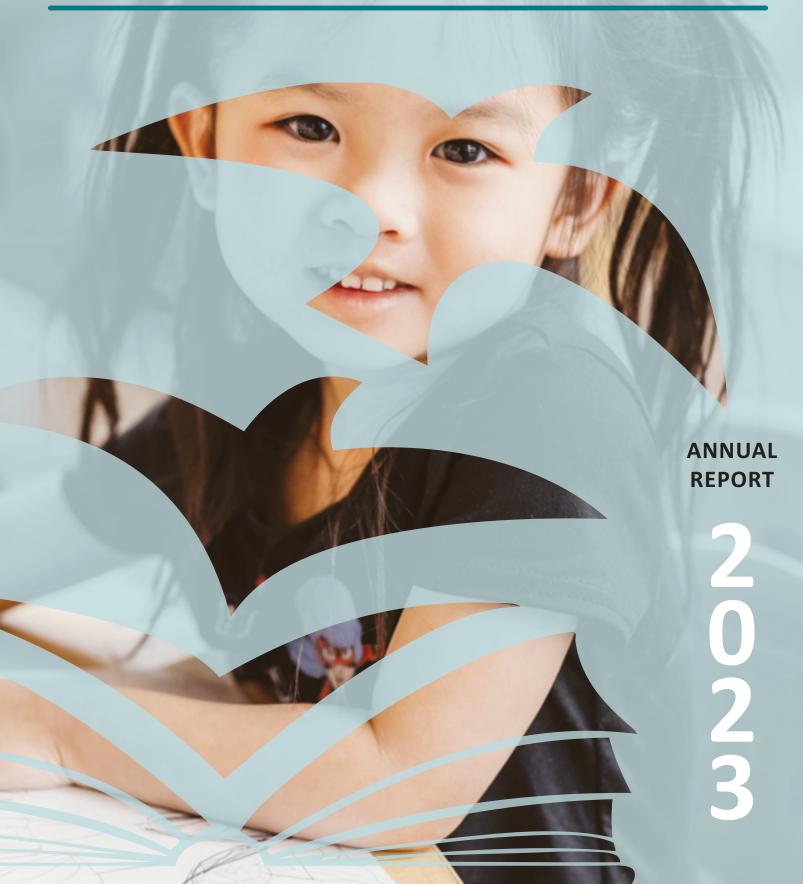
# LEARN







# OUR IMPACT

# Message from the Executive Director

In the beginning of each June, a powerful gathering takes place – a convergence of visionaries, educators, and changemakers. LEARN's Board of Directors, alongside school district superintendents, LEARN staff, and esteemed guests, come together for a state-of-the-agency presentation. At that time, the spotlight illuminates the agency's achievements, the transformational work in schools and programs, and the unwavering dedication of our service delivery.

Amid this gathering, LEARN staff share reflections, challenges confronted during the year, and lessons learned. The reflections become the building blocks of our strategic vision for the months ahead – a vision that aims to sculpt a future that surpasses all expectations for each learner in southeastern Connecticut.

As I started to write this annual letter, I found my memory wandering back to that morning in June. During that presentation, we were moved by the words of a remarkable individual, the valedictorian of the Marine Science Magnet High School, Class of 2023. Her journey through education began at LEARN's Regional Multicultural Magnet School, where she entered as a kindergarten student. The journey continued through LEARN's Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School and culminated at the Marine Science Magnet High School. Her trajectory makes her the embodiment of the very essence of LEARN's Family of Schools, with us from kindergarten through grade 12. She epitomizes the reason for our existence — the transformative impact we have on students' lives.

Listening to her eloquence that day, we were reminded of the core of our mission – empowering learners with choices, offering visionary education models, and embracing the power of diversity. In her own words, she shared what she learned in LEARN schools – the value of acceptance, the importance of being surrounded by those who are different from you, and the profound impact of growing and learning with people from various walks of life. Her experiences exemplify how our schools foster an open mind and leave a lasting appreciation for diversity in the broadest sense.

This exceptional student and countless others like her form the heart of our work, inspiring us to forge ahead, undeterred by challenges, and fueled by celebrations. Through the pages of this report, I invite you to LEARN more about how our collective efforts are changing lives and shaping the future of education. LEARN continues to build a future where each child in southeastern Connecticut gains access to high-quality public education and boundless opportunities. With equity and justice at the core of our systems, we continue to enrich the educational community with unparalleled skills and knowledge. Our commitment remains unwavering, as we design innovative, efficient, and effective programs, services, and solutions.

Together, we continue to LEARN. Together, we continue to leave an indelible mark on the canvas of education. The 2022-2023 year was an exciting one. We look forward to moving forward into the 2023-2024 year.

Warm Regards,

Katherine Ericson
LEARN Executive Director

# WE ARE LEARN

# MEMBER DISTRICTS

# Board of Directors & Superintendents

#### **CHESTER**

- B: Dale Bernardoni
- S: Brian White

#### **CLINTON**

- B: Michael Hornyak
- S: Maryann O'Donnell

#### **DEEP RIVER**

- B: (vacant)
- S: Brian White

#### **EAST HADDAM**

- B: Bryan Perry
- S: Brian Reas

#### **EAST HAMPTON**

- B: Amy Ordonez
- S: Paul Smith

#### **EAST LYME**

- B: Catherine Steel
- S: Jeffrey Newton

#### **ESSEX**

- B: Carolyn Rotella
- S: Brian White

#### **GROTON**

- B: Rita Volkmann
- S: Susan Austin

#### **GUILFORD**

- B: Kristen Peck
- S: Paul Freeman

#### **LEDYARD**

- B: Mary Harris
- S: Jason Hartling

#### **MADISON**

- B: Mary Ann Connelly
- S: Craig Cooke

#### MONTVILLE

- B: Robert Mitchell
- S: Laurie Pallin

#### **NEW LONDON**

- B: Jefferey Hart
- S: Cynthia Ritchie

#### **NORTH STONINGTON**

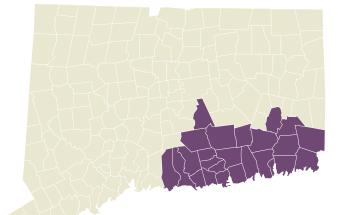
- B: Phil Mendolia
- S: Troy Hopkins

#### **NORWICH**

- B: Aaron Daniels
- S: Kristen Stringfellow

#### **OLD SAYBROOK**

- B: Steve Beeler
- S: Jan Perruccio



#### **PRESTON**

- B: Cynthia Luty
- S: Roy Seitsinger, Jr.

#### **SALEM**

- B: Sean Reith
- S: Brian Hendrickson

#### **STONINGTON**

- B: Craig Esposito
- S: Mary Anne Butler

#### WATERFORD

- B: Mindy Stone
- S: Thomas W. Giard, III

#### **WESTBROOK**

- B: Zack Hayden (interim)
- S: Kristina Martineau

### REGION 17: HADDAM & KILLINGWORTH

- B: Jennifer Favalora
- S: Jeffrey Wihbey

#### REGION 18: LYME & OLD LYME

- B: Steven Wilson
- S: Ian Neviaser

# Executive Committee

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Craig Esposito

#### **VICE CHAIRPERSON**

**Aaron Daniels** 

#### FISCAL OFFICER

Robert Mitchell

#### **SECRETARY**

Rita Volkmann

# BUILDING DIRECTORY

#### **LEARN Central Office**

44 Hatchetts Hill Road, Old Lyme, CT 860.434.4800, www.learn.k12.ct.us

#### **OCEAN AVENUE LEARNING ACADEMY**

Student Support Services School-Based Program 660 Ocean Avenue, New London, CT 860.400.0840, www.learnstudentsupportservices.org

#### **LEARN TRANSITION ACADEMY**

Student Support Services 18-22 Program
Boston Post Road, East Lyme, CT
860.400.0840, www.learnstudentsupportservices.org

#### THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

Early Childhood Magnet School 24 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT 860.447.4049, www.thefriendshipschool.org

#### REGIONAL MULTICULTURAL MAGNET SCHOOL

Kindergarten – Grade 5 Magnet Elementary School One Bulkeley Place, New London, CT 860.437.7775, www.rmms.k12.ct.us

#### MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 9 – Grade 12 Magnet High School 130 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 860.446.9380, www.msmhs.com

#### THREE RIVERS MIDDLE COLLEGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 11 and Grade 12 Magnet High School 574 New London Turnpike, Room E205, Norwich, CT 860.215.9055, www.threeriversmiddlecollege.org

#### RIVERSIDE MAGNET SCHOOL AT GOODWIN UNIVERSITY

Pre-kindergarten – Grade 5 Magnet Elementary School 29 Willowbrook Road, East Hartford, CT 860.709.6800, www.riversidemagnetschool.org

#### **CONNECTICUT RIVER ACADEMY AT GOODWIN UNIVERSITY**

*Grade 6 – Grade 12 Magnet High School* 9 Riverside Drive, East Hartford, CT 860.913.2200, www.ctriveracademy.org



## MISSION FRAMEWORK

The LEARN Mission Framework, approved by the LEARN Board of Directors, is grounded in the key principles of innovating, collaborating, and serving the educational community. Our vision is that every child has access to high quality public education through systems of education, support, and service. Achieving this vision requires shared responsibility, based on a set of beliefs about the importance of continuous learning, growth, and development in every aspect of our collective work. The LEARN Mission Framework captures the many facets of our programs and services.

#### **MISSION**

As a Regional Educational Service Center, we pursue equitable and just systems of education, build the skills and knowledge of the educational community, and design innovative, efficient, and effective programs, services, and solutions.

We are committed to forging a better future for each learner.

#### **GOALS**

To provide exemplary, innovative, and equitable school-based programs that advance achievement for all students and nurture their cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being in safe, respectful, rigorous, and diverse learning communities.

To provide expertise, leadership, and innovative programs and services that build regional capacities and supports to create equity in education and positive outcomes for all students.

To provide cost-effective, customized organizational and operational services for our member districts, so they can maximize their resources and efforts to provide equitable access and outcomes for all students.

#### **INNOVATE**

**Optimize Potential** 

Identify, develop, and deliver innovative and customized services, programs, and tools that meet our members' needs.



#### THEORY OF ACTION

#### **COLLABORATE**

Enhance the Quality of Learning

Cultivate collaborative partnerships, strategic alliances, and relationships to promote regional efficiencies.

#### VISION

To ensure that every child has access to high quality public education and opportunities through equitable systems of education, support, and service.

# **CORE VALUES**

STUDENT SUCCESS
RELATIONSHIPS
SERVICE
DIVERSITY
COMMUNICATION
INTEGRITY
INNOVATION
CREATIVITY

#### **SERVE**

Meet Member Needs

Listen and respond to our stakeholders with respect and responsibility and provide high-quality services.

# LEARN LEADERSHIP



KATE ERICSON Executive Director 860.434.4800, ext. 1345 kericson@learn.k12.ct.us



BRIDGETTE GORDON-HICKEY Deputy Executive Director 860.400.0840, ext. 2115 bghickey@learn.k12.ct.us



DR. RYAN DONLON

Associate Executive Director
860.434.4800, ext. 1132
rdonlon@learn.k12.ct.us

#### Organizational Programs & Services Operations & Resource Management



CHRISTINE PEMBERTON Chief Human Resources Officer 860.434.4800, ext. 1115 learnhrdept@learn.k12.ct.us



MICHAEL BELDEN
Chief Financial Officer
860.434.4800, ext. 1130
mbelden@learn.k12.ct.us



JOANNE LUND Assistant Director of Business 860.434.4800, ext. 1102 jlund@learn.k12.ct.us



TERENCE CUNNINGHAM
Director of Development
860.434.4800, ext. 1178
tcunningham@learn.k12.ct.us



LANCE HAGEN

Director of Information Technology
860.434.4800, ext. 1117

Ihagen@learn.k12.ct.us



MICHELLE COZZI
Assistant Director of
Information Technology
860.434.4800, ext. 1143
mcozzi@learn.k12.ct.us

#### School-Based Programs & Services



JESSICA SILVESTRO, Principal The Friendship School 860.447.4049 jsilvestro@learn.k12.ct.us



MARIANA REYES, Principal Regional Multicultural Magnet School 860.437.7775 mreyes@learn.k12.ct.us



TARA AMATRUDO, Principal Marine Science Magnet High School 860.446.9380 tamatrudo@learn.k12.ct.us



BRAD COLUMBUS, Principal Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School 860.215.9055 bcolumbus@learn.k12.ct.us



KIM MATTHEWS, Principal Riverside Magnet School 860.709.6800 kmatthews@goodwinmagnetsystem.org



SHERI TANNER, Director of Middle Level Program at Connecticut River Academy 860.913.2200 stanner@goodwinmagnetsystem.org



JT FOSTER, Principal
Connecticut River Academy
860.913.2200
jtfoster@goodwinmagnetsystem.org

#### Member Programs & Services



ERICA MAHON

Principal of Specialized Programs
860.400.0840
emahon@learn.k12.ct.us



SARAH MOON
Director of Special Services
860.434.4800, ext. 2107
smoon@learn.k12.ct.us



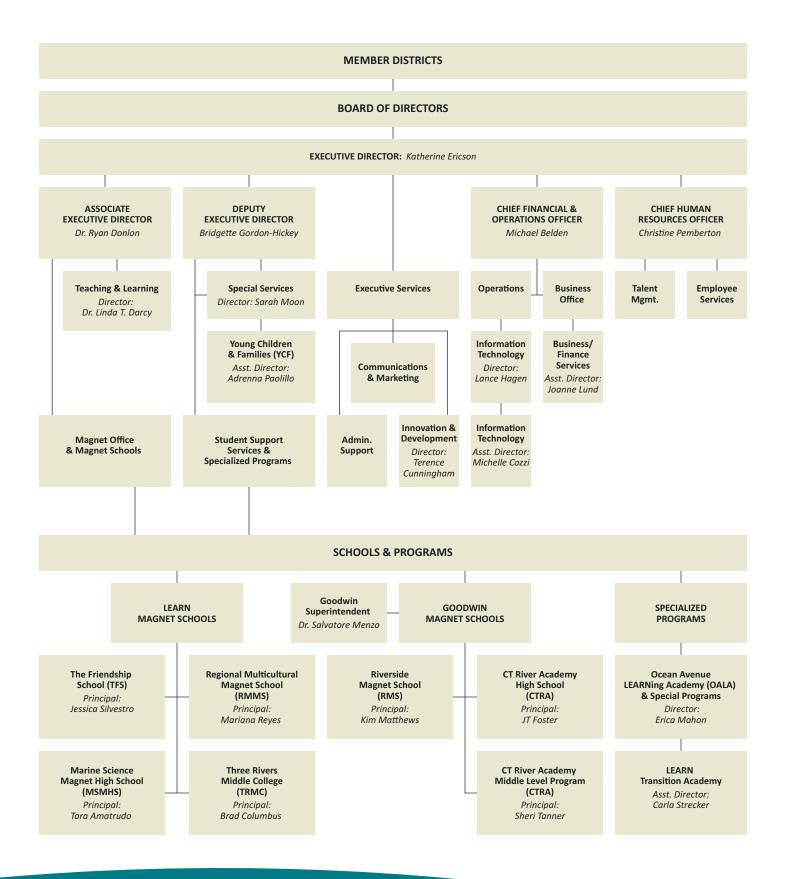
ADRENNA PAOLILLO
Assistant Director of Young Children & Families
860.434.4800, ext. 1127
apaolillo@learn.k12.ct.us



DR. LINDA T. DARCY
Director of Teaching & Learning
860.434.4800, ext. 1103
ldarcy@learn.k12.ct.us



# **ORGANIZATION**



## **FUNDING SOURCES**

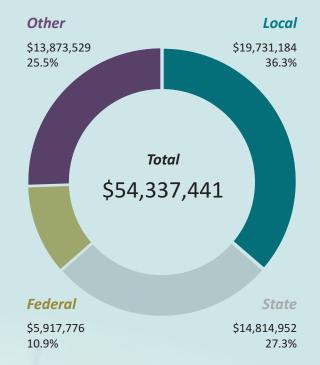
#### Revised Budget 2022-2023

LEARN's funding comes predominantly from local boards of education and other educational agencies for a variety of services and programs including student tuition, special education services, and professional education programs for educators (37%). The Connecticut State Department of Education provides various grants for interdistrict programming and other educational initiatives (28.8%). Funds in the "other" category include amounts related to operations at two magnet schools at Goodwin University and grants from local organizations (21.5%). The remainder of our funding comes from federal grants, including Title grants, Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant, and COVID-19 relief grants (12.6%).

#### ANNUAL AGENCY REVENUES BY DEPARTMENT (REVISED BUDGET 2022-2023)

Health Insurance and related claims

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
CT River Academy at Goodwin \$6,461,046 CT River Academy Middle Grades at Goodwin \$2,683,090 Marine Science Magnet High School \$4,291,185 Regional Multicultural Magnet School \$7,444,536 Riverside Magnet School at Goodwin \$5,646,642 The Friendship School \$6,910,241 Three Rivers Middle College Magnet School \$1,188,453
Student Support Services\$9,451,966Teaching & Learning\$576,417Transportation\$315,000Young Children & Families\$2,134,152
Executive Services & Business/Finance\$1,741,459Food Services\$1,214,691Covid-19 Relief Grants\$2,547,000Magnet School Assistance Program Grant\$1,731,563
Total Revenues
FUNDS MANAGED FOR OTHERS
Eastern CT Health & Medical Cooperative: \$12.441.830





# **MAKING** A

## Spotlighting How the LEARN Board

The LEARN Board of Directors has proven to be a driving force, leaving an indelible mark on both our agency and the region it serves throughout the 2022-2023 year. Their visionary leadership and strategic decision-making have ignited a series of positive outcomes that have not only bolstered our organization but have also enriched the lives of our valued stakeholders. In reflecting on the past year, we celebrate the numerous ways in which the Board's unwavering commitment and dedication have contributed to our success in fulfilling our mission and addressing the diverse needs of our students, educators, families, and the broader community.

Strategic Planning

Planning with a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan:

The Board demonstrated its commitment to long-term planning through its second consecutive year of investment in LEARN's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. This plan ensures that the agency's facilities and infrastructure are well-maintained and can support its mission and service effectively.

**Investment in Staff:** 

The Board's support for increasing wages and providing a retirement plan match for non-union employees demonstrated a commitment to valuing and investing in agency staff, which is crucial for maintaining a motivated and dedicated workforce.

Policy Updates
and Compliance: The Board's
effort to update policies to align with
current legislation ensured that LEARN remained compliant
with relevant laws and regulations and demonstrated a
commitment to ethical responsibility and good governance.

# N IMPACT

## of Directors Impacted the Region

#### Supporting Educational Initiatives:

The \$10M Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant; the \$860,400 special education grant through the RESC Alliance; the \$135,000 grant to the Richard Lounsbery Foundation; as well as the \$96,219 grant "Sustainers of the Sound" indicated the Board's commitment to advancing educational initiatives. These showcased a dedication to promoting broader educational opportunities and community engagement.



#### **Financial** Management and Innovation:

By approving an agency budget that supported



innovation, collaboration, and services to the region, the Board enabled LEARN to continue providing quality education and support to the community. This showed a commitment to financial stewardship while striving for continuous improvement.

### **Facility Expansion**

and Relocation: The continuation of the building

project at the Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy and the potential relocation of the LEARN Transition Academy showed the Board is taking steps to expand services and better meet the needs of students in the region.

#### **Vision for Early Childhood Education:**

The Board's visioning for a



regional early childhood center, including a self-contained special education program, highlighted a commitment to providing comprehensive educational opportunities from an early age.



# SCHOOL-BASED



# THE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

# The Friendship School

#### www.thefriendshipschool.org

The Friendship School (TFS) is a NAEYC accredited program whose staff nurtured the development of 484 children in the 2022-2023 school year. As part of LEARN's Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant, The Friendship School began the journey of transforming into a museum-themed magnet school. Students now spend time out in the community for museum experiences and the community now comes into the school for student-created learning exhibitions.

"The staff take the time to know each child individually."

- Parent of an enrolled student

"It is an inclusive, educational setting where my child thrives thanks to the routines and experiences."

Parent of an enrolled student

#### **STUDENTS**

484

3 Grades
PK 3: 34%
PK 4: 47%
Kindergarten: 19%





# REGIONAL MULTICULTURAL MAGNET SCHOOL



#### www.rmms.k12.ct.us

As a kindergarten through grade 5 International Baccalaureate (IB) school, the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) is a school community empowering students to evolve into proactive, empathetic, lifelong learners. The 2022-2023 year saw grade 5 students join Connecticut College's World Language Day, grade 3 students present endangered animal research projects, and kindergarten through grade 2 students join with their families to create literature-rich home environments through the RMMS Book Voyagers program.

"RMMS is a diverse school community that creates unique, personalized opportunities for each student."

- Parent of an enrolled student

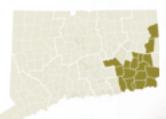
"Each child is seen as they are, loved, and able to reach their potential."

- Parent of an enrolled student

#### **STUDENTS**

**5**01





English Learners 16%

Special Education 15%

Free/

Reduced Lunch

65%

### 6 Grades

Kindergarten: 15%

1st: 17%

2nd: 17%

3rd: 17%

4th: 17%

5th: 17%





# MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

# O CONTROLL OF CHARLES AND A CONTROLL OF CONTROL OF CONTROL

#### www.msmhs.com

The Marine Science Magnet High School (MSMHS) is a grade 9 through grade 12 high school with a marine science theme. Through participation in LEARN's Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant, MSMHS took steps to expand that theme to better help students see a future for themselves in the field. Theme expansion included policy and advocacy, field work and research, and industry and technology. MSMHS created individualized pathways of learning to help students explore their passions and to expose students to a variety of college and career opportunities. U.S. News and World Report ranked MSMHS as the #4 high school in the state.

"LEARN magnet schools taught me about the importance of acceptance and the value of being around those who are different from me."

MSMHS student

WISIVII IS Student

"I am ready for my

#### **STUDENTS**

**2 7 1** 

24 Towns



English Learners 2%

Special Education 10%

college career after
MSMHS helped me learn
to approach things with
an open mind and to
pursue my passions."

MSMHS student

#### 4 Grades

9th: 28%

10th: 27%

11th: 23%

12th: 22%





# THREE RIVERS MIDDLE COLLEGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

# Three Rivers Middle College

#### www.threeriversmiddlecollege.org

Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School (TRMC) is a dual enrollment high school for students in grade 11 and grade 12. Recognized as the top high school in the state for students participating in dual enrollment college courses, the graduating class of 2023 accrued 1,100 college credits prior to their high school graduation. Eighteen of the graduating students exited high school having completed a full year of college.

"TRMC gave me opportunities that I did not know existed."

- TRMC student

"I gained the confidence
I needed at TRMC. Now,
I am ready to go on to
college. I know I can do it."

TRMC student

#### **STUDENTS**

**7** 9

13 Towns

English Learners 0%

Special Education 8%

2 Grades

11th: 46%

12th: 54%







LEARN directly provided schools, programs, services, and solutions to the southeastern Connecticut region of the state in 2022-2023. We also continued to provide a framework for other agencies to achieve their goals. We so appreciate the opportunity to work with educational experts, students, and families in other areas of our state. It is one of the many benefits of being a regional educational service center.

# Riverside Magnet School at Goodwin University

Riverside Magnet School is a Reggio Emilia-inspired pre-kindergarten through grade 5 elementary school. The school and its staff continued to offer flexible, full-day program options with a curriculum focused on literacy, numeracy, social, and physical skills.



# Connecticut River Academy at Goodwin University

The Connecticut River Academy Middle Level Program, grades 6 through 8, continued to use a technology and creative design theme to offer a preparative pathway that respects scholar voice and choice.

The Connecticut River Academy, grades 9 through 12, is an early college high school that continued its work using a hands-on innovation and technology theme to offer an inclusive, educational community.



# STORIES OF US





# RMMS AGENTS OF CHANGE

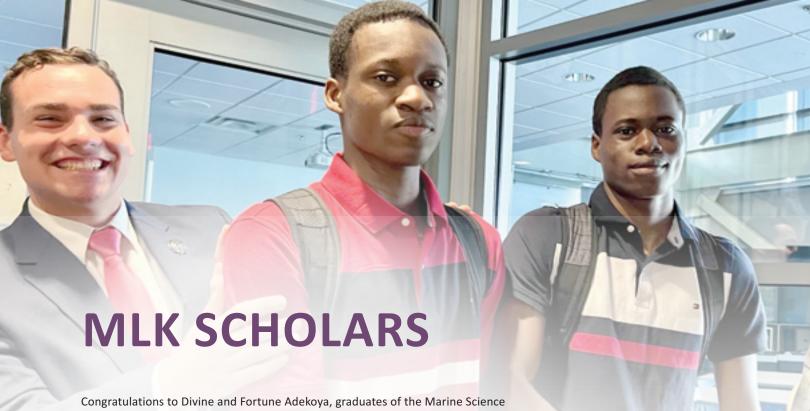
LEARN's Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) is committed to the International Baccalaureate (IB) approach and empowering students to create a more just and peaceful world. Each year, the grade 5 exhibition is a significant milestone where students demonstrate the attributes of being an IB learner through their culminating projects.

The variety of topics chosen by the students in the spring of 2023, such as health and well-being, industry and innovation, global hunger, gender equality, and economic development, showed their engagement with critical global issues. The actions of those students who focused on food insecurity exemplified their dedication to making a positive impact on their communities.

The steps taken by the students, including visiting local food pantries, developing community partnerships, and opening and operating their own RMMS food pantry, demonstrated their practical approach to addressing the challenges of food insecurity. Moreover, writing a grant to obtain a refrigerator to improve the quality of food provided to families reflected the students' ability to mobilize resources and advocate for better solutions.

By equipping students with research skills and encouraging them to act, RMMS is fostering a sense of responsibility and agency in their graduates. These experiences are preparing students to be active and engaged citizens who are ready to contribute positively to their global communities.

Overall, RMMS is successfully deepening its commitment to the IB approach by empowering students to create positive change, and the grade 5 exhibition serves as a tangible testament to the impact of their efforts.



Congratulations to Divine and Fortune Adekoya, graduates of the Marine Science Magnet High School, and Dehjah Drye, a graduate of Three Rivers Middle College Magnet High School. Divine, Fortune, and Dehjah were each awarded a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship (MLK Scholarship). The MLK Scholarship Trust Fund makes a positive impact by empowering students of color to pursue higher education and continue Dr. King's legacy.

LEARN is inspired to see young individuals like Divine, Fortune, and Dehjah being recognized for their dedication to learning and their understanding of Dr. King's mission. The MLK Scholarship Trust Fund not only acknowledges students' academic achievements but also takes into consideration their character and financial need, which shows the holistic approach of the rigorous selection process.

Each of these students has a unique career path ahead of them. Divine's pursuit of a career in medicine will undoubtedly contribute to the improvement of lives through healthcare. Fortune's choice to pursue aerospace engineering at the University of Connecticut is a promising step towards innovation and technological advancement. Dehjah's plans to enter the field of genetic counseling demonstrates a commitment to helping people through personalized and specialized healthcare. Together, they remind us of the influence that words can have in shaping perspectives and inspiring others, the importance of celebrating diversity and the positive impact it can have on individuals' self-esteem and motivation, and the importance of collaboration and community in achieving goals.

LEARN is proud to have such outstanding students as part of our Family of Schools. We have no doubt that Divine, Fortune, and Dehjah will continue to thrive and make a positive difference in the world. Their achievements are a testament to the success of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund in empowering future leaders, and we thank these students for choosing LEARN's Family of Schools as part of their educational journey.







"Words have power."

- Divine Adekoya

"I believe in the power of networking and building meaningful professional relationships."

Fortune Adekoya

"It was inspiring to see people who looked like me being celebrated."

- Dehjah Drye

# What are White Teachers Talking About?

Dr. Linda T. Darcy (she/ella)
Director of Teaching and Learning
LEARN - Old Lyme, Connecticut





## **DISCUSSION LEADER**

Every autumn, the National Summit for Courageous Conversation takes place, drawing in racial equity pioneers from across the United States and around the globe. The gathering serves as a platform for these leaders to engage in profound dialogues concerning systemic racism and its far-reaching effects on equal opportunity and accomplishments for all individuals. Tailored exclusively for educators, civic and community influencers, as well as other dedicated professionals, the Summit focuses on enhancing individual and organizational comprehension of racial literacy and consciousness. The goal is to eliminate the racially driven disparities that consistently manifest in achievement.

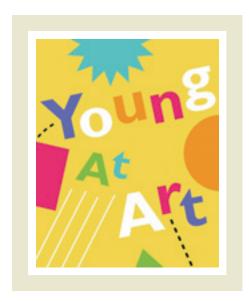
Dr. Linda T. Darcy, LEARN's Director of Teaching and Learning, accepted an invitation to present during the 12th Annual Summit. Her session titled "What are White Teachers Talking About?" included her research on culturally relevant pedagogy; educational leadership; and leading discussions of race, power, and privilege in the classroom. Dr. Darcy completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut. She spent the 2022-2023 school year doing what she does best; she used her almost two decades of experience as a classroom teacher and her additional service as a leader at the district level to provide professional learning for teachers to improve their craft.







# **YOUNG ARTISTS**



In the spring of 2023, the Mystic Museum of Art unveiled its much-anticipated annual youth exhibition. This showcase stands as the largest of its kind in the region, boasting an impressive array of over 250 submissions hailing from 20 local schools. Dubbed "Young at Art", this exhibition has become a remarkable avenue for nurturing the talents of young, local artists aged eighteen and below, granting them the unique privilege of seeing their artistic endeavors come to life within the esteemed confines of a museum setting.

During the span from mid-March to mid-April, the spotlight shone on students from schools that included The Friendship School and the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. LEARN's budding artists were granted the invaluable opportunity to actively engage in this creative platform, both by witnessing their artworks take center stage and by participating in the captivating journey of artistic exploration.





# OUR SERVICES

Equipping members of the educational community with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.



# STUDENT SUPPORT

Our Office of Student Support Services offers a range of programs and services aimed at meeting the diverse and complex needs of students in the region.



Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy & LEARN Transition Academy

Customized programming to help students succeed academically and socially provided to 75 students. Succes was evident in the return of six students to their home school district and the graduation of three students.



Specialty Area Assessments

Provided assessments in 15 specialty areas to identify and address specific challenges faced by students. These assessments assisted staff in tailoring interventions for each student's unique needs.



The Learning & Behavior Team

Focused on addressing the learning and behavioral challenges that students faced. The expertise of this team assisted in creating safe learning environments for students that enabled them to thrive academically and emotionally.



Regional Trauma & UPLIFT Program

Hired a Regional
Trauma-Informed Care
Coordinator who assisted
school districts in creating,
strengthening, and
implementing systemic
trauma-informed
practices in schools.



School Avoidance & Refusal Program

Tackled the issue of school avoidance and refusal among students with multiple and complex needs. The staff responsible for this program eased students into re-engagement in their education.



Customized Bridge Program

Designed for individual student needs, the program identified gaps in learning and aided students with their transitions through various stages of education and life.



Regional Consultative & Professional Learning Opportunities

Provided expertise to 23 school districts in the region.



# YOUNG CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Partnership with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

Enhanced early childhood education and support services in the region.



Continuous Quality
Improvement Supports

Provided continuous quality improvement supports to 2,094 children across 22 programs in the region. This ensured that early childhood programs maintained high standards and provided excellent education and care.



School Readiness
Grant Coordination

Served 600 children, ensuring those children and their families had access to high-quality early education and better preparation for school.









Consultative & Professional Learning Opportunities

Extended expertise to 30 programs, providing them with consultative and professional learning opportunities that improved their early childhood services.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Our Office of Teaching & Learning cultivates a culture of equity in education and crafts each program and service to meet the needs and objectives of our customers.



Multi-Language Learner Support

Led a movement to raise awareness that students with limited or interrupted formal education are

unique learners who need specialized supports. This movement included work with state legislators on the adoption of a definition for students with limited or interrupted formal education, recommendations on how we should support these learners, and identification of the tools necessary to help teachers address the unique and growing needs of this population.



**Sheltered Instruction Strategies** 

Trained 225 teachers in five districts on Sheltered Instruction Strategies

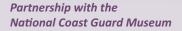
aimed at helping educators create more inclusive and supportive learning environments and making content more accessible for students learning English as an additional language.



**Equity Strategic Planning** 

Aimed at creating a comprehensive roadmap for an organization to promote inclusivity in all aspects of

its operations, our Office of Teaching & Learning team facilitated the crafting of four multi-year strategic equity plans, impacting over 7,000 students.



Committed to curriculum that is learner-centered and inquiry-based, our Office of Teaching &

Learning was chosen by the National Coast Guard Museum Association to join the effort in building a world-class museum. The National Coast Guard Museum will not only honor the heritage of the United States Coast Guard, but will also provide a gateway to discover Coast Guard life. Interactive exhibits and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)-based educational programs are expected to be a formidable part of the Museum experience. Our Office of Teaching & Learning will produce the curriculum units that will be the standard for learner-centered and inquiry-based learning.







Ensuring organizational and operational activities work in harmony to create a well-functioning and efficient organization that can adapt to change, achieve its objectives, and thrive.

## BUSINESS OFFICE

Striving for operational excellence, LEARN's Business Office Team, with expertise in educational business, codified LEARN's Business Office procedures in the 2022-2023 year and expanded its service work in the region.







#### Service Work in the Region

Provided operational services to the Integrated Day Charter School, Region #17, EASTCONN, and Hartford Public Schools. Services included:

- Accounts Payable
- Audit Finding Remediation
- Audit Preparation
- · Bank Reconciliation
- Grants Accounting
- Payroll
- Policies & Procedures
- Teacher Negotiation Analysis

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The work of our Office of Human Resources is people centric. With 650 employees in 10 locations, the focus was on the employee lifecycle: recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and separation.

#### **Employee Engagement**



Stay and exit surveys, individual and small group discussions, and roundtables were strategies employed to engage employees, identify celebrations and concerns, and craft solutions to needs.

#### **Workforce Development Partnerships**



Increased education and opportunities for individuals pursuing a paraeducator career path was a goal of our workforce development partnerships. Thanks to OIC New London County, we were able to attract and retain paraeducators to the field.

#### **Fingerprinting Services**



Focused on improved efficiency and customer service, our Office of Human Resources expanded automated fingerprinting services. LiveScan fingerprinting continued to be available to the region with expanded days and hours.

### IT OFFICE

LEARN's Office of Information Technology managed, maintained, and optimized LEARN's technology infrastructure and software to ensure smooth operations, data security, and improved productivity.

#### Service Work in the Region

Provided technology solutions, cyber security, and custom applications to New London Public Schools, Preston Public Schools, and Salem School District.









# **FISCAL YEAR**

	*	2021-2022 Audited Actuals	2022-2023 Revised Budget	2023-2024 Approved Budget				
CT River Academy Tuition at Goodwin	0	3,950,535	5,211,718	5,344,823				
CTRA Food Services, Free & Reduced	F	264,245	162,500	200,000				
CTRA Food Services	0	449	1,000	5,000				
CTRA Special Education Services	L	1,218,851	1,249,328	_				
CT River Academy Middle Grades Tuition at Goodwin	0	1,062,371	2,240,911	2,227,987				
CTRM Special Education Services	L	312,149	442,179	_				
Covid-19 Relief Grants	F	1,439,539	2,547,000	840,068				
Early Childhood Education School Readiness	S	1,560,027	1,754,396	1,620,811				
ECE Regional Programs, Misc	L	161,201	70,165	31,175				
ECE Regional Programs, Misc	S	190,649	309,591	131,263				
Goodwin Riverside Magnet School Tuition at Goodwin	0	5,047,597	4,757,637	4,761,370				
G-RMS Food Services / Free & Reduced	F	461,325	199,617	304,000				
G-RMS Food Services	0	684	1,000	5,000				
G-RMS Special Education Services	L	866,396	889,005	1.017.610				
Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)	F	2,668,946	1,731,563	1,917,610				
Management Business, Executive Services – Fingerprinting	O F	3,466 204,291	6,000 95,673	6,000				
MGT Food Services, Free & Reduced MGT Interest Income	0	45,941	50,000	360,000				
MGT Goodwin Partnership	0	1,179,307	1,292,321	474,833				
MGT Regional Services	L	36,900	103,488	328,250				
MGT RESC Membership	0	9,850	9,850	9,850				
MGT Technology & PowerSchool Consortium	L	110,481	253,800	299,775				
MGT Universal Service Fund Program (USF)	F	23,289	26,000	26,000				
Marine Science Magnet High School, State	S	2,183,718	2,183,718	2,183,718				
Marine Science Magnet High School, Local	L	1,661,501	1,694,563	1,736,839				
MSMHS, Coral Sales	Ō	13,061	26,567	27,000				
MSMHS, Special Education Services	L	391,794	386,337	286,338				
MSMHS, Food Services, Free & Reduced	F	175,437	67,000	51,148				
MSMHS, Food Services	0	8,992	75,000	75,000				
Offc of Teaching & Learning ELA/ELL (Title III)	F	88,531	76,515	40,550				
OTL Interdistrict & Other Misc Grants	S	102,358	23,570	_				
OTL Vocational Applied Technologies	F	85,397	90,277	90,277				
OTL Title Grants (Title I & II)	F	97,305	40,639	25,255				
OTL Training, Prof Development Workshops	L	211,425	275,666	285,000				
OTL Virtual High School, Virtual Learning Academy	L	106,525	69,750	42,990				
Regional Multicultural Magnet School, State	S	3,893,325	4,037,058	4,045,116				
Regional Multicultural Magnet School, Local	L	1,583,500	1,598,850	1,666,138				
RMMS Special Education Services	L	1,270,901	1,461,461	1,372,657				
RMMS Title Grants	F	151,086	164,731	157,971				
RMMS Magnet Kingdom (School Age Program)	O F	117,475	140,000	140,000				
RMMS Food Services, Free & Reduced	0	379,579	365,001	400,000				
RMMS Food Services RMMS State Grants	S	800 52,204	1,000	5,000				
SSS High School Programs	L	451,108	42,436 706,286	164,779 605,388				
SSS Ledyard Vo-Ag Special Education	L	365,611	300,000	003,388				
SSS State Grants	S	501,560	425,000	1,110,400				
SSS Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy	L	5,766,477	6,838,841	8,347,078				
SSS Related Services & Contracts/ABA Consulting	L L	1,931,721	105,000	192,050				
SSS Special Needs Summer School	L L	696,468	596,029	628,192				
SSS Transition Program	Ĺ	649,133	480,810	584,358				
The Friendship School, State	S	5,346,081	3,900,072	4,029,000				
The Friendship School, State Pre-K	S	769,768	1,187,529	1,519,875				
The Friendship School, Local	L	748,837	774,123	506,625				
The Friendship School, Special Education Services	L	726,288	900,402	704,914				
The Friendship School, Title Grants	F	251,656	137,915	137,915				
The Friendship School, Food Services, Free & Reduced	F	427,563	185,000	200,000				
The Friendship School, Food Services	0	2,071	50,000	50,000				
The Friendship School, Misc	0	10,200	10,200	10,200				
Three Rivers Middle Magnet High School, State	S	539,886	636,582	644,640				
Three Rivers Middle Magnet High School, Local	L	410,777	493,987	510,240				
TRMC Special Education Services	L	42,595	41,114	55,871				
TRMC Title Grants	F	_	16,770	16,770				
TRMC Food Services, Free & Reduced	F	18,770	11,575	15,000				
TRMC Food Services	0	232	325	5,000				
Transportation, CHOICE Program	S	211,220	315,000	178,425				
AGENCY TOTAL		53,261,425	54,337,441	51,964,778				

<sup>\*</sup> Federal (F), State (S), Local (L), Other (O)





LEARN continues as a proud member of the RESC Alliance. The RESC Alliance is a collaborative effort among the state's six regional educational service centers to provide increased access to valuable resources and cost savings for all public schools in the state.



The RESC Alliance continued Igniting Change, a multi-faceted, multi-year professional learning experience grounded in four professional learning pathways: Grading Reform, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Inclusive School Culture, and Equity-Centered Leadership.



LEARN works in partnership with the RESC Alliance to increase the number of teachers of color in Connecticut schools. This goal is achieved through the Connecticut Teacher Residency Program (CT TRP). The CT TRP prepares quality teacher candidates to create opportunities for all children and transform schools to be diverse and inclusive environments. We thank the partner districts in the LEARN region: Groton, Ledyard, New London, and Norwich.

## REGIONAL PARTNERS

ACES UP Connecticut Association of **ACES International** School Personnel Administrators Connecticut Association of Schools **Anytime Fitness** Association for Infant Mental Health Connecticut Association on Association of Educational Service Agencies Higher Education and Disability Connecticut Bureau of Aquaculture **B.P. Learned Mission** Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Ballestrini's Child Care and Early Learning Centers Boston University Connecticut College Connecticut Connege
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
Connecticut Department of Children and Families Boys and Girls Club of SECT Brian's Healing Hearts Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind Connecticut Department of Carelot Children's Center **Developmental Services** Connecticut Department of Energy and Carlton's Landing Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation Environmental Protections Central Connecticut State University Connecticut Department of Health Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Connecticut Department of Mental Health Charter Oak State College and Addiction Services Child and Family Agency of Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative Southeastern Connecticut Connecticut Health Foundation Child Health and Development Institute Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut Children's Trust Fund Children's Village Clinton Child Care Services Connecticut Pyramid Consortium Connecticut School, Family, and Community Partnership Clinton Public Schools Connecticut State Department of Education Colchester Public Schools Connecticut Teacher Residency Program Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Contemplative Insights Community Health Center Covenant Shelter of New London ConnCASE Connecticut Administrators of Cromwell Board of Education Programs for English Language Learners **Decadent Wellness** Connecticut After School Network **Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center** Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis Department of Aging and Disability Services Connecticut Association for Department of Developmental Disabilities Community Transportation
Connecticut Association for Department of Social Services Dime Bank the Education of Young Children Disabilities Network of Eastern CTDRA Architects Connecticut Association of East Lyme Pizza **Public School Superintendents** Eastern Connecticut State University Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board Easterseals Community and Disability Services **Educational Playcare Electric Boat Even Start Family Literacy Program** Flanders Baptist Church Florence Griswold Museum Fresh New London Fun.Play.Bark. Garde Arts Center Goodwill East Lyme **Goodwin University Groton Public Schools** Habitat for Humanity ReStore Healthcare Advocates International Integrated Day Charter School

Ledge Light Health District Ledyard Early Childhood Programs Ledyard Public Schools Lighthouse Group Lightspeed Technology Lyman Allyn Museum
Madison School for Young Children Magnet Schools of America Mayflower Montessori School Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Minuteman Press Mitchell College MLK Community Health Foundation Mohegan Sun Mystic Aquarium Mystic Museum of Art Mystic Seaport Mystic YMCA Nana's Byrek & Pizza National Association of English Learner Program Administrators National Coast Guard Museum Association Naval Submarine Base New England Assistive Technology New England Center for Hearing Rehabilitation New England Institute of Technology New England Science and Sailing New London Human Services Network New London Public Library New London Rotary Club Noble Construction North Stonington Early Learners North Stonington Public Schools Norwich Public Schools O & G Industries OIC of New London Our Lady of Mercy Preparatory Academy Play N Learn Preston Public Schools Project Oceanology QBS Crisis Prevention Training and Safe Crisis Management Quinebaug Valley Community College Quinnipiac University Red Barn Children's Center Regional School District #17 **RESC Alliance** r'Kids Infant/Toddler Center Safe Futures Sarah, Inc. School + State Finance Project Shore Line East Train Smith's Acres Southern Connecticut State University Special Olympics Springfield College Stonington Community Center Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. The Global Child Three Rivers Community College **UMASS Boston** United Community and Family Services **United States Coast Guard Sector** Long Island Sound Partnership in Education University of Connecticut University of Hartford University of St. Joseph Waterford Community Center Waterford Public Library Westbrook Early Childhood Council Western Governors University

William H. Backus Hospital

Lawrence and Memorial Hospital

# **MEMBER SERVICES**

	Chester	Clinton	Deep River	E. Haddam	E. Hampton	E. Lyme	Essex	Groton	Guilford	Ledyard	Madison	Montville	New London	N. Stonington	Norwich	Old Saybrook	Preston	Region #4	Region #17	Region #18	Salem	Stonington	Waterford	Westbrook	Other
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES																									
Business Operations															*				*						*
Human Resources: Fingerprinting	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information Technology													*		*		*				*				
PowerSchool / State Reporting Support								*								*	*								
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES																									
Behavior Services		*						*			*					*		*		*					
Consultative and Related Services		*						*	*			*								*					*
Nursing Supervision																			*						
Professional Learning								*																	
Ocean Avenue LEARNing Academy		*				*		*		*		*	*	*	*			*	*	*		*	*		*
LEARN Transition Academy, 18-22 Program												*	*		*								*		*
Young Children & Families		*						*		*			*	*								*			*
Other										*	*			*											*
		C	OFF	ICE	OF	TE/	\CH	IIN	G &	LE/	ARI	NIN	G												
Coaching												*											*		*
Curriculum Revision & Development						*						*											*		*
Equity Support						*				*					*		*						*		*
Multi-Language Learner Support	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Professional Learning	*		*		*	*	*	*			*	*					*		*	*			*		*
Roundtables & Councils	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TEAM	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*			*			*		*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
				9	SCH	00	LS	OF	СН	OIC	E														
Magnet Schools	*	*				*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Virtual High School				*						*				*				*	*	*					
Virtual Learning Academy						*		*		*					*										*

