$10 per person (Reimbursed for first-timers!)  
Contact Hartford County Directors with any questions.

# Upcoming Events!



Join Bloomfield's Early  
Career Educators:  
*Charcuterie board  
making class*

November 20, 2025  
4:00 PM

Have fun while meeting other  
early career educators!

location: Carmen Arace Intermediate School  
RSVP to [BloomfieldEC@outlook.com](mailto:BloomfieldEC@outlook.com) by  
November 13 to attend!



# *Member Champion n Deals*

Click on the image to  
learn more!



**The  
Adventure Park**<sup>SM</sup>  
AT STORRS, CONNECTICUT

## **Adventure Park**

Storrs

CEA members and their families enjoy \$35 tickets to zip and climb at The Adventure Park at Storrs. That's a \$14 savings (off full adult...



# BEA Officers for 2025-2026

President: [Gail Jorden](#)

Vice President: [Marissa Mancini](#)

Treasurer: [Lynn DeBlasio](#)

Secretary: [Lynne Dumas](#)

Membership Chair: [Melinda Mellady](#)

Grievance: [Katrina Kucinkas](#)

## BEA Building Reps for 2024-25

### 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)

[Jacqueline Springer 2024-2026](#)

[Dorothea Jones 2025-2027](#)

### GEMS (Grades 7 – 12)

[Amelia Dodd 2024-2026](#)

[Thomas Rubino 2025-2026](#)

### Bloomfield High School (Grades 9 – 12)

[Shanon Trombino 2025-2027](#)

[Jennifer Neal 2023-2025](#)

[Colleen McCaughey 2023-2025](#)

[Mary Jarvis 2023-2025](#)



# Chairs, Committees and Vital Roles for 2025-2026

**Grievance Chair:** Katrina Kucinkas

**Grievance Committee:**

Marissa Mancini

Melinda Mellady

Rose Rose

Lynne Dumas

Pamela Parker

**Racially and Ethnically Diverse Affairs**

**Commission:**

Elka Spencer

**Political Action Chair:** Magnolia Coates

**Website Design:** Lamar Turner

**Membership Champion:** Jennifer Coleman



# August CEA Summer Leadership Reviews



The 2025 Summer Conference was my first CEA-led conference as a new teacher. From the moment I registered to the moment I left the conference, I was so impressed by how well organized the event was. It was such a fun experience getting to meet so many fellow educators. The sessions that I attended were all super engaging and applicable to me own practice. As a first-time attendee, I felt welcomed from the moment I arrived and learned so much from both the presenters and my fellow educators. I am looking forward to attending again next year!

-Abigail Buckley (LLA)

# August CEA Summer Leadership Reviews

I just attended the 2025 Summer Conference where I was able to kick off my professional learning development for the year. The community, connection and the opportunity for relevant training keep me coming back. This year I attended the workshop “Surviving Teaching in the Age of Social Media: An Educator’s Guide” taught by Uniserv Rep Suzanne Haviland and Legal Council Melanie Kolek. Although the workshop was scheduled for 2 hours, most of our class of around 40 students stayed after asking questions sharing experiences and learning from past case studies handled by our Member Legal Services Experts. I feel grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from real life cases and to have the support of our CEA Professionals to guide my knowledge and understanding of the impacts of Social Media on our profession as a teacher. I can’t wait for next year to attend a new workshop that continues to build on what we learned at this workshop. -Janine Turgeon (GEMS)



My time at the CEA Summer Conference was so inspiring. It was incredibly valuable to hear ideas and perspectives from teachers in different districts to bring back home to Bloomfield. I was glad to be reminded that there are thousands of teachers across the state with common goal of advocating for better pay, working conditions, and beyond.  
- Madeline Holliday (LLA)

The Summer Conference is when I take the time to rejuvenate before a new school year!  
-Jennifer Neal (BHS)

# August CEA Summer Leadership Reviews

CEA Summer Leadership is a great chance to learn more about what the Union does for you. If you're a Building Rep, it's helpful to learn more about your role, and if you're not a Building Rep, it's great to learn about other ways you can get involved. Also, it's always fun to hang out with your colleagues at the events afterwards!

-Amelia Dodd (GEMS)



CEA Summer Leadership is a great way to make the most of your union membership. You get to hang out at a cool resort, get some good food, and learn more about how to be an empowered member of your educator community!

-Tom Rubino (GEMS)

# Fall BEA Social



# Fall BEA Social



# Fall BEA Social



# Fall BEA Social



# Fall BEA Social

