

Rev. Chinma Uche PhD, MDiv, CT
CT Commission on Energy Technology

Dr. Chinma Uche is a nationally recognized educator and leader in mathematics and computer science education with extensive experience in curriculum development and teacher leadership. She serves on the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology and focuses on equitable access and preparing students to thrive in an AI-driven world.

Lon Seidman, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education

Lon Seidman is the Chairman of the Essex Board of Education and a member of the Region 4 Board of Education. He also serves as CABE's First Vice President.

Maureen Brummet, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools

Dr. Brummett is an educator with over 38 years of experience. She has been the Superintendent for Newington Public Schools since 2019. Prior to that she served as Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Special Education in Plainville Community Schools.

Sen. John Kissel, Ranking Member-Judiciary Committee

Sen. John Kissel is a Connecticut State Senator for the 7th District, representing East Granby, Ellington, Enfield, Granby, Somers, Suffield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks. He serves as a Ranking Member of the Judiciary, Regular Review Committees & the Select Committee on Special Education alongside serving on the Finance, Revenue, & Bonding and General Law Committees.

Sen. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, Chair Government Oversight

Sen. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox is a Connecticut State Senator for the 22nd District, representing Bridgeport, Trumbull, and Monroe, and a legal studies professor at Quinnipiac University, where she teaches and researches constitutional law and civic engagement. She serves as the Senate chair of the Government Oversight Committee, the Regulations Review Committee, and Select Committee on Special Education alongside Vice Chairing the Judiciary & Higher Education and Employment Committees.

Adrienne DeLucca, Chief Legal Counsel, CEA

Attorney DeLucca has almost thirty years of experience in Labor Law and has spent the past fourteen years at CEA, most recently being promoted to General Counsel. Prior to coming to CEA, she was a Manager of Labor Relations for Sikorsky Aircraft, worked in a small boutique Employment and Labor law firm and spent fourteen years in the Middletown City Attorney's Office serving the last four of those years as Deputy City Attorney.

James Demetriades, AFT Connecticut Legal

Attorney Demetriades is a partner of the Ferguson, Doyle and Chester. P.C. firm that represents AFT Connecticut and affiliated locals in matters of litigation concerning Employment and Labor Law.

2026 Legislative Agendas: Scan Below!



#PROTECTOURKIDS&COMMUNITIES

2026 CT EDUCATION ISSUES SUMMIT

**January 28th
9:30AM-1:30PM
Capitol Room
310**



AFT Connecticut
Education | Healthcare | Public Services



Agenda

- 9:30AM **Welcome & Introductions**
- 9:38AM **CGA Session Preview**
Reps. Jennifer Leeper & Kevin Brown
- 9:50-10:30AM **Panel Discussion: Educator Workforce**
Moderator: Patrice McCarthy, CAFE Exec Director
- 10:35-10:55AM **Remarks - Fmr Secy. of Education Miguel Cardona**
- 10:55-11:35AM **Panel Discussion: Improving Educational Outcomes**
Moderator: Fran Rabinowitz, CAPSS Exec Director
- 11:45AM **Break & Serve Lunch**
- 12:00-12:40PM **Lunch Discussion - Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, Josh Cowen & AFT President Randi Weingarten, Moderator: Jan Hochadel, AFTCT & CT Senate**
- 12:45-1:20PM **Panel Discussion: Job Protections**
Moderator: Kate Dias, CEA President
- 1:25-1:30PM **Closing Comments & Adjourn**

Honored Participants



Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D. - 12th US Secy. of Ed

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona served as the 12th U.S. Secretary of Education after a distinguished 20+ year career as a classroom educator, administrator & commissioner from Meriden, Connecticut, the same school system he attended as a child and began his career as an elementary school teacher in.



Dr. Joshua Cowen, Ed.D.

Josh Cowen is a nationally recognized author, speaker and public school advocate. His book *The Privateers* is an inside look at school voucher politics and how they hurt working families. Josh also advises policymakers across the country on education policy and platforms.



Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-5)

Jahana Hayes, a former history teacher and 2016 National Teacher of the Year, has represented Connecticut's 5th District in Congress since 2018, becoming the first Black woman to hold the seat. She brings her lived experience from the classroom to her work on the Education & Workforce and Agriculture Committees, advocating for equal opportunity for all.



Randi Weingarten, J.D. - AFT President

Randi Weingarten is the president of AFT, representing 1.8 million professionals in education, healthcare and public service. A prominent advocate for school funding and labor rights, she has led the union since 2008 to champion equitable opportunities for all students and a voice for the educators and support personnel they depend on.

Panelist Bios:

Hannah Spinner, CEA Aspiring Educators Program (CEA AEP) State Chair

Hannah is a current graduate student at the University of Connecticut studying Curriculum and Instruction. As statewide AEP chair she works to promote educator quality, community engagement, racial & social justice, and political action alongside and for future teachers.

Kristen Record, Connecticut State Board of Education member & 2011 Connecticut Teacher of the Year

Kristen is a physics teacher at Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT. She has engaged in STEM education policy work, presented professional learning on topics such as enhancing teacher leadership and advocacy, STEM teaching pedagogy, and Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies. In 2024, Kristen was appointed to serve on the CT State BOE, where she sits on the Accountability and Support Committee and the Legislation and Policy Development Committee.

Kiana Foster-Morrow, 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year

Kiana Foster-Morrow is an educator, activist, and lifelong learner who is committed to empowering her students through culturally sustaining and human rights centered learning. She is honored to serve as Connecticut's 2024 State Teacher of the Year.

Don Askew, 2024 Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year

Don Askew is an award-winning paraprofessional educator at Maloney High School in Meriden, where he won Connecticut's Paraeducator of the Year in 2023. He focuses on the "whole child approach" in education, emphasizing the importance advancing students social and emotional skills inside and outside the classroom.

Jan Perruccio, Essex BOE, Former Old Saybrook Superintendent

Jan Perruccio is an educator with over 36 years of teaching and administration experience. She retired from public education in 2024 and continues to work to support others in the profession, from teachers aspiring to be administrators to sitting superintendents. She serves on the Essex Board of Education.

Rep. Maryam Khan, Chair-Select Committee on Sp. Ed

Rep. Maryam Khan represents Windsor and Hartford in the Connecticut House of Representatives, is the House Chair of the Select Committee on Special Education, and is the first Muslim member of the CT House of Reps. She is tireless in her advocacy on education and equity, stemming from her experience as a special education teacher.

J. Seth Korn, Chairman, CT School Counselors Assoc.

With 15 years of experience in education, Seth has dedicated his career to school counseling. He currently serves as the Director of School Counseling for Newington Public Schools and as co-chair of the Connecticut School Counselor Association (ASCA).

