

CONNECTICUT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

MARCH 21, 2020

MYSTIC MARRIOTT HOTEL
625 NORTH ROAD, GROTON

CONFERENCE AND
REGISTRATION
INFORMATION



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

While this conference is geared toward early career educators, all members are welcome to register.

- * Register at cea.org under Upcoming Events.
- * Conference is free to CEA members.
- * In case of inclement weather, call CEA at 1-800-842-4316 or 860-525-5641 for the status of this conference.
- * If you have questions, contact Mary Behrens at 1-800-842-4316, 860-725-6320, or maryb@cea.org.

#CEAECEC2020

AGENDA

8:30 am / Registration and Continental Breakfast

**9:00 am / Welcome, CEA President Jeff Leake
Opening Session**

10:00 am / Workshops: Session I

11:30 am / Break

11:45 am / Workshops: Session II

1:15 pm / Lunch

WORKSHOPS

All workshops are presented twice except for “Planning for the Future: Pension Issues for Early Career Teachers,” which will only be presented once in Session I from 10:00–11:30 am.

BE A TEACHER LEADER: HOW TO STAND OUT IN THE EARLY YEARS

With everything that early career educators have on their plates, it can be difficult to find the time or muster the confidence to present ideas and collaborate with veteran teaching colleagues. In this session, participants will explore how to be teacher leaders within their schools, districts, communities, state, and beyond. The presenter will share how she applied what she learned about teacher leadership in college to her first four years in the profession, and participants will have the opportunity to collaborate with each other, share ideas, and reflect on their current practice. They will leave empowered, with a concrete plan for emerging as teacher leaders at their schools. **High school, middle school, elementary school**

DIRECTION, CONSISTENCY, AND BALANCE: A BEGINNING EDUCATOR’S SURVIVAL GUIDE

Beginning educators are expected to develop their teaching style, manage behaviors in the classroom, and handle myriad other responsibilities, all while maintaining their own personal lives and obligations. This workshop serves as a guide to beginning educators, providing practical advice and helping participants self-evaluate and develop strategies to improve their teaching and thrive both personally and professionally. **High school, middle school**

DYSLEXIA 101: WHAT NEW TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW

What is dyslexia, how does it impact students, and what can educators do to help? Come learn more about what dyslexia really is—and isn’t. We’ll dispel myths and give you a greater understanding of the numerous laws passed in Connecticut in the last several years aiming to help students who struggle with reading and spelling. **High school, middle school, elementary school**

EMPOWERING LEARNERS THROUGH SELF-ASSESSMENT AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICES

How do educators provide an innovative learning environment that empowers students and encourages them to independently reflect on and adapt their work throughout the year? How is this learning assessed and archived for future use in grades 6-12? Explore strategies for promoting student independence and ownership in learning and achievement. See what happens when students are placed in the “driver’s seat”—assessing their own and others’ work, turning that feedback into actionable steps through reflection and goal setting, and achieving growth and improvement. Exemplars will include interactive notebooks, sketchnoting, digital portfolios, test corrections, and 3D models that demonstrate the use of peer assessment and self-assessment. **High school, middle school**

EMPOWERING STUDENTS AS ACTIVISTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

This session focuses on integrating activism and social justice into the curriculum and highlights ways of starting classroom conversations that empower students to strive for justice and equity. Participants will learn how to successfully plan a lesson/unit related to activism, discuss various strategies, and come away with resources for doing this work in their own classrooms. At the end of the session, there will be time for an open dialogue where participants will be able to discuss what they are already doing in their classrooms and how they plan to do move forward. **Middle school, elementary school**



WORKSHOPS / CONTINUED

HOW TO MAKE DATA MATTER

Developing meaningful, data-based interventions in the general education classroom can seem like a Herculean task. Fortunately, several data collection methods take only seconds to use once they're set up—and can make teachers' lives easier. A former middle school special education and art teacher takes participants through a variety of methods that maximize productivity, classroom management, and fun. **Middle school, elementary school**

IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE READING AND WRITING WORKSHOP IN THE PRIMARY CLASSROOM

How do you get your youngest learners to be strong readers and writers? Learn strategies for organizing and implementing a reading and writing workshop like a seasoned professional! **Elementary school**

INCORPORATING INQUIRY: USING THE QUESTION FORMULATION TECHNIQUE TO ENHANCE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Inquiry is at the heart of learning and is a fundamental element of the capacity to take action. With an emphasis on bolstering student engagement, participants in this session will learn about the value of embedding inquiry throughout their lesson plans and will become familiar with a unique approach to inquiry: the Question Formulation Technique. Regardless of your grade level, years of experience, or content area, by gaining a deeper understanding of inquiry, you will be better positioned to enrich students' learning experiences and expand the capacity of your colleagues to implement innovative and engaging instructional practices. **High school, middle school, elementary school**



LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD IN MATHEMATICS FOR BLACK AND LATINO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

An experienced teacher discusses common student attitudes and beliefs around mathematics; how implicit biases can shape the way educators teach and engage students in mathematics; why engaging all students, especially black and Latino students, in social justice mathematics (SJM) is valuable; and how to introduce SJM to elementary students. Help students see how people use math to solve difficult problems every day and learn different ways of integrating Common Core State Standards in mathematics as students find ways to solve social justice issues that they feel are important to them. A roleplaying activity allows participants to experience how students feel during a “typical” math block. Participants will discuss how SJM can be implemented in their classrooms. **Middle school, elementary school**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: PENSION ISSUES FOR EARLY CAREER TEACHERS

First Session Only 10:00-11:30 am

You may be years away from retirement, but it's never too early to start planning! This workshop provides an overview of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System with a particular emphasis on issues of interest to teachers in the early phase of their career (i.e., less than ten years of service), although all CEA members are welcome!

Come gather the information you need to answer the following questions—and more:

- How does the retirement system work?
- Can I get retirement credit for other work I've done?



Register at cea.org under Upcoming Events.

WORKSHOPS / CONTINUED



- What happens if I decide to work part-time or take a leave of absence?
- What are my options if I decide to leave teaching?
- How long do I have to work to collect a pension?
- I have heard that my Social Security benefits may be affected. Is that true?

High school, middle school, elementary school

STREAMLINE YOUR GRADING TIME

Learn various strategies for streamlining your grading to save time (and your sanity). This workshop focuses on how to make the most of electronic tools such as EdPuzzle and Google Forms as well as how to create a rubric for every need that also uses a fair grading scale. Please bring a laptop and some ideas for upcoming assignments/assessments that you'd like to work with. **High school, middle school**

TEN STEPS TO PROFICIENT

This interactive session begins with a brief overview of the statutory requirements regarding teacher evaluation in Connecticut and breaks down the various components of the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, with a focus on the aspects most relevant to teachers early in their careers. Also discussed will be the

provisions of ESSA and an exploration of how they could impact the future of educator evaluation in Connecticut. After the overview, the presentation focuses primarily on helping

early career educators achieve a proficient or higher rating—demonstrating how to prepare for a successful preconference, plan for a classroom observation, and set student learning objectives that are rigorous but attainable. The session is facilitated by a former school administrator and evaluator, who shares tips and “inside” secrets to help prepare early career educators for a successful evaluation. **High school, middle school, elementary school**

THE NEW AGE OF BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

This session dives into classroom management strategies centered around students' social-emotional learning. Participants will discuss how classroom and behavior management is improved by combining social-emotional learning with the traditional principles of planning, preparation, environment, relationships, and routines. You will walk away from this workshop with a clear vision of how to effectively manage your classroom and student behavior by blending traditional techniques with social-emotional learning. **Middle school, elementary school**

USING MINDFULNESS TO KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED

Are you constantly addressing distractions and behavioral issues transferred from your students' previous classes? Do you have trouble getting students to focus at the beginning of class? Mindfulness techniques in the classroom are proven to reduce students' stress and enhance their attentiveness to the present. Higher levels of mindfulness are also associated with improved grades, higher standardized test scores in math and English, better attendance, and fewer disciplinary issues. In this session, you will practice mindfulness techniques that you can employ immediately in your classroom to help sharpen students' attentiveness and prepare for any lesson. Participants will receive strategies and materials developed using the latest data from Harvard University's Center for Educational Policy Research. **High school, middle school, elementary school**



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