



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

For Release: Monday, December 22, 2025

Contact: Matt O'Connor, AFT CT - 860/221-5696, moconnor@aftct.org

Comments on Federal Funding Cuts to Local Community Schools

AFT Connecticut leaders made the following public remarks on the U.S. Department of Education's latest cancellation of \$4.6 million in grants impacting students in Hartford and New Haven:

"Teachers and school staff know firsthand what our students need," said AFT Connecticut At-Large Vice President and Hartford Federation of Teachers President Carol Gale. "By abruptly cancelling our district's Full Service Community Schools grants, federal officials have turned a blind eye to the harm it will cause hundreds of struggling families. There will be long-term consequences for students and families who rely on the services provided by the staff who are impacted by these cuts."

"Students do their best in school when their needs are met," said AFT Connecticut Vice President for PreK-12 and New Haven Federation of Teachers President Leslie Blatteau. "Our district's grants make it possible for families to access mental health support, after-school programming, nutritious meals and so much more. Cutting off these services and supports to already underserved communities will only compound systemic challenges like austerity budget policies, staff turnover and increased attacks on immigrant families."

"In an era of restricted revenue, community schools are a good investment," said AFT Connecticut Vice President for Paraprofessionals and School-related Personnel (PSRPs) and Hartford Federation of Paraeducators President Shellye Davis. "When resources are organized around student success, they are more efficient and effective at boosting educational outcomes. Research shows that community schools improve academic achievement, high school graduation rates and reduce the kind of racial and economic gaps that have long plagued our community."

###

Links -

[U.S. Department of Education 2023-28 Full-Service Community Schools Program \(FSCS\) Grantees](#)

[Reimagining Education: A Student-Centered Approach to Deepen Supports in Hartford Public Schools Integrating Full-Service Community Schools](#)
[Clifford W Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc. Grand Avenue Learning Corridor Partnership Grant Proposal \(New Haven Public Schools FCSC Partner\)](#)

AFT Connecticut includes more than 100 local unions throughout the state, including three affiliates collectively representing nearly 5,000 certified educators and non-certified support personnel in Hartford and New Haven. Visit aftct.org for more information and follow the labor federation on Instagram at @aftconnecticut, Facebook at AFT Connecticut and Bluesky at @aftct.bsky.social.

Healthcare
Higher Education
Public Employees
PSRP
Teachers

35 Marshall Road
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860/257-9782
Fax: 860/257-8214
Toll Free: 888/398-3373
www.aftct.org

Jan Hochadel
PRESIDENT

John Brady, RN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Brown
SECRETARY-TREASURER

VICE PRESIDENTS
Joan Andrews
Stuart Beckford
Leslie Blatteau
Dennis Bogusky
Heather Brauth, RN
Anne-Marie Cerra, RN
Shellye Davis
John DiSette
Carol Gale
Bill Garrity, RN
Megan Graham
Trent Harrison
Makenzi Hurtado
Kristen Malloy-Scanlon
Lauren Mancini-Averitt
Steve McKeever
Peter Morenus
Walter O'Connor, RN
Mike Reynolds
Sue Saluru
Ally Sexton
Janice Stauffer, RN
Mary Symkowicz
Louise Williams
Mary Yordon