



2021-
2022

ANNUAL REPORT





Redefining what a RESC can be!

EdAdvance exists to promote the success of school districts and their communities. Collaboratively with them, we provide educational and related services. A continuing commitment to quality and excellence is our standard of performance.

To achieve our mission, we are committed to the “Three Cs”:

Connection

We actively listen to, engage with, and learn from our colleagues within the agency and our constituents across the region and state. This fosters and strengthens partnerships, leading to true understanding of our region.

Culture

We strive to achieve “Systemness”, where everyone embraces and is committed to the success of our agency as a whole. This internal climate of cooperation is evident to our school district and community partners.

Customization

We focus on “Culture” and “Connection” to increase our capacity to provide flexible solutions, services, and supports tailored to the unique needs of the school districts and communities we serve and at the level of excellence they expect.

Our Mission

EdAdvance provides quality programs and services for people of all ages to effectively support our schools and their communities.

About Us

EdAdvance is the Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) in western Connecticut, providing programs and services to 29 member school districts and their communities.

Established under Connecticut General Statutes 10-66, a-m, each of the six RESCs in Connecticut are governed by a Board of Directors whose members are appointed by their local Boards of Education.



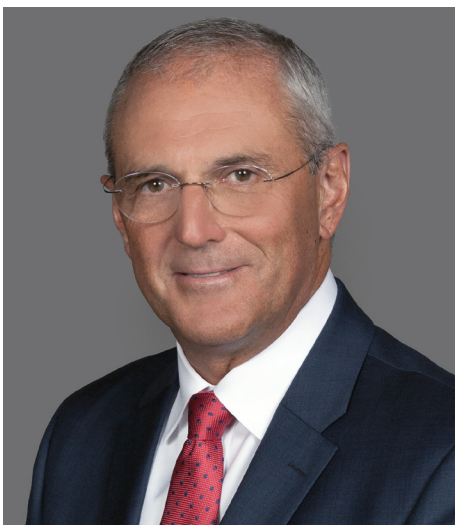
As I gathered my thoughts in preparation for writing this letter, I realized just how different this year has been from the last few that preceded it. So, rather than recapping a list of unconnected milestones or achievements from our last year at EdAdvance, I want instead to highlight three broader realities that sum up my sense of the current state of our agency...Pride, Capacity, and Optimism.

There is tremendous **pride** throughout EdAdvance, stemming from our experiences over the last three years and all that we accomplished throughout that extremely challenging period. The staff and leadership in all departments continue to support each other and the agency as a whole, further enhancing the positive *culture* we strive for. Externally, our persistence in remaining *connected* to our stakeholders maintains and strengthens relationships in schools/communities across the region. Regardless of the situation, our staff approached each request for support or services with flexible thinking toward *customized* solutions allowing us to increase our total delivery footprint by nearly 40% since before the pandemic.

One of the most tangible benefits of this growth has been our ability to re-invest in our agency's professional **capacity**. The Executive Team's *Employee Retention Initiative* produced insights toward how we could better meet the professional, personal/family, social/emotional, and financial needs of our employees so they can continue to thrive as they provide services to our schools and communities. In addition, throughout the last year, we have committed resources to bring additional staff with exciting new talents and experiences to the EdAdvance family, thus expanding even further our ability to support our mission.

It is for these reasons that, as we enter a new school/fiscal year, I have such **optimism** about what the future holds for the agency and our position as a go-to service provider for our districts and their families. By focusing on our culture, our connections to customers, and our willingness to customize solutions to meet their needs, we have continued to grow despite serious headwinds and challenges. The focus of the "Three Cs" has also helped to create the most stable financial position the agency has ever experienced.

"Redefining what a RESC can be" was our rallying call when I joined EdAdvance back in 2016, and that is exactly what we have done. As a result, we are now in the best position to provide for our customers in our agency's history. I am sure you understand why I am so proud of the capacity we have built, and I hope you share my optimism about the future.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Kitching". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background.

Jeffrey C. Kitching, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Student Programs

ACCESS K-8

The ACCESS Program K-8 is designed to meet the needs of students with social-emotional challenges who have difficulty learning in a traditional public school setting. The program serves students in grades K-8 by providing a specialized educational setting so that they can eventually transition back to their home school district.

- *Introduced a new social/emotional curriculum to support student learning*
- *Graduated two students who moved up to ACCESS 9-12*
- *Returned six students back to their home districts*

ACCESS 9-12

The ACCESS Program 9-12 is based upon an approach to teaching and learning that relies upon a Coordinated Services Model. Each student is assigned to a team of teachers that works specifically with and for them to build stronger foundational skills, foster independence, identify aptitudes, and prepare them for life. As students progress through the program, they are expected to become independent learners who can advocate for themselves and others. Each student follows their own targeted learning plan that they help develop based on their own unique interests, skills, and goals. Our focus is always on developing students' skills and outcomes to enable them to participate as fully as possible in their communities.

- *Moved into the WorkspaceCT building in Bethel*
- *Offered students daily culinary classes, theater electives, robotics, organic gardening, and many opportunities to develop real-world skills*
- *Served the greater WorkspaceCT community with students preparing and serving breakfasts, snacks, and lunches for the many groups who attended events in the building during the day*

After School Outdoor Learning Adventures

This one-year environmental education program is grant-funded by the CSDE as part of the Interdistrict

Cooperative Grants program. EdAdvance serves as fiduciary for Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut. Indian Rock Nature Center hosts this program, both on site in Bristol and virtually.

- *Conducted in-person enrichment at Indian Rock Nature Preserve for Hartford, Plymouth, and Thomaston students*
- *Held a successful Outdoor Family Fun Day in May for parents and siblings*



BASES (Before and After School Extended Services)

EdAdvance BASES (Before and After School Extended Services) offers licensed, quality, year-round before and after school programs as well as full-day summer programming and specialized enrichment programs for students K-8.

- *Served a total of 76 students during the 2021 summer and 427 students during 2021-2022 school year*

- *Awarded multiple grants: CSDE After School Grant for \$161,878; CSDE After School Grant for Rural Communities for \$160,000; Second 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant for \$70,000; National PAL Mentoring Grant for \$22,500; and ARP ESSER After School Grants for \$658,130*
- *Opened a new 21CCLC after school program at Southwest School in Torrington at no cost to 5th grade students*
- *Partnered with Torrington Public Schools for summer programming and provided staff for the elementary and middle summer schools, as well as wrap around services for elementary students at the BASES Torrington Summer Program*
- *Established a partnership with Newtown Continuing Education for the BASES Newtown Summer Program so that students that attended the district summer school can attend BASES Summer Program before/after camp for a discounted rate*

B'nai Israel School

This is an annual fee for service contract to provide leadership direction for an after school religious school program. Work includes administration, curricular oversight, teacher hiring and supervision, student registration, and direct on-site support for this PreK-9 program.

- *Successfully returned to mostly in-person learning*

Blue Science

This National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funded project provides 325 middle school students from Danbury with a meaningful watershed education program. Students learn about their local watershed, participate in experiential field work at Long Island Sound, and complete an end of year project. Students learn how human activity impacts watersheds and how these actions are connected to global climate change.

- *Re-funded by NOAA due to its original success during the 2015-2018 grant cycle*

- *Met in person throughout the year*
- *Selected by NOAA as an exemplary organization providing B-WET (Bay Watershed Education and Training) programming to students*

CT Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEEA)

This is an annual fee for service contract to provide leadership for this statewide environmental education association.

- *Secured private foundation grant funding for COEEA to continue providing programs and services to its membership*

Green LEAF Project

This two-year program is funded by the EPA to help public and private schools in CT “get greener”. Green LEAF Project supports schools’ mini-grants, school visits, Green Team coaching, and an array of workshops throughout the year. It is a highly collaborative effort with leadership assistance from CT Outdoor & Environmental Education Association, CT DEEP, RecycleCT, and many other environmentally-focused organizations and groups.

- *Concluded project at the end of December 2021*

Partnership Learning Academy

Partnership Learning Academy (PLA), in collaboration with nearby school districts, is committed to providing K-5 students with high-quality programming through specially-designed instruction and related services in a therapeutic setting. The program provides personalized learning tailored to meet each student’s unique academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs. The goal for all PLA students is a successful return to district upon development of skills required for a less restrictive environment.

- *Successfully transitioned multiple PLA students back to their home districts*
- *Increased both student enrollment and staffing, with further enhancements related to data collection, reinforcement systems, and more*

- *Received a visit from the Plymouth Fire Department where students were able to learn about fire safety, see the fire trucks up close, and even take turns spraying a fire hose*



Perkins/Career & Technical Education

The Carl T. Perkins grant is a federal grant that funds career and technical education courses in 12 different career pathways in Connecticut. EdAdvance leads two consortiums. Consortium One consists of five school districts (The Gilbert School, Litchfield, Oxford, and Regions 9 and 16) and Consortium Two consists of three school districts (Region 6, Region 7, and Region 12). In both consortiums, the programs provide comprehensive and rigorous content aligned with the challenging, standard-relevant technical knowledge, and skills necessary for further education and/or a career in current or emerging professions. The focus of Perkins is high wage, high skill, high opportunity career areas in Connecticut.

- *Increased the size of Consortium One with the addition of Region 9*

Regional Healthcare Shadowing Program

This long running program offers high school students the opportunity to participate in healthcare shadowing opportunities designed to explore medical career choices and to learn and start to develop the skills necessary to succeed in the healthcare industry of the 21st century workplace. This program also focuses on increasing student proficiency in language arts, mathematics, science, technology, and resource learning through its online component and after school workshops that encompass employability issues, healthcare industry related topics, as well as career speakers.

- *Worked with Health360 to provide an online healthcare exploration course on Virtual Job Shadow website*
- *Returned students to shadowing placements at area hospitals after a two-year absence due to COVID*

School Grounds to Sound

This two-year program is grant-funded by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), in support of the US Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). The focus is on meaningful watershed education and aligns with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) environmental literacy framework, who is collaborating with NAAEE on this initiative.

- *Met in person with students enrolled in Ansonia's 21st Century Community Learning Center*

Skills21 at EdAdvance

Skills21 is a nationally known leader in digital learning and recognized by the US Department of Education as an exemplary model for delivering STEM achievement. Skills21 delivers a flexible, affordable, and road-tested model for driving student success. Using a variety of learning technologies, Skills21 programs help increase rigor and relevance at school. Over a decade of research has demonstrated that Skills21 programs increase academic achievement, lead to improved 21st century skills, impact students' interest in STEM, and

help students collaborate with peers from different backgrounds.

ARX21: Augmented Reality Experience in 21st Century STEM Careers (ARX)

This three-year grant, funded by the National Science Foundation, was awarded in December 2019. This grant engages students in project-based learning that fully integrates STEM and Augmented Reality (AR) concepts and practices. Students learn content using AR and also create their own AR enhanced solution to real world problems.

Capstone

In the Skills21 Capstone Program, students demonstrate key college and career ready skills through an individual passion project. Skills21 works with school districts to design a Capstone program that aligns with the school's portrait of a graduate and can be used to fulfill state level mastery-based graduation requirements. Over 2,000 students from 13 school districts participated in the 2021-2022 Capstone program in a range of settings.

Journey of You - Creating a Toolkit of SEL Skills

In the Skills21 Journey of You (JOY), students embark on an experience that builds resilience. Through each activity, students explore new practices that will instill positivity, healthy habits, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strength building.

Personal Interest Projects for Remote Learning (PIP)

The Skills21 Personal Interest Project (PIP) provides an opportunity for students to follow their passions and complete a project where they can "learn, solve, make, or do" while mastering high leverage skills necessary for school and beyond. Over 1,500 students from 13 school districts participated in the 2021-2022 PIP program in a range of settings.

- *Expanded the number of schools and districts implementing Personal Interest and Capstone Project platforms*
- *Implemented two JOY pilot projects*

- *Supported all technical and challenge aspects of the 2022 Lieutenant Governor's Computing Challenge*
- *Returned to in person year-end exhibition at Workspace Pitch*
- *Developed custom PIP and identified project curricula with the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services and Franklin-Essex-Hamilton Board of Cooperative Educational Services*

Steps Expelled Student Program

The Steps Expelled Student Program is a program serving general education and special education students that have been expelled from their district school. Students enrolled in this program participate in their education through online coursework supported by certified special education and content area teachers, engage in weekly counseling sessions with school social workers/counselors, and participate in a program wide behavior system designed to facilitate work completion.

- *Ended the 2021-2022 school year with an increased student population totaling 20 students*
- *Educated students from districts that we have not previously worked with or have not worked with in a few years including New Milford, North Canaan, and Thomaston*

Steps Program

The Steps Program is a specialized educational day program serving special education students with behavioral challenges in grades 6-12. The program is designed to replicate a typical high school experience while maintaining small class sizes and high staff to student ratio. Steps students receive team-based behavioral and academic instruction from certified special education and content area teachers, school social workers, and registered behavior technicians. All students enrolled in the program also participate in weekly individual counseling sessions, work towards successfully completing their postsecondary and transitional goals/objectives with our school counselor and transition coordinator, and participate in a school-wide tiered behavioral support system that is monitored by Steps' on-site Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Steps students may also choose to utilize the supports at Steps to earn gainful employment and their driver's license.

- *Educated the most students since the program's inception*
- *Continued to work closely with Torrington, Watertown, and Winchester*
- *Collaborated with New Milford for the first time*

University Pathways Program

The University Pathways Program, in collaboration with Post University, is an 11-month program that provides comprehensive transition services for learners of all exceptionalities, aged 17-22. There are two pathways: the University Students Pathway and the Emerging Students Pathway. The University Students Pathway is for learners who have the cognitive capacity to complete university level work. This pathway provides support in executive functioning, vocational training, social and/or independent living. Students in this pathway can earn college credits upon completion of the program. The Emerging Students Pathway is for learners who require more support and may have future goals in college or in their own community. This pathway provides support in functional academics, executive function, independent living, social skills, and vocational training in a university setting.

- *Awarded emerging students the "Swoopastar" award for an outstanding contribution to the athletics programs and attended the Athletics Banquet to receive the award*
- *Participation in the graduation ceremony by two students*
- *Attending districts this year included Brookfield, Cheshire, Naugatuck, New Fairfield, Region 5, Region 14, Region 15, Ridgefield, Shelton, Terryville, Waterbury, and Watertown with twenty-eight students participating*
- *Achievement of a GPA of 3.5 or higher by eleven students*

WorkspaceCT

Cooperative Educational Services (CES) and EdAdvance work together, in partnership with our representative school districts and municipalities, to build a vibrant community of learning dedicated to preparing all students for success beyond school. Through our collaborative use of the WorkspaceCT facility, we strive to provide learners of all ages personal and professional educational experiences that support growth, value creativity, and inspire innovation, self-direction, and meaningful engagement.

- *Constructed a new set of classrooms and offices to house the ACCESS 9-12 Program*
- *Multiple upgrades to network infrastructure*
- *Addition of Birth to Three and Early Childhood offices*
- *Streamlined registration & booking systems*
- *Developed partnerships with United Way, NVCC, Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, Seaperch, ITEEA, and Educational Innovations*
- *Received a \$10,000 grant from Union Savings Bank*
- *Held multiple performances in the Tandem Theatre from LearnerSpace, Broadway Bound classes, and Bethel Battle of the Bands*
- *Offered dozens of courses, classes, and camps to students and adult learners*
- *Held a total of 2,700 hours of meetings, events, professional development and classes in 2021*
- *Had over 3,200 hours of facility usage in the first 6 months of 2022*

WORKSPACE^{CT}
CES/EdAdvance Collaborative



Early Childhood Programs & Services

Birth to Three Services

Birth to Three provides comprehensive early intervention services (IDEA Part C) to infants and toddlers with developmental delays. The program's goal is to support and strengthen a family's capacity to help their child grow and develop in their natural setting. Our autism-specific program offers assessment, intensive home visitation, and behavioral supports by qualified staff. Birth to Three works closely with families and school districts to ensure a smooth transition to pre-kindergarten services at age three.

- *Increased the number of children served to an average of 320 children every month, a 15% increase from last year*
- *100% compliance of Lead Agency (OEC) Monitoring Measures during Spring 2022 IDEA Determination*



Danbury School Readiness

Danbury School Readiness offers accessible, affordable, and quality early childhood programs at 11 sites in the greater Danbury area. Activities are designed to meet the needs of the children and their families. Programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or Head Start approved. We offer professional development opportunities for early childhood teachers on a variety of topics as well as transition to kindergarten events and supports for family childcare providers and center directors.

- *Offered over 60 early childhood workshops to the Danbury area*

Early Childhood Consultation and Training

Our Early Childhood consultants provide high-quality training, consultation, and coaching to school districts, early care and education staff, community partners, and family providers serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and families. Consultation is focused on curriculum, assessment, child development, environments, NAEYC accreditation, and best practices in meeting the needs of very young children, ages 0-5.

- *Contracted by the CT Office of Early Childhood to offer statewide professional development to the early childhood workforce including curriculum and assessment topics, parent engagement, and social and emotional topics*
- *Held an Early Literacy workshop and a roundtable on Anti-Bias Education in PreK*

Family Child Care Network

The Litchfield County Family Child Care Network is a special Office of Early Childhood grant-funded project supporting nearly 30 family child care providers in northwest Connecticut through professional development and best practices in business. The network has created ongoing opportunities for family child care providers to connect with each other and with EdAdvance and other community-based resources and expertise to enhance the quality of their programs.

- *Launched the first ever Litchfield County Family*

Childcare Network Provider Fair in the spring of 2022, with family childcare providers from the northwest corner and community vendors in attendance

Family Resource Centers

The Family Resource Centers (FRC) provide school-based family support programs in Plymouth and Torrington to strengthen the bond between the family and school, nurture the healthy development of the family, and prepare children for school.

- *Ran successful summer programs for students, who had no Kindergarten experience due to COVID, to experience school readiness skills before entering Kindergarten in the fall*

Head Start: Prenatal To Five

Head Start provides an array of comprehensive, quality services, including health, nutrition, parent engagement, education, and mental health to children ages three to five and their families. The program's vision is "each child and family leaves Head Start healthy, eager to learn, and ready for success." Program staff works closely with families to ensure that each child has the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in kindergarten. Early Head Start offers the same comprehensive services through a home-based model



for expectant mothers and families of children ages birth to three.

- *Remained fully enrolled in our Early Head Start program with our dedicated staff being able to provide in-home visits during the entire year*
- *Successfully completed a week-long Head Start Focus Area One review where the program was found to be in compliance in all areas*
- *Provided educational backpacks containing materials and supplies for children enrolled in our program to ensure that they could work toward individualized school readiness goals that their teacher or home visitor assigned while they were out on quarantine*

McKinney-Vento Homeless Outreach

The McKinney-Vento liaison partners with area school districts to ensure compliance with the federal Homeless Assistance Act. The liaison works directly with school social workers and community providers to support the unique and varied needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

- *Served up to 35 Torrington families*

Parents as Teachers

The EdAdvance Parents As Teachers program, formerly our Nurturing Families Network, uses this curriculum and others, such as Touchpoints, Circle of Security and more, to deliver a national evidence-based model providing weekly home visits, monthly group activities, and resource connections for families of young children. Mothers enroll during pregnancy, there is a father engagement component, and families can remain in the program through the child's kindergarten year. The model focuses on supporting the families' health and social emotional well-being.

- *Continued to be the regional leader on home visitation services to young families and children*
- *Launched a partnership of five programs in Western CT called the Western CT Home Visitation Partnership*
- *Awarded a multi-year contract from The CT Office of Early Childhood to manage all of Western CTs home visiting services*



Direct Services to Districts

Events Planning and Conference Services

EdAdvance's Events Planning and Conference Services department provides a variety of events and conference planning services for our districts, their communities, and local businesses. Services include on and off-site catering and management of conference registration.

- *Held staff retreats at our facility for Litchfield, New Hartford, Region 6, and Watertown school districts*

Fingerprinting Services

EdAdvance offers LiveScan fingerprinting services in compliance with Connecticut state law.

- *Fingerprinted 1,200 staff, contractors, substitute teachers, student teachers, student nurses, and volunteers for our member school districts, charter schools, and private schools*

Food Services

The Food Services program works collaboratively with school districts and the Connecticut State Department of Education Office of Child Nutrition in administering school food service programs to improve the health and education of children. Emphasis is placed on providing needed services to districts in a cost-effective manner while maintaining compliance with USDA and state requirements. We also consult with districts to assist with state reviews, staffing assessments, menu planning, staff training, and more. Catering services are available on site and by delivery.

- *Served 22 schools in nine districts in the EdAdvance region*
- *Added Food Service Management for Region 14*
- *Added Barkhamsted School to EdAdvance's Food Service sponsorship*
- *Expanded lunch services to three elementary schools in Region 12*
- *Provided Summer Food Service to children in 26 sites in the region*
- *Awarded the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant on behalf of Torrington & Winchester Schools for a local produce pilot program*

Grants Services

EdAdvance's Grants department works collaboratively with various agency programs and with diverse school and community partners to identify grants and develop, write, and/or review grant proposals. We also research federal, state, and foundation funding opportunities that might benefit different departments, and track grant submissions and decisions.

- *Awarded large multi-year grants this year including:*
 - *\$1,420,197 – Multiple awards over a 5-year period for BASES programs*
 - *\$625,000 – 5-year SAMHSA award for mental health awareness training*
 - *\$300,000 – 3-year NOAA award for watershed and climate change experiential education*

Human Resources Services

EdAdvance provides HR services to school districts to support Human Resources needs. The program started three years ago and provides a range of services from consulting to hands-on human resources tasks such as onboarding, employee relations, employee disciplinary investigations, FMLA, etc. We have successfully accomplished the following in several districts, including Brookfield, New Milford, Thomaston, and Region 1.

- *Streamlined and/or developed several processes for districts to make onboarding quicker and more efficient for both the applicant and the district*
- *Provided support and guidance from an HR perspective for districts in transition*
- *Created HR/Operations Networking Group for school districts*

Information Technology Services

EdAdvance's Information Technology Services department provides support, innovations, and solutions to meet the needs of schools, small towns, and the agency. The IT team's extensive background and experience contributes to a wide breadth of customized technology solutions and ensures smooth operations at all levels. Customized services include: hardware and software support, IT consultation,

training, assistance with equipment decision making and purchasing, IT security audits, network, and server upgrades, and much more.

- *Assisted 12 districts, schools, towns, and local agencies with their technology needs*
- *Processed and completed over 2,500 agency and customer-initiated tickets*
- *Provisioned over 100 new accounts for employees and over 240 students*
- *Prepared over 300 devices for EdAdvance employees, and well over 1,000 Chromebooks for schools*
- *Deployed new technologies to improve security and infrastructure, including new servers, copiers, and rollout of multi-factor authentication*

Marketing and Communications

EdAdvance provides innovative multi-media marketing & communication (MarCom) services to develop and enhance a school's, district's, or organization's brand visibility and the impact of print and web assets for all of their constituent groups — employees, students, parents, and community partners.

- *Migration and launch of improved EdAdvance and RESC Alliance websites*
- *Development of BASES and ATDN Digital Learning for Adults websites*

Special Services

The Special Services department has three major functions: 1) to support our internal EdAdvance programs, 2) to collaborate with districts within our region to provide professional staff, customized programming and services, and comprehensive trainings, and 3) to work with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) to provide support and rollout of initiatives around the region and state.

- *Hired Assistant Director of Regional Services to support CSDE/BSE work with the rollout of Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS), IEP Quality Training, and Transition work*
- *Hosted, with the RESC Alliance, Communities for Practice (CoP) for multiple related services*

(Special Education Teachers, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapist, BCBAs, Social Workers, School Psychologists, and Physical Therapists)

- *Supported over 15 partner districts by providing psychological, academic/achievement and speech evaluations; bilingual cognitive, achievement and speech evaluations; transition consult and evaluations; and contracted staff*
- *Supported our internal programs with allocating at least one BCBA to each program, and to four partner districts to complete evaluations and consultation services*
- *Revamped our student entry and exit procedures to a paperless streamlined process*



Transportation

Specializing in transporting special needs students, utilizing a fleet of 114 vehicles and 80 drivers, we are equipped to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective services. We provide transportation for our member districts and surrounding communities.

- *Provided transportation services for 20 towns that included 94 routes and 160 children*
- *Installed real time GPS system in each vehicle*
- *Conducted four in-house trainings for new drivers this year*
- *Developed and implemented new 90-day inspection format as required by the CT DMV*



Professional Development & Training

Beginning Teacher Induction – Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) and TEAM Review of Practice (ROP)

Work with districts to implement beginning teacher induction programs aligned with CT legislation, including TEAM and EdAdvance’s newly developed TEAM ROP model. District Facilitators and TEAM Coordinating Committees receive assistance with the roles and responsibilities, support plans, and training requirements for new and current mentors as well as reviewers, both in-district and regionally. Additional support to districts includes orientations and workshops for beginning teachers and mentors to enhance practice and outcomes.

- *Provided training, support, and technical assistance to 25 districts implementing TEAM Review of Practice (ROP), EdAdvance’s legislative-aligned induction program that uses the existing TEAM infrastructure and leverages already existing local processes (the district’s instructional practice rubric and a universal feedback practice) to support growth within a coherent system of professional learning for improvement*
- *Developed virtual Initial Support Teacher training in collaboration with the RESC Alliance and CT State Department of Education and delivered the virtual training to over 150 mentor teachers across Connecticut*

Center for Program Research and Evaluation

Provides comprehensive research and evaluation services to colleges, universities, school districts, and health organizations as well as community and state agencies throughout New England. Services include: data analysis, technical assistance, professional development, proposal development, performance reporting, survey development, Google for Education Training, as well as technical assistance and planning. Evaluation services are provided in all areas of K-12 education with specialties in science, information technology, literacy and health, parent involvement, school climate, and community education. Services include: front-end evaluations, implementation evaluations, impact evaluations, design-based

implementation research, outcome evaluations, and process-product evaluations.

- *Coordinated COVID reporting for area stakeholders*
- *Evaluated CT LEAP program*
- *Evaluated Family Child Care Network program*
- *Assisted in CT CEEDAR data collection*
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) evaluation for Region 9 school district*
- *DEI consultation for New Fairfield school district*
- *Evaluated Office of Early Childhood Grant activities*
- *Delivered teacher and administrator professional development modules around Google Education Apps, Data Team Management, Assessment Fatigue Strategies, and the assessment of students on soft skills metrics*



Digital Learning Support

EdAdvance has always been committed to the proposition that digital learning will play a critical role in helping prepare this and future generations of students for their lives beyond school. Our staff is prepared to help assist districts to envision, lead, and manage each phase of that transition. Whether by force of need or by planned growth of opportunity, our experienced digital learning specialists are prepared to support districts as they work to employ digital tools to improve student learning.



School Services

At the core of achieving every school system's mission of graduating successful young adults is a quality relationship between teachers and students. Our certified educators bring years of classroom practice and knowledge of the latest research to their roles as instructional improvement specialists. We offer a range of professional learning opportunities and services to assist district staff in their shared pursuit of improved student learning. From curriculum audits and revision support, integration of academic standards, preparation for appropriate assessments, acquisition of

21st century skills, and the implementation of new data-based accountability models, we have the professional resources to help districts improve their practice.

- *Resumed in-person professional workshops and customized professional development for districts within and beyond our region*
- *Continued and expanded capacity to audit, review, and support revision of curricula for equity, standards alignment, and other district requested criteria*

RESC Alliance Collaborations

EdAdvance collaborates with the other five Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) to provide quality services that result in cost efficiencies to districts throughout the state.

- Accelerate CT
- Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR)
- Digital Learning Initiatives
- Early Childhood Initiatives
- English Language Learner Support
- Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Learner Engagement and Attendance Program
- Paraprofessional Training
- School Improvement Services
- Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Social and Emotional Learning Support Services
- Special Education Services
- Statewide Strategic Support Responses
- Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Systems
- Teacher Education and Mentoring Program
- Virtual High School Consortium



Adult & Community Programs & Services

Behavioral Services Program

The Behavioral Services Program (BSP) provides adaptive daily living and behavior supports to DDS-qualified children, adolescents, and young adults, ages 8-21 years old, and their families. Staff, parents, and siblings, with the expertise of a behaviorist, actively participate with their supported family member in a variety of positive skill and esteem building pursuits including community events, volunteer opportunities, and recreational activities.

- *Conducted a department-wide apple picking event in the fall for individuals and families*
- *Welcomed two new individuals to our behavior specific supports*

Day Support Options Program

This program is community-based and focuses on age appropriate, person-centered activities of interest for people with developmental disabilities in the northwest corner. DSO is designed to offer engaging, enriching, and fun things to do in Litchfield County. Paid work opportunities are also available to interested individuals.

- *Merged the DSO with our group supported employment program to create a unique offering of both community-based activities and paid work opportunities at HO Products in Winsted*
- *Continued to grow with the addition of both new supported individuals and staff allowing our individuals to develop new social relationships*
- *Enjoyed many community outings including visits to The New England Air Museum, Old New Gate Prison, Pumpkintown USA, Greenwich Reindeer Festival, and Santa's Village*

EdAdvance Adult & Continuing Education

The EdAdvance Adult & Continuing Education program serves 17 school districts encompassing 25 towns. Our program provides three options for high school diploma equivalency (Adult High School Credit

Diploma, National External Diploma Program and GED® preparation), Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language and Americanization/Citizenship at no cost to adult participants. Several program enhancement projects are grant funded to support classes for workforce readiness, GED prep for adults with barriers to education, career training (Certified Nurse Aide, Food Handler, Digital Literacy), and transition to post-secondary and career. Enrichment classes are fee-based and are offered in a wide variety of subject areas such as arts & crafts, computers, finance, home improvement, languages, music & dance, personal development, and recreation & leisure.

- *Served 272 new students in FY 2022*
- *Graduated 26 high school students (16 Credit Diploma, 9 GED, 1 NEDP)*
- *Offered career training for ServSafe Food Handler, Certified Nurse Aide, Customer Service, and Warehousing/Inventory/Logistics to ESL students*



Individual Supported Employment

This community-based competitive employment program uses a person-centered approach to provide job site support and services to individuals with disabilities.

- *Continued employment by participants at local employers, such as Stew Leonard's of Danbury, The Ridgefield Recreation Center, and Canterbury School*

Individualized Day Program

This program supports adults with developmental disabilities in the community to participate in local community events, volunteering, vocational or recreational activities.

- *Successfully gained competitive employment for several individuals at local employers including Canterbury School and The Cheesecake Factory*
- *Participation by individuals in the non-vocational program Community Services' group outings including apple picking, bowling, arcade, pizza parties, and our first annual Easter Egg Hunt*



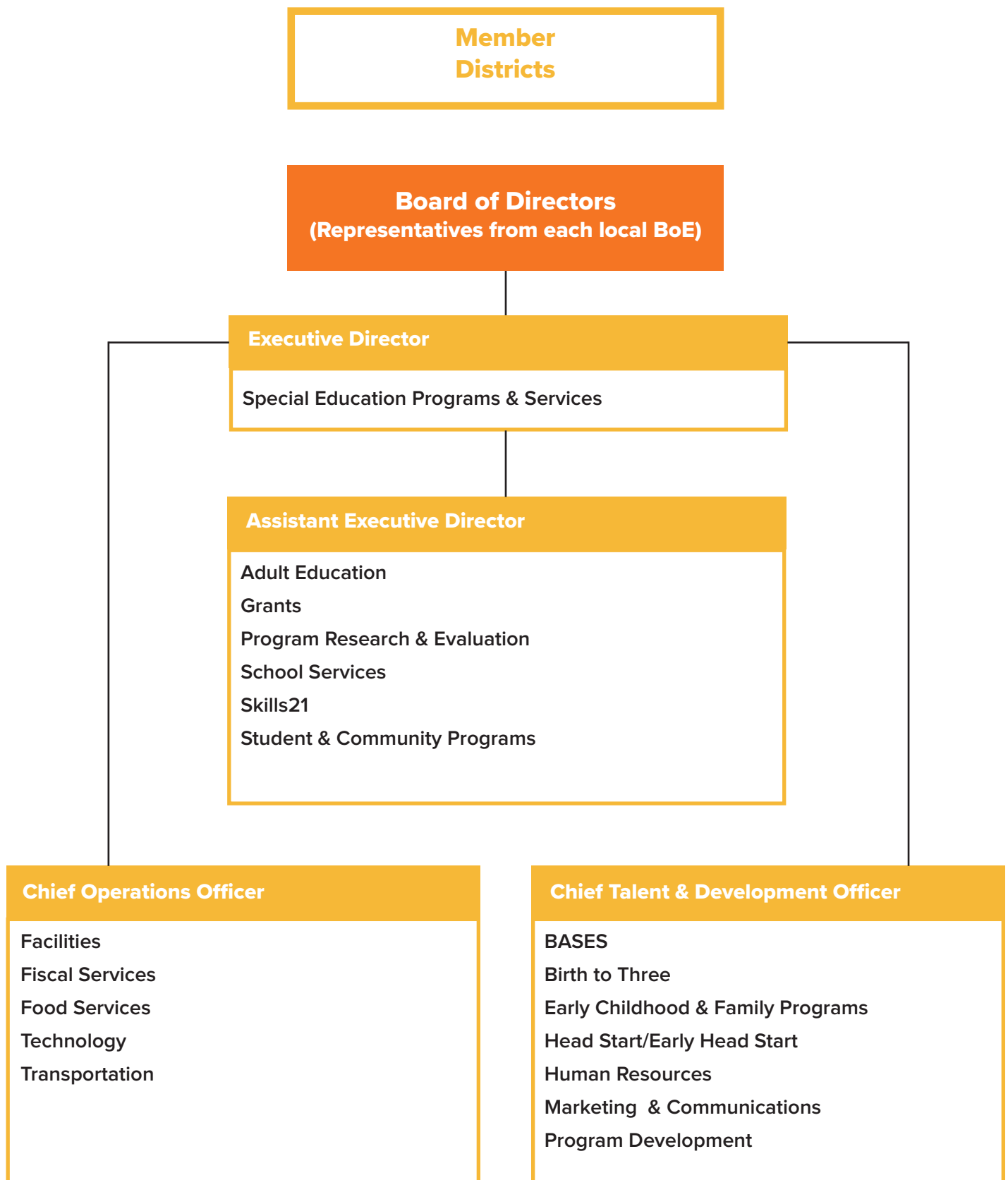
Supported Living Services

Supported Living Services offers quality supports for adults with developmental disabilities in their living environments and community through flexible, creative planning, and community integration.

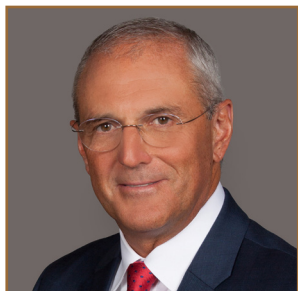
- *Welcomed two new individuals to our Supported Living Services Program*
- *Supported local businesses by shopping at farmers markets and built independence skills by working on preparing healthy, fresh meals*
- *Enjoyed building social skills by participating in activities in the community with individuals across programs*

TRED (Transportation Reaching Every Direction)

TRED provides free transportation services to eligible Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) clients in northwestern Connecticut.



Executive Team



Jeffrey Kitching, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Jonathan P. Costa, Sr.
Assistant Executive Director



Richard Carmelich, III
Chief Operations Officer



Tracey Lay
Chief Talent & Development
Officer

Program Directors



Michelle Anderson
Director of Early
Childhood & Family
Programs



Devonna Dionne
Director of Marketing &
Communications



Susan Domanico
Director of Adult
Education



Jennifer Douglas
Principal of ACCESS—
Danbury



Bruni Edwards
Director of Birth to
Three



Brett Fiore
Principal of Steps



Rose Forzano
Director of Human
Resources



Carmella Galipault
Director of Head Start &
Early Head Start



Kevin Glass
Director of Center for
Program Research &
Evaluation



Jaren Havell
Director of Technology



Mike LoRusso
Director of
Transportation



Jennifer McCormick
Director of Behavioral
Services



Matt Mervis
Director of Skills21 at
EdAdvance



Laura Miller
Principal of ACCESS—
Bethel



Jody Minotti
Director of Student
Services



Annette Miserez-Dillon
Director of Special
Education Programs &
Services



Sarah Moran
Department Director of
BASES



Tim Noel
Director of Facilities



Abby Peklo
Director of Grants &
Special Programs



Elizabeth Radday
Director of School
Services



Rich Reynolds
Director WorkspaceCT



Scott Rossignol
Principal of PLA



Mia Toimil
Director of Finance



Becky Tyrrell
Director of Food
Services

EdAdvance Member Districts

Barkhamsted
Bethel
Brookfield
Canaan
Colebrook
Cornwall
Danbury
Kent

REGION 1

Canaan
Cornwall
Kent
North Canaan
Salisbury
Sharon

REGION 6

Goshen
Morris
Warren

Litchfield
New Fairfield
New Milford
Newtown
Norfolk
North Canaan
Plymouth

REGION 7

Barkhamsted
Colebrook
Norfolk

REGION 12

Bridgewater
Roxbury
Washington

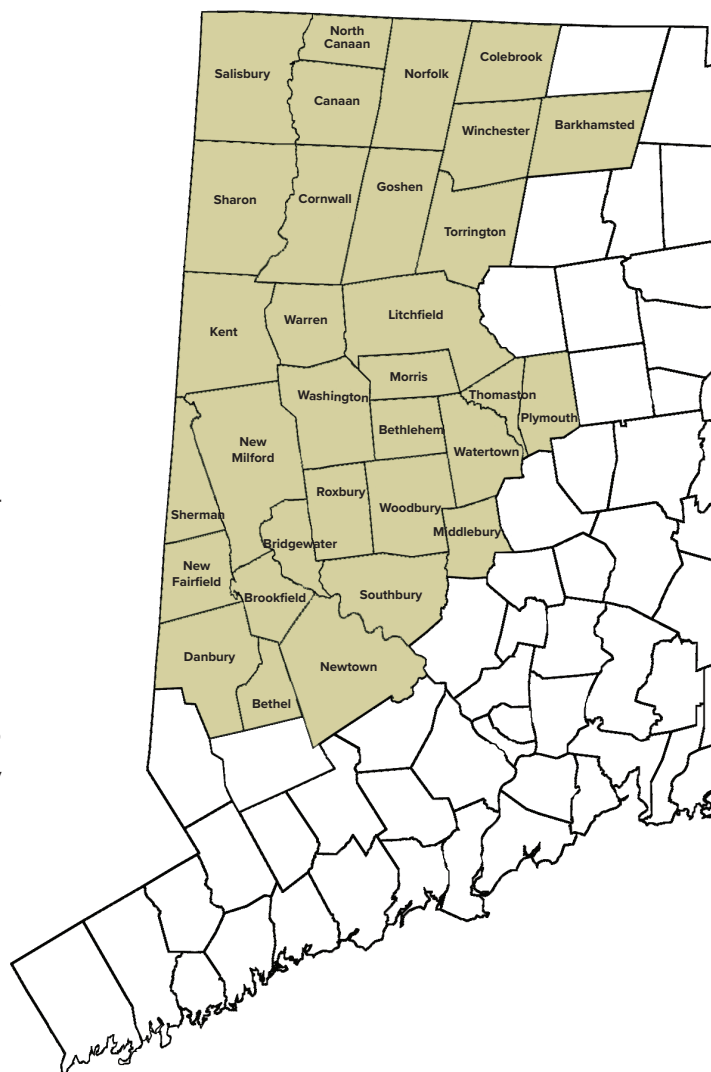
Salisbury
Sharon
Sherman
The Gilbert School
Thomaston
Torrington
Watertown
Winchester

REGION 14

Bethlehem
Woodbury

REGION 15

Middlebury
Southbury



PRESIDENT
John Kissko

VICE-PRESIDENT
Lynn Stone

SECRETARY
Deborah Bell

TREASURER
Kate Conetta
Melissa Miller*

MEMBER AT LARGE
Sarah Robichaud
Melissa Johnson*

BARKHAMSTED
Mary Kate Terzini

COLEBROOK
Sarah Robichaud
Melissa Miller*

DANBURY
Kate Conetta

LITCHFIELD
Lynn Stone

NEW FAIRFIELD
Dominic Cipollone

NEW MILFORD
Eileen Monaghan*

NEWTOWN
Rebekah Harriman*
Dan Delia*

PLYMOUTH
Karen Kulesa

Dia Fusco
Melissa Johnson*

REGION 7
Deborah Bell

REGION 12
Joseph Abdella
Jennifer Pote*

THOMASTON
Roxy Fainer

TORRINGTON
John Kissko

WATERTOWN
Janelle Wilk*

**served partial term*

EdAdvance wishes to thank the following for their active role in helping our agency meet its goals for 2021-2022.

- CT General Assembly
- 29 school districts in western Connecticut

The Other Connecticut Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs)

- ACES (Area Cooperative Educational Services)
- CES (Cooperative Educational Services)
- CREC (Capitol Region Education Council)
- EASTCONN
- LEARN

State Agencies

- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Bureau of Special Education
- CT Commission on Children
- CT Community Colleges' COT Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing
- CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection
- CT Early Childhood Education Cabinet
- CT Head Start Collaboration Office
- CT Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC)
- CT Office of Early Childhood
- CT Office of Policy Management
- CT State Department of Children & Families
- CT State Department of Developmental Services
- CT State Department of Education
- CT State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- CT State Department of Labor
- CT State Department of Public Health
- CT State Department of Mental Health & Addiction
- CT State Department of Social Services
- CT Women's Education and Legal Fund
- NW Regional Workforce Investment Board
- State Education Resource Center (SERC)

Local Agencies/Collaborations

- All Our Kin
- Beardsley & Memorial Library–Winsted
- Brooker Memorial–Torrington
- Center Congregational Church–Torrington
- CT Family Support Network
- CT Infoline
- Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR)
- Cradle to Classroom
- Danbury Chamber of Commerce
- Danbury Children First
- Danbury Department of Housing
- Danbury Family Focus Partnership
- End Hunger Connecticut, Inc.
- ESL Reception Center–Danbury Public Schools
- Families Network of Western CT
- Family and Children's Aid–Danbury
- Family Focused Partnership–Danbury
- Family Strides–Torrington
- Forman School
- Greater Danbury Mental Health Authority
- Housatonic Youth Services Bureau
- Kid Care Advisory Council
- LARC of Torrington
- Litchfield County Autism Spectrum Association
- Litchfield County Directors of Special Education Assoc.
- Litchfield County Superintendents Association (LCSA)
- Literacy Volunteers of America of NW CT
- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
- Main Street Community Foundation
- McCall Center for Behavioral Health
- Mid-Western CT Council on Alcoholism (M.C.C.A.)
- Naugatuck Valley Community College
- New Opportunities–Waterbury
- Northwest Hills Council of Governments
- Northwest YMCA
- NW Child and Family Health Council
- NW Collaborative for Young Children & Families
- NW Community Collaborative
- NW Continuum of Care
- NW CT After School Network

- NW CT Chamber of Commerce
- NW CT Community College
- NW Mental Health Board
- Oliver Wolcott Library–Litchfield
- Pediatric Associates
- Plymouth CT Police Department
- Post University
- RecycleCT
- Seifort & Ford Community Health Center
- Southern CT State University
- Susan B. Anthony Project–Torrington
- Torrington Area Health District
- Torrington Child Care Center
- Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC)
- Torrington Library
- Torrington Police Activities League (PAL)
- Trinity Glen
- Tunxis Community College
- UConn Academy for Natural Resources
- UConn Adoption Assistance Program
- UConn Medical Center
- UConn NEAG School of Education
- United Way of NW Connecticut
- United Way of Western Connecticut
- United Way of West Central Connecticut
- University of Hartford
- University of St. Joseph–Hartford
- Waterbury Youth Services
- Wellmore EMPS
- Western CT Area Agency on Aging
- Western CT Mental Health Network
- Western Connecticut State University
- Western CT Superintendents Association (WCSA)
- Winsted Area Child Care Center
- Woodland Hills–Torrington
- Yale University

Local Businesses

- Battelle Technology Partnership Practice
- BNB Manufacturing–Winsted
- Boehringer Ingelheim–Ridgefield
- Carlson Therapy Network–Brookfield
- Center for Pain Rehabilitation–Danbury
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital–Torrington
- Childcare Associates–Danbury
- CISCO
- City Center Danbury
- Community Health Center–Danbury
- Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Connecticut Family Orthopedics
- Connecticut Public Television (CPTV)
- Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc.
- Connecticut Women's Education & Legal Fund
- Danbury Hospital
- Dental Associates–New Milford
- Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut
- Fairfield County Bank
- Family Medical Center–Ridgefield
- Geer Village–Canaan
- Global Compliance Network (GCN)
- Hand Therapy Center–Danbury
- Hartford Hospital
- Howmet Castings–Winsted
- IBM–Southbury
- IEP Direct
- Indian Rock Nature Center
- Main Street Rehabilitation Center–Danbury
- New Milford Hospital
- News Times
- Newtown Pediatrics
- Northeast Generation Co.
- Prometric
- Proton Energy–Wallingford
- Savings Bank of Danbury
- Scholastic
- Tanglewood Research
- Thomaston Savings Bank
- Torrington Health and Rehabilitation Center
- Volunteer Center–Danbury
- Waterbury Hospital

- Wheeler Clinic
- Workers' Compensation Trust

Foundations

- American Savings Foundation
- Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
- CBIA Education Foundation & the Academy of Engineering and Green Technology
- Children's Trust Fund
- Connecticut Community Foundation
- Connecticut Health Foundation
- Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation–New Milford
- Fairfield County's Community Foundation
- Kellogg Foundation
- Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
- Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation
- Union Savings Bank Foundation

State & National Professional Assoc./Organizations

- American Assoc. of Adult & Continuing Education
- American Association of School Administrators
- American Evaluation Association
- Association of Educational Service Agencies
- Assoc. of Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Child Day Care Council
- Child Health and Development Institute of CT
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems
- CT Academy for Educ. in Math, Science, and Tech.
- CT Academy of Educational Leaders
- CT After School Network
- CT Association for Education of Young Children
- CT Association for Human Services
- CT Association for Infant Mental Health
- CT Association of Adult & Continuing Education
- CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
- CT Association of Community Providers
- CT Association of Curriculum Development
- CT Association of Independent Schools
- CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- CT Association of School Business Officials (CASBO)
- CT Association of Special Education
- CT Center for School Change
- CT Charts-a-Course
- CT Community Providers
- CT Distance Learning Association
- CT Early Childhood Alliance
- CT Educators Computer Association
- CT Family Resource Alliance
- CT Head Start Association
- CT HOSA
- CT Outdoor & Environmental Education Association
- CT Reading Association (CRA)
- CT School Readiness Network
- CT Science Fair Association
- CT Technology Council
- CT Voices for Children
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Eastern Evaluation Research Society
- Healthy Child Care CT
- Literacy Volunteers of America
- Love146 Human Trafficking Prevention
- National After School Association (NAA)
- National Association for Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)
- National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Head Start Association
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Police Athletic League (NPAL)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- New England Head Start Association
- North American Association for Environmental Education
- NW CT Human Resource Association
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- The Alliance for Non-Profit Growth & Opportunity (TANGO)
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. League of States for Infant Mental Health
- Youth Development Training Resource Center

FEDERAL GRANTS OR CONTRACTS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT	% OF BUDGET
Head Start	\$ 2,597,993	
National Science Foundation	881,540	
COVID Relief Funding	454,186	
Mental Health Awareness Training NW CT	86,875	
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	86,335	
N. America Assoc. for Environmental Education	62,123	
United Department of Justice	20,385	
REAP	17,710	
Total	\$ 4,207,147	10%

STATE GRANTS OR CONTRACTS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT	% OF BUDGET
Early Childhood/Birth to Three/SEED	\$ 4,441,069	
Foothills Adult Ed	1,167,257	
Before & After School Extended Programs	768,686	
DDS, DSS and DMHAS	752,043	
Head Start	310,909	
COVID Relief Funding	235,657	
Community Programs	100,000	
Medical Apprenticeship Program	64,000	
Total	\$ 7,839,620	19%

FEDERAL VIA STATE GRANTS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT	% OF BUDGET
Early Childhood/Birth to Three/SEED	\$ 2,136,865	
Child Nutrition Program	1,228,483	
Food Service Summer Program	274,102	
Before & After School Extended Programs	152,574	
Adult Education - <i>Comprehensive Program</i>	106,582	
Perkins	104,018	
Adult Education - <i>Civics</i>	79,382	
COVID Relief Funding	56,128	
Homeless Education Program	42,154	
Title II and Title III	39,958	
Total	\$ 4,220,246	11%

LOCAL

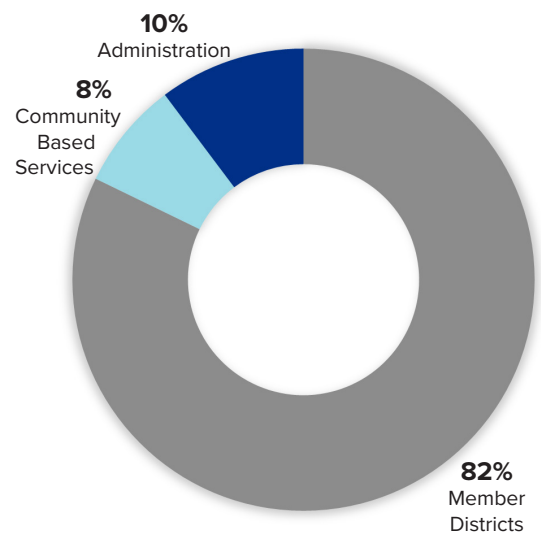
PROGRAMS	AMOUNT	% OF BUDGET
Tuitions	\$ 7,892,078	
Administration	4,153,533	
Transportation	3,996,547	
School Services	3,663,555	
Special Education Professional Services	1,952,235	
Before & After School Extended Programs	1,251,787	
Food Services	778,868	
Personnel Services	296,636	
Foothills Adult Education	102,180	
Head Start Local Programs	85,809	
Dues	75,769	
Transition Services	31,746	
Donations	5,041	
Total	\$24,285,784	60%

GRAND TOTAL	\$40,552,798	100%
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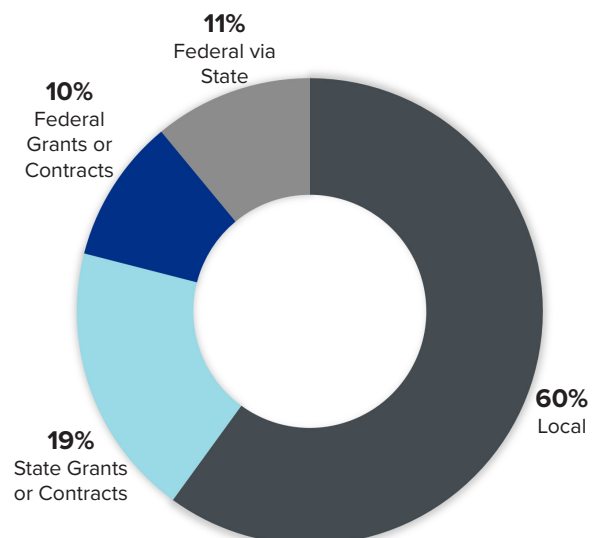
2021-22 Budget Summary

Local	\$ 24,285,784
State Grants	7,839,620
Federal via State	4,220,246
Federal Grants	4,207,147
Total	\$40,552,798

Funding Allocations



Funding Sources



Based on estimated financial statements

2021-2022 User Services Matrix

PROGRAMS & SERVICES	Barkhamsted	Bethel	Brookfield	Canaan	Colebrook	Cornwall	Danbury	Kent	Litchfield	New Fairfield	New Milford	Newtown	Norfolk	North Canaan	Plymouth	Region 1	Region 6	Region 7	Region 12	Region 14	Region 15	Salisbury	Sharon	Sherman	The Gilbert School	Thomaston	Torrington	Watertown	Winchester	Other
Adult & Continuing Education	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
BASES	●	●			●		●		●	●		●			●					●	●					●	●	●	●	●
Birth to Three	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Community Adult Services			●				●		●		●	●					●		●	●							●	●	●	●
Early Childhood and Family Programs	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Early Childhood Training/ Consultation				●			●	●	●		●				●		●									●	●		●	●
FRCs/School Readiness		●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●			●	●			●		●	●	●		●
Fingerprinting Services	●				●		●		●		●		●		●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●	●	●
Food Services	●												●				●	●	●	●							●		●	
Head Start/ Early Head Start	●				●				●		●				●		●			●						●	●	●	●	
Human Resources			●								●					●										●				
Information Technology					●	●							●				●		●											
Personnel Services		●	●				●			●	●	●			●						●			●		●	●	●	●	
Professional Councils	●	●	●				●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●
School Services/PD	●	●	●				●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●
Skills21									●	●		●				●				●	●						●			
Special Education Programs		●	●				●			●	●	●		●	●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●
Student Programs		●	●				●		●	●	●	●		●					●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●
TEAM Assessment/ Support	●	●					●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●
Transportation	●	●	●				●		●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●	●

EdAdvance

Educate • Collaborate • Innovate

www.edadvance.org



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355 Goshen Road
P.O. Box 909
Litchfield, CT 06759-0909
Phone: 860.567.0863



WorkspaceCT
16 Trowbridge Drive
Bethel, CT 06801
Phone: 855.937.2747



ACCESS K-8
The Dr. Danuta M. Thibodeau
Education Center
103 Miry Brook Road
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203.205.0000



Head Start
28 St. John Place
Torrington, CT 06790
Phone: 860.482.5286



ACCESS 9-12
WorkspaceCT
16 Trowbridge Drive
Bethel, CT 06801
Phone: 855.937.2747



The Partnership Learning Academy
77 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
Phone: 860.516.7005



Steps at East School
215 Hogan Drive
Torrington, CT 06790
Phone: 860.618.7411



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