



aces

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# CULTIVATING SUCCESS

The Growth of ACES and its People

[www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)



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The Growth of ACES and its People

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



205 SKIFF STREET • HAMDEN, CT 06517

(203) 498-6800 / [www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)

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Dear ACES Community,

It is with great pride that I present to you our 2023-2024 Annual Report, themed *Cultivating Success: The Growth of ACES and Its People*. This year's theme beautifully encapsulates the journey of growth and transformation that ACES has experienced, as well as the personal and professional growth of our incredible staff, many of whom started their journeys as students within our programs.

As I reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, I am particularly inspired by the stories of our staff members who have come full circle—from students in our classrooms to educators, leaders, and colleagues within our organization. Their dedication and commitment to ACES represent the heart of our mission, and their journeys are a testament to the nurturing environment we strive to provide, one where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. The cover page proudly features former students who have become valued staff members, highlighting the very essence of our mission: Kristen Baldini, Jermaine Barrett, Elizabeth Bissell, Johanna Bresnick, Whitney Breland, William Brennan, Margie Chardiet, Michaela Coppola, Donovan Doviak, Brett Epstein, Saul Fussiner, Nia James, Michael Jefferson, Tianna Mappa, Nazorine Paglia, David Sanchez, Ingrid Schaeffer, Kevin Walton Jr., and Kaleb Walton.

The 2023-2024 school year has been a period of significant growth for our agency, demonstrating our dedication to addressing the evolving needs of the educational communities we serve. At ACES at Chase, we are thrilled to introduce a 9th-grade class for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, establishing the foundation for a comprehensive high school experience with plans to add additional grades in the years ahead. This expansion is a crucial step in ensuring a seamless educational journey for our students from middle school through high school.

Our ACES International program has continued to flourish, with the opening of a new ACES International Preschool and Childcare Center last year and another location set to open during the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the growth of their Trade Workforce Initiative, a program for young adults, reflects our dedication to preparing students for success in an increasingly global and dynamic workforce.

ACES at Ansonia continues to thrive, with increasing participation from school districts and students. This collaborative model has proven to be a tremendous success, offering tailored educational solutions that empower our partner districts and drive student achievement.

We also recognize the importance of providing specialized education to our most vulnerable students. Our ACES Youth Justice and Education Programs, which now encompass five distinct alternative education programs, are designed to support students requiring diversion through academic instruction, real-world learning experiences, and extended support from local and state providers. Our innovative efforts in this area have gained recognition from the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) and other state-level justice agencies, underscoring our commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of these students.

In response to our growing enrollment and the increasing needs of our students, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new assistant principal positions. These roles have been established at Village School and within our Youth Education Programs to ensure that we continue to provide the highest level of support and leadership for our expanding student body.


The expansion of ACES Up is another exciting development, providing innovative solutions for schools and communities across our region. From clean air solutions to solar panel installations and EV charging stations, ACES Up is at the forefront of creating sustainable, healthy learning environments for future generations.

As our agency continues to grow, so does our team. This year, we are proud to have reached a milestone of over 1100 dedicated staff members. Each of you plays a critical role in making ACES the extraordinary place it is, and I am deeply grateful for your hard work, passion, and commitment to our shared mission.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the growth we have achieved will serve as a strong foundation for the future. Together, we will continue to nurture and support the students, families, and communities we serve, helping them to spread their wings and reach new heights.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

With gratitude,



Thomas M. Danahy, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, ACES

# Executive Leadership Council



**Thomas M. Danehy, Ed. D.**  
Executive Director



**Timothy Howes**  
Deputy Executive Director



**William Rice**  
Assistant Executive Director of Operations



**Rebecca Cuevas**  
Director of Human Capital Development



**Emily Freel**  
Director of Core Knowledge



## Mission

ACES is dedicated to enhancing and transforming lives through education, innovation, and leadership.

## Vision

To create an equitable and socially just world one life at a time.

## Organizational Beliefs

- Each individual has inherent worth
- All individuals can learn
- High expectations and effort are essential for higher achievement
- Quality education provides the foundation for the success of the individual and community
- Diversity strengthens an organization
- Individuals are responsible for their own actions
- Everyone has a responsibility to each other and to contribute to the common good
- Honesty and respect are essential for building trusting relationships
- A positive attitude enhances performance
- Collaboration enhances productivity and generates creativity
- Families are essential partners in education
- The willingness to change is necessary for individuals to grow and organizations to thrive



# ABOUT ACES

ACES (Area Cooperative Educational Services) is dedicated to enhancing and transforming lives through education, innovation, and collaboration. Serving the Greater New Haven area and beyond, ACES provides a wide range of educational services and programs designed to meet the diverse needs of our communities.

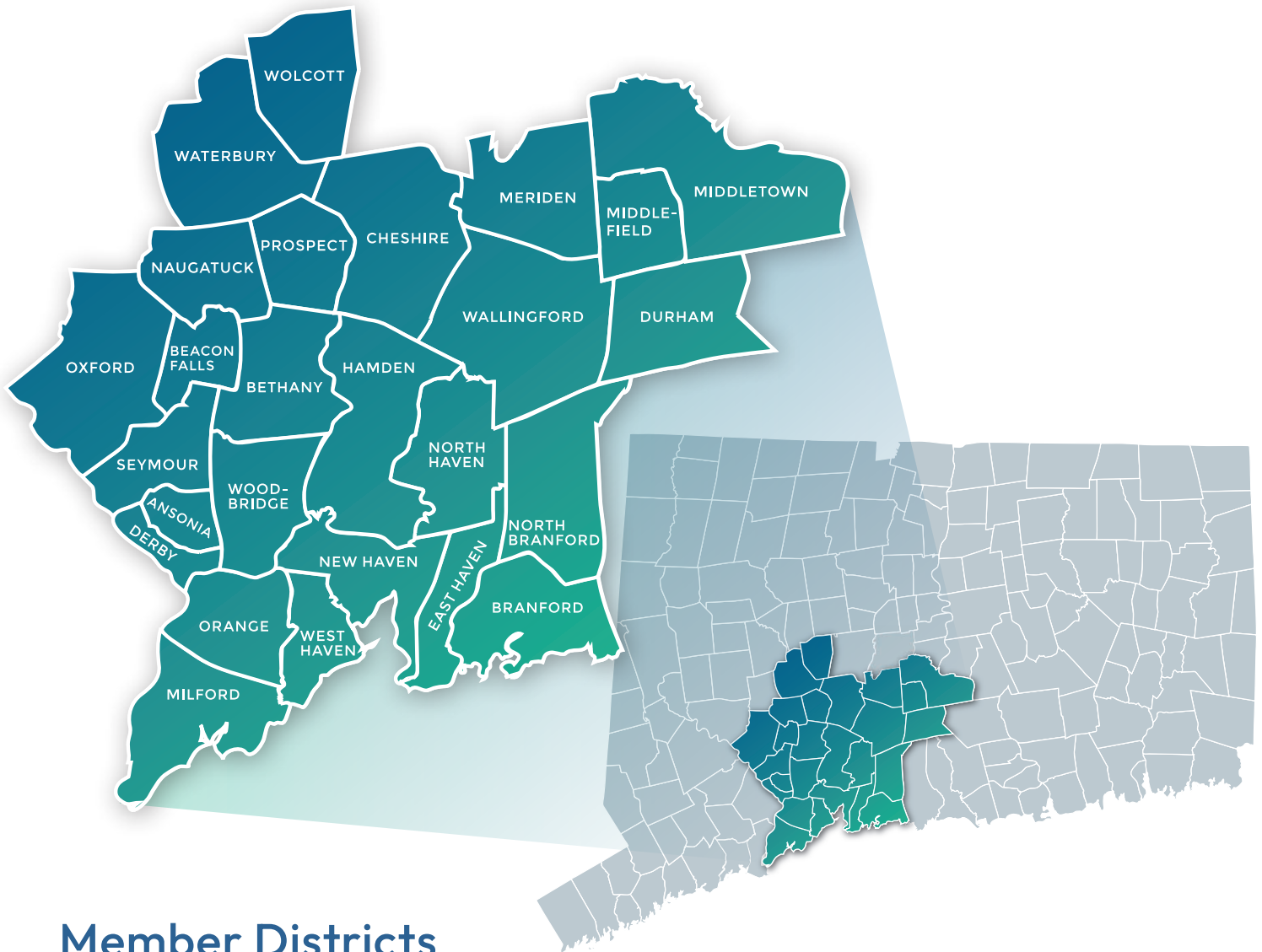
As a regional educational service center, ACES operates as both a non-profit and a service organization. We function as a school district serving more than 2,000 students across three magnet schools, seven special education schools, and five alternative education programs. Additionally, we support many more students and educational professionals throughout the region through our comprehensive Services Division.

We offer specialized education programs for students from preschool through adulthood, ensuring that every individual has access to the resources and support they need to succeed. Our Life Skills program, beginning at age 23, is designed to equip adults with the practical skills necessary for independent living and community integration.

In addition to our educational services, ACES also provides professional development, technology solutions, operational support to school districts, and more, enhancing the overall quality of education in the region. The Open Choice and Magnet School programs provide parents and students with diverse educational options, fostering an inclusive environment that promotes academic excellence and personal growth. Our commitment to innovation and excellence makes ACES a vital resource for students, educators, and communities alike.

Together, we are ACES—dedicated to excellence in education and committed to empowering every individual to reach their full potential.

To learn more into about ACES and its impactful initiatives, we invite you to explore [www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org).



## Member Districts

- Ansonia
- Bethany
- Branford
- Cheshire
- Derby
- East Haven
- Hamden
- Meriden
- Middletown
- Milford
- Naugatuck
- New Haven
- North Branford
- North Haven
- Orange
- Oxford
- Regional District #5 (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge)
- Regional District #13 (Durham, Middlefield)
- Regional District #16 (Beacon Falls, Prospect)
- Seymour
- Wallingford
- Waterbury
- West Haven
- Wolcott
- Woodbridge



SCHOOL DISTRICT	MEMBER	OFFICE
Ansonia	Rich Bshara	
Bethany	Susan Bradford	
Branford	Ellen Michaels	
Cheshire	Ann Marie Cullinan	
Derby	Laura Harris	
East Haven	(Vacant)	
Hamden	Greta Johnson	
Meriden	(Vacant)	
Middletown	Vacant	
Milford	Mike Smith	Executive Board
Naugatuck	Ethel Grant	Vice Chairperson
New Haven	(Vacant)	
North Branford	Kim Dawson	
North Haven	Martin Rudnick	
Orange	Susan Riccio	Chairperson
Oxford	(Vacant)	
Regional District #5	Carol Oladele	
Regional District #13	Lindsay Dahlheimer	Executive Board
Regional District #16	(Vacant)	
Seymour	(Vacant)	
Wallingford	Ray Ross	
Waterbury	Thomas Van Stone	Fiscal Agent
West Haven	Kim Kenny	
Wolcott	Roberta Leonard	Executive Board
Woodbridge	(Vacant)	



**Susan Riccio**  
Chairperson



**Ethel Grant**  
Vice Chairperson



**1100**

Total Employees



**\$120M**

Total Budget



**26**

Buildings Owned & Operated by ACES

**25**

Communities in the ACES Region

**80**

Districts Served by ACES

**15**

ACES Schools and Educational Programs

**7**

Collaborative Educational Programs

**1,393**

ACES Magnet School Students

**774**

ACES Special Education Students

**2,167**

Total ACES Students

**ACES ACCESS / VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

**75**

Businesses Working With ACES Vocational Programs

**130**

Total ACCESS Program Participants

**126**

ACES High School Students Participating in ACES Vocational Programs

**CLINICAL SERVICES** (Encompassing Assistive Tech, Behavior Services, OT/PT)

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

**17**

Districts/Agencies Served

**88**

Schools Served

**249**

Students Served

**BEHAVIOR SERVICES**

**17**

Districts Served By ACES Behavior Services and Autism Programs

**21**

Insurance-Based ABA Service Programs

**EXTENSION THERAPY SERVICES**

**20**

Districts/ Agencies Served By ACES Extension Therapy Services

**116**

Schools Served By ACES Occupational And Physical Therapists

**1806**

Students Served By ACES Occupational And Physical Therapists

**EARLY HEAD START**

**96**

Children Served in Early Head Start - Birth to 3

**15**

Expectant Mothers Served in Early Head Start

**14**

Communities Participated in Early Head Start

INTERNATIONAL

17

Countries

ACES advanced its work in its 17 partner countries by bridging collaborative opportunities to US educators for professional enrichment in Spain, Portugal, and Japan.

45

States

As the AESA Global Office, ACES begins its work across the U.S. as the national organization's programmer to international relations.

12

Campuses

ACES became the first state-approved international provider to CT State Community College for 12 campus locations that will offer a mix of in-person, online and hybrid programs to international students from around the world.

8

Educators

ACES facilitated its first Summer STEAM Academy with eight Connecticut educators in the Shandong province to over 500 students and 100 educators.

OPEN CHOICE

12

Districts Participated

44

Schools Participated

371

Students Served

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

133

Educators Enrolled in ACES ARC Programs

5

ARC Cohorts

1,319

Educators Participating in Professional Development Opportunities Facilitated by PDSI

REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION (RSET)

24

Districts Served by RSET

318

Special Education Students Transported

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

7

Districts Served

67

Programs Supported

3,920

End-Users Supported

140

Workshops Offered

570

Data Privacy Contract Reviews and Applications Supported

67

Projects Completed

4,201

Service Requests Completed

1,435

RESA Alliance Canvas Courses Supported

119

RESA Alliance Canvas Course Developers Supported

10,533

RESA Alliance Canvas Participants Supported

NETWORK SERVICES

6

Businesses and Districts Served

3,520

End-Users Supported

5,257

Devices Maintained

5,825

Services Completed

TRANSPORTATION

425

ACES Students and Clients Transported

175

Vehicles in ACES Fleet

1 Million +

Fleet Miles Driven by ACES Drivers

# 2023-2024 ACES AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

## ACES International Highlights

### ACES Office of International Education Celebrates New Partnership with AESA

The ACES Office of International Education proudly announces a new turning point as the official business partner of the Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA). This partnership has brought ACES to the forefront of AESA's mission to expand its global reach, bridging the United States to international education partners around the world. With AESA representing 45 states across the U.S., ACES International serves as the AESA Global Office, facilitating global programming and cultivating new partnerships in key countries across Europe and Asia.

In April 2025, ACES International will host AESA's inaugural leadership delegation to Korea and Singapore, bringing together a 30-member team of national AESA leaders. This delegation will focus on connectivity with executive educators and institutions, sharing best practices and conducting research. Participants will return to their states equipped with new knowledge, advancing international relations and promoting global relevance across U.S. education systems.

This milestone signals the beginning of ACES International's vision in advancing global competency, thought exchange, resource sharing, and professional services within AESA's vast network. ACES will lead communications and introductions with prospective country partners, fostering collaborative projects that promote deeper connections in education on a global scale.

Looking ahead, ACES International will continue to prioritize international partnerships with plans for collaboration in Europe set to launch in Fall 2025. This partnership with AESA marks a significant step in strengthening the global presence of U.S. education, ensuring that American students, educators, and institutions remain at the forefront of global education excellence.

### ACES International Welcomes Translation Services

ACES International welcomes Translation Services to its offices as a service for American and international institutions. **Translation Services** provides both quality verbal interpretation and written document translation for clients within educational settings, businesses and individual requests. Every request is distinctive, working within specific needs of the client to provide the highest quality translation and interpretation services available. ACES International currently works within several local and out-of-state districts, to provided services to area businesses. These services will be directed in our collaboration with country partners to support priorities for global communication across countries.



### Advancement in Global Competencies

Summer 2024 marked a monumental advancement in programing to 500 students and educators through the ACES International Innovation Academies that included both foreign and American students. In its first program at Yale University, ACES fostered comprehensive learning activities for Capstone research that connected students to Yale faculty and graduate students for a deep dive into content expertise and exploration. During its STEM Academy hosted at ACES in Hamden, CT, American and international students came in daily contact with experts in the fields of STEM for TED talk-like seminars, cultural enrichment, and personal pursuit into areas of career interests. The students and educators visited universities that included partner institutions, Post University, Quinnipiac University, and Yale University for a firsthand experience into college and career. Each of the two-week comprehensive programs entailed itinerary travel such as NYC and Boston. Daily schedules fostered an immersive academic stay in Connecticut through intercultural exchange, academic enrichment, and cultural experiences dedicated to global competencies.

In its first overseas innovation initiative, Eight Connecticut educators travelled to Jinan, China of the Shandong Province to facilitate the first ACES-Shandong STEAM Academy. Educators from the fields of Visual Arts, Theatre, Engineering, Environmental Science, Biology, Earth Science and English Literature offered daily instruction in these fields with hands-on activities. Attending students engaged in new learning experiences of instruction while observing educators were provided with professional development in methodology and philosophy. The Connecticut educators were celebrated across the Jinan region with accolades from universities and schools converging on their visit to connect in intercultural thought exchange.



## ACES at Ansonia Highlights

### Gallery Walk

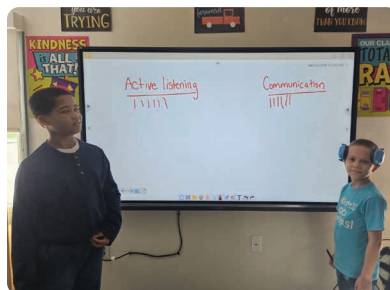
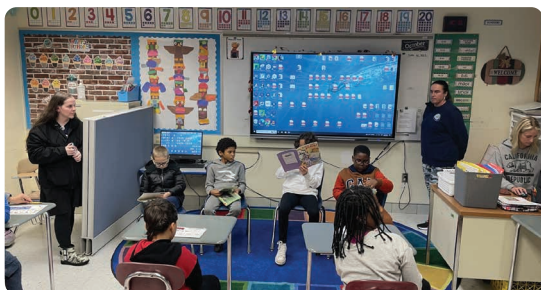
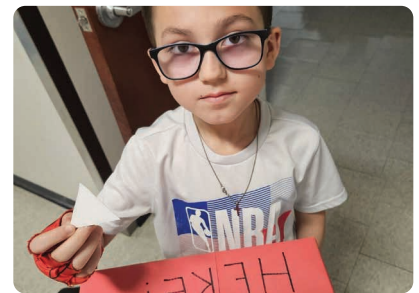
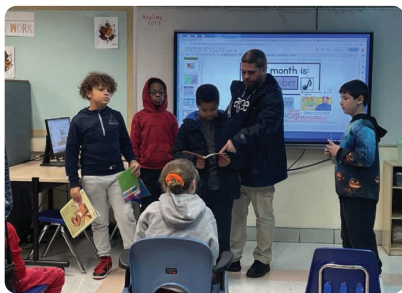
ACES at Ansonia had the opportunity to proudly welcome both partner and prospective school districts for an overview of the program and its accomplishments to date. Accolades include doubled enrollment over the 23-24 school year as well as showcasing academic data demonstrating a year's academic progress made by cohort students across both programs; Mead and AMS.



### Mead Students Embrace SEL Pillars Fostering Inclusion Through Buddy Reading Event at ACES Village School

This school year students at Mead were introduced to our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Pillars Framework. Each month students were introduced to two possible pillars of study, such as "diversity" and "community." Students explored topics and voted on a pillar they wanted to further explore through various learning activities throughout the month!

The month of October was particularly fulfilling as students looked at "inclusion" for their pillar. The culminating project this month was to travel to ACES Village School for an "Inclusion Buddy Reading Event" where Mead students read to the Village students in small groups across three different classrooms. Directed in our collaboration with country partners to support priorities for global communication across countries.



## ACES Early Head Start Highlights

### Early Head Start's Garden Grant Success: Cultivating Community and Sustainability

On January 29, 2024, Early Head Start was awarded a \$5,000 garden grant from CT Grown for CT Kids for FY 2024. Out of 73 applicants, Early Head Start was selected for this grant. The funding was designated to start a family-run garden at our office at 300 Washington St, aimed at helping families gain gardening skills for sustainability.

The grant also supported staffing the garden; two families stepped up and volunteered to assist. With the support of community members, the garden came together seamlessly.

On May 31st, we celebrated with a garden launch tea party. Fresh herbs from the garden were used to make tea. Families designed individual stepping stones to be placed around the garden, and children participated in a worm hunt, learning about the importance of worms in the soil. Families also helped plant the remaining vegetables.

With 18 families in attendance, the garden party was a resounding success and became the highlight of Early Head Start this year. We look forward to continuing this initiative in the coming years, expanding our garden, and engaging more families in this valuable and educational project. The skills and experiences gained from this garden will benefit our community for years.



## ACES International Preschool and Childcare Center Highlights

### 4th Annual Bike-A-Thon

The Bike-A-Thon was held on October 6th, which was a fundraiser in which the children rode around our "track" at ACES International Preschool and Childcare Center, making as many laps as they can in their fifteen minute time limit. Children decorated and "washed" their bikes before the big "race". After they have ridden and been watched by their "pit crew" (an adult supervisor), the riders were distributed participation medals. All pledged money was turned into your child's teacher and went towards a NEW PLAYSET for their playground!!



## The Bridge at ACES Highlights

### Ice Cream in a Bag

The Bridge at ACES made home-made ice cream in a bag, using cream, rock salt, and ice! This experiment gave the youth the opportunity to make various ice cream flavors with a variety of toppings.

### Gardening Project

CPA gave us the opportunity to beautify the sign on the front lawn and plant vegetable garden. We planted some herbs and vegetables in the rec yard: sage, lavender, thyme, oregano, cherry tomatoes, and green pepper plants and a beautiful flower bed in front of the ornamental grass, sunflowers, petunias, kimono blend, and hydrangeas.

### The Bridge at ACES First Graduate

Congratulations to all the graduates from The Bridge at ACES who received their High School Diploma last week! We are so proud of how hard these students worked to achieve this. A special thanks to Dr. Lisa Simone for this wonderful program she runs and the opportunity it provides. We look forward to seeing these students continue their journey, whether it be entering the workforce, participating in higher education, or joining the military. We know that they have all the tools to be successful!





# ACES Village School Highlights

## Village PRIDE and Larry the Lion

This school year Village students and staff were introduced to what it means to have Village PRIDE. The PRIDE program recognizes students for showing kindness, listening, working hard, being truthful, and doing their best. The school's new mascot, Larry the Lion, visits each month to recognize students who were nominated by their teachers for demonstrating PRIDE behavior. The program has been a great success and the students look forward to the monthly visits with Larry.



## Village Community Outreach Continues

Throughout the year, the staff and students at Village School actively engage in community outreach programs. This year, the school participated in our annual events such as the Tommy Fund's Hats for Hope, Rock our Socks, the ASRC Walk for Autism, and the ACES Educational Foundation Gala. In addition to our yearly events, this year we partnered with Quinnipiac University to raise over \$1000 for the Connecticut Children's Hospital through a spirit week and Dance-a-Thon. The staff also collected food on the National Hunger Action Day to benefit WHEAT in West Haven.



## Pet Therapy

The benefits of Pet Therapy are numerous and Village is grateful for our partnership with Dorie and her dog, Toby. Throughout the school year, Toby visited and sat with students doing various things. One great benefit was how Toby supported our students while they worked on their reading skills. For students who may feel insecure about academic skills such as reading, therapy pets bolster their self-esteem and show them that they can do hard things!



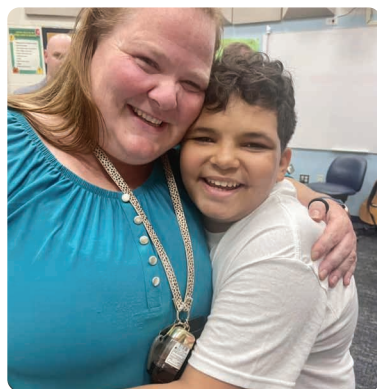
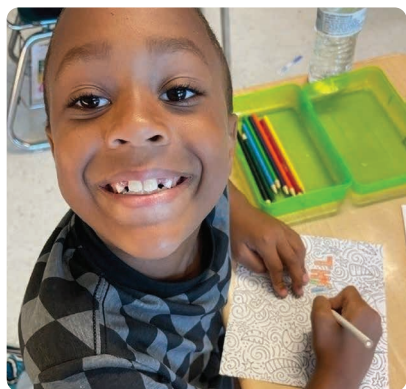
# ACES Mill Road School Highlights

## ACES Mill Road School Instills Community Service Values Through Local and National Programs

ACES Mill Road School is a community service school that supports a myriad of local and national programs. From singing at a local assisted living facility, collecting food for a local pantry, and raising money for the American Cancer Society, we teach our students the power of giving back to the community.

## Restorative Practices Training Fosters Safe and Supportive Spaces for ACES Mill Road School

The entire school has been trained in Restorative Practices, defined as “methods for building community and repairing relationships when harm has occurred”. The intent is on creating safe spaces for staff and students where we work through challenges in positive and supportive ways.



## ACES Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders Highlights



### Connecting with the Greater New Haven Community

As in years past, several SAILS staff participated in the ASRC Walk for Autism in May. Prior, SAILS staff collaborated with Busy Bee Beading & Co. to conduct a bracelet fundraiser which raised \$350. In addition, staff and families contributed to our bottle drive raising an additional \$50 to support ASRC. Students in Room 211 made multiple trips to the recycling center to make returns.

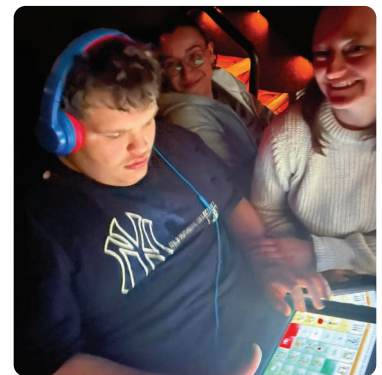
### SAILS Family Engagement Committee Hosts Annual Luncheon to Connect and Appreciate Families

In November, SAILS Family Engagement Committee planned their annual Family Luncheon as a way to connect families, show appreciation, and kick off the holiday season. Families were able to spend time with their child, meet other SAILS families, and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by ACES Whitney North.



### Community Outings Help Students Apply School Skills in Real-World Settings

Community outings are important for students to generalize skills learned at school. Students made regular trips to various community locations such as restaurants, movie theaters, and grocery stores.



## ACES Whitney Academy Highlights

### Whitney Academy Fourth Annual Car Wash Fundraiser

We hosted our 4th annual Car Wash during which we raised \$1,621 to support the CT Special Olympics!



### Grants Empower Students in Lighting Design, Library, and Spirit Team Uniforms

Thanks to grants from the ACES Education Foundation and the CT State Dept of Education, students were able to learn how to program and manage lighting for our adaptation of Willy Wonka this year. The ACES Education Foundation grants also established funds for our new Library and uniforms for our Spirit Team.



### CREATE Students Build Independence and Vocational Skills Through Workforce Alliance Grant

CREATE students have been working through a Workforce Alliance grant, learning early vocational skills and increasing independence in the community. Jobsites have been at Fosdick Fulfillment Center, Chartwells, Burlington Coat Factory and Crosspoint Federal Credit Union. We are growing this year with our new partners at Gorilla Lemonade and Allnex. 20 Create students have participated in adult programming with the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services this year.



# ACES Whitney High School North Highlights

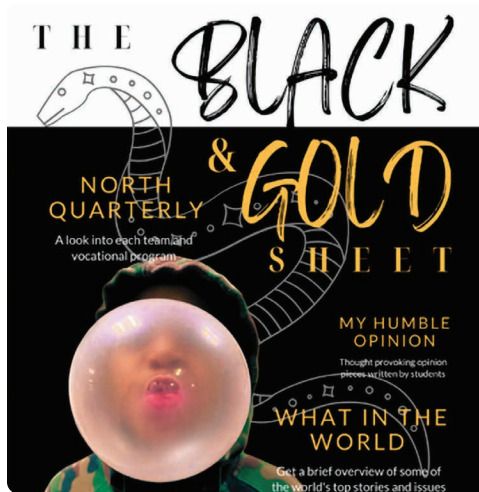
## WHN's Annual Food Drive Provides Over 40 Holiday Baskets to Families in Need

WHN held its annual food drive this past November. Staff and students began collecting various nonperishable food items in the fall to help supplement holiday dinners for our families in need. With the collaboration of our community outreach coordinator and social workers we sent home and delivered more than forty food baskets to support our families during the Holiday season.



## WHN Students Launch 'The Black and Gold Sheet' Magazine to Voice Local and Global Perspectives

Students at WHN started up The Black and Gold sheet this year. Students identified topics and wrote editorial pieces collaboratively with staff. The magazine has several sections to allow students to have an outlet for expressing their likes, dislikes and concerns on various local topics and global affairs. The magazine was distributed each quarter.



## Staff and Students Create Lasting Memories on Spring Trip to Washington D.C.

Staff and a select group of students travelled to Washington D.C. this past spring. The group took the train in and toured some of the most notable attractions within our nation's capital. The group was able to make real connections from this experience and created lasting memories.



# ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Highlights

## WIMS: National Magnet School of Distinction with Premier Arts Partnerships

In 2023, WIMS was named a National Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America. ACES Educational Center for the Arts, Southern University, and the Shubert Theater are just a few of the partners who support the implementation of robust enrichment opportunities for all students. WIMS scholars are exposed to arts professionals who are influential on both local and global platforms.



## Themed Arts Integration Days

As an arts integration school, students at WIMS are afforded the opportunity to express their passion and creativity by exploring various themes throughout the year. Disney Day and 80s Day allowed the WIMS community to be immersed in fun and enriching learning experiences aligned with state and national standards. Families were invited into the school as a magical learning environment was cultivated. The events of both days tied into the larger school theme of "focusing on our purpose" by utilizing both fictional and historical contexts to ignite collaboration and reflection.



## Legacy Projects

Grade 7 and 8 Students, joined with Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools Arts Workshop Guest Artist, Alicia Cobb, came together to brainstorm, sketch, collaborate, solidify, and paint a triptych mural in our Wintergreen Cafeteria as a Legacy Project for all K-8 students to enjoy. The work is called, "Peace: Equality : Shine Bright," The goal of the mural project was to create a series of images that would motivate, inspire, and support students as they enjoyed their lunch every day. As a collective, the Grade 8 Students developed the concepts of the images based on the Enduring Issues Essays they all completed for their Grade 8 Capstone Projects. Students were highly enthusiastic about leaving behind a positive and profound legacy.



# ACES Educational Center for the Arts

## Connecting with the Greater New Haven Community

In February ECA music department students traveled to Philadelphia, PA to participate in the National Jazz Festival where high schools from across the nation gather to perform, compete, learn from one another, and attend clinics offered by leading performers and educators in the field. The ECA Studio Singers placed 2nd in the Small Vocal Jazz Category, the ECA Jazz Collective placed 1st in the Small Jazz Combo Category, and the ECA Jazz Ensemble placed 1st in the Large Jazz Ensemble Category. Many individual students were recognized for their performances and artistry.



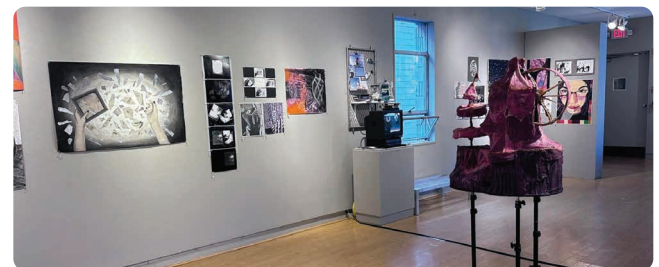
## Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The ECA music and theatre departments collaborated to produce a performance of Chamber Music, a one-act play by absurdist playwright Arthur Kopit. Set in 1938 and the play portrays eight famous women from different historical periods who all are interned in the same asylum. The women are, or at least believe they are, author Gertrude Stein, martyr Joan of Arc, activist Susan B. Anthony, politician Queen Isabella of Spain, Constanze Mozart (wife of the famed composer), pilot Amelia Earhart, silent-film actress Pearl White, and explorer Osa Johnson. They have come together to represent the women of the asylum in planning for an attack they believe is soon to come from the men's ward.



## Innovation through the Arts

The 3rd quarter Visual Art Gallery Opening featured student works in the ECA gallery and 5th floor studios, in addition to a special sculpture exhibit in the ECA Arts Hall. Works featured moveable murals and a multi-media installation featuring large-scale sculptures, video, and projection mapping by more than 20 students.



## Clinical Services Highlights

### Assistive Technology

This year marked ACES Clinical Service's first full partnership with the Department of Aging and Disability Services through the Tech Act Project. Under this contract, the Assistive Technology Department has made significant strides. They conducted 76 device demonstrations, reaching nearly 300 individuals, and provided training sessions to over 139 participants. Additionally, they facilitated the lending of assistive technology devices to numerous individuals. They established a dedicated demonstration and lending center at 205 Skiff Street in Hamden, enhancing their ability to serve the community. Their library of low and high-tech equipment has expanded, offering a broader range of resources to those in need. The assistive technology specialists also increased public awareness by appearing on WTNH Connecticut's Morning Buzz and hosting tables at numerous conferences across the state.

### Treatment and Learning Center

ACES Treatment Learning Center received the Record Journal's 21st Annual Reader's Choice Award. They won Best Developmental Disorder Service Provider. ACES TLC offers insurance-based ABA Services to preschool-aged children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

As of May 2024, ACES Treatment and Learning Center proudly accepts Husky, Connecticut's state insurance program. This significant step ensures greater access to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services for children across the state. By accepting Husky, we are breaking down financial barriers that previously prevented many families from obtaining the necessary therapeutic services for their children. ABA therapy, which is vital for children with autism and other developmental disorders, can be cost-prohibitive without adequate insurance coverage. Now, families enrolled in Husky can access our high-quality, individualized ABA services, ensuring their children receive the support they need to thrive. This expansion of access underscores our commitment to inclusivity and our mission to provide comprehensive care to all children, regardless of their financial situation.





## Professional Development & School Improvement Highlights

### PDSI Legislative Forums

ACES PDSI hosted five facilitated forums to discuss the impact of upcoming legislative changes/updates on school districts. During these forums, participants reviewed the legislative changes that are expected for the 2024-25 school year and beyond, and how to strategically plan for implementing these expectations with fidelity. These forums provide a foundation for supports available to districts through ACES PDSI in the coming year.

Participants explored the following topics with the support of ACES leaders and professional learning specialists:

- Changes to the CT kindergarten entry age
- School Climate & Restorative Practices
- Expectations for the Response to Challenging Behaviors
- The Multilingual Learners Bill of Rights
- Play-Based Learning (K-1 and K-5)
- Educator Evaluation

### CERCLE Workforce Development for Early Care and Education Grant

Through a grant from CERCLE, ACES PDSI staff facilitated CDA portfolio support groups and training for 13 early childhood providers working to obtain the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential needed to advance their careers. The focus was to support educators within their current positions and support advancement, as needed. CDA portfolio support cohorts consisted of 2-hour weekly sessions for 12 weeks, including an hour of training and an hour of support. Training focused on best practices in the early childhood field aligned to the eight (8) CDA Competency Areas. The support guided participants to articulate and document how they meet the CDA Competency Areas in their daily work. Six (6) additional in-person training sessions also provided training hours that meet the required 120 hours for the CDA credential application.

ACES PDSI also received funding to provide information sessions on the CDA support programs and CERCLE programming for several program administrators and the New Haven Early Childhood Council Chair.

As a result of this project:

- Educators developed individual professional development plans and reported being motivated to continue their education.
- All participating educators articulated how they provide appropriate care and education to the young children they work with.
- Administrators have the information necessary to support their staff in maintaining and obtaining early childhood credentials.



## ACES Highlights

### Middletown Pride Parade

On June 1, ACES staff joined the Middletown Pride Event, celebrating love, diversity, and acceptance while bringing the community together in an unforgettable way.



### The Gr8 Thanksgiving Food Drive

On Saturday, November 18, ACES participated in the GR8 Thanksgiving Food Drive with WTNH News 8 at Connecticut Foodshare. Thanks to the incredible generosity of ACES staff and families, we filled the back of the ACES vans with nonperishable food items.



### ACES 2nd Annual Resource Fair

ACES hosted its second annual Resource Fair, providing a valuable opportunity for schools and district staff to connect directly with external providers who support students in their educational and social-emotional development. With participation from 18 districts and over 60 attendees, the event featured a diverse array of wonderful providers dedicated to enhancing our students' lives.



### Career Fair

The ACES Career Fair was a resounding success, marked by an impressive turnout and an atmosphere charged with energy and enthusiasm. This event served as more than just a career exploration; it was a convergence of individuals dedicated to transforming lives through education.

We express our deepest gratitude to all the ACES staff members who played a crucial role in orchestrating this successful event. Your commitment and hard work fostered an environment where meaningful connections were forged, and future paths were shaped.

To all who attended, from aspiring educators to administrative professionals, thank you for taking the time to explore the opportunities ACES offers. Your enthusiasm and commitment to being part of a team that profoundly impacts education are what make our mission possible.



### ACES Laces Up for Education Charity Walk

On Sunday, October 15, ACES hosted its second annual "ACES Laces Up for Education" walk at the scenic Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. The event aimed to raise awareness about ACES and its programs. This year's walk saw an impressive turnout, with over 100 enthusiastic participants coming together.



### 21st Annual ACES Business Advisory Council Employer Recognition Dinner

On May 8, we celebrate the numerous businesses that have provided employment opportunities for our students at Whitney Academy and Whitney North, as well as the individuals in our ACCESS program.

Since its establishment in 1999, the ACES Business Advisory Council has been instrumental in collaborating with our staff to offer employment and vocational training opportunities for students and individuals in the ACES ACCESS program, Whitney Academy, and Whitney High School North. We are proud to continue this tradition and look forward to honoring the 50+ companies and organizations that have contributed to the success of our students and clients since our last recognition dinner in 2019.



## ACES Teacher of the Year

The ACES Teacher of the Year program recognizes and celebrates teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students, especially during such an unprecedented time in education.

Priscilla has consistently excelled at ACES, drawing on her 30+ years of teaching experience to deliver exceptional support and attention to her students. Her passion for teaching and dedication to student success make her an invaluable member of the ACES community.



## ACES Rookie of the Year

ACES Rookie of the Year recognizes staff that represent the ACES Vision, Mission, and Beliefs and demonstrates it in their daily work through good work ethic and community service. Rookie of the Year nominees must have met the requirement of being employed for a minimum of 1 year and no more than 3.

Congratulations to Veronica Carrasquillo (Clinical Services) and Jessica Fernandez (Mill Road) for being selected as the recipients of the 2023-2024 Executive Director's Recognition Award.



**Veronica Carrasquillo**  
ACES Clinical Services



**Jessica Fernandez**  
ACES Mill Road School

## ACES Executive Director Recognition Award Recipients

The Executive Director's Recognition Award program recognizes staff that represent the ACES Vision, Mission, and Beliefs and demonstrate it in their daily work through good work ethic and community service.

While the staff above were selected all of our nominees present the ACES Vision, Mission and Beliefs, have incredible work ethics and are devoted to their respective programs and agency.

Congratulations to **Daniel Oglesby (Mill Road)**, **Robert Pask (Mill Road)**, and **Sarah Warzycha (Chase)** for being selected as the recipients of the 2023-2024 Executive Director's Recognition Award.



**Daniel Oglesby**  
ACES Mill Road School



**Robert Pask**  
ACES Mill Road School



**Sarah Warzycha**  
ACES at Chase

## Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program



**Joseph Gervasio**  
The Bridge at ACES



**Abigail Henry**  
ACES WIMS



**Makayla Teixeira**  
ACES Village School

# ACES SCHOOLS

As a local education agency (LEA), ACES operates a number of schools and educational programs that serve the needs of member school districts across the region. The two primary district needs that we address in our schools are a) issues of academic achievement stemming from racial, ethnic and economic isolation; and b) educating students whose disabilities pose challenges that exceed the capacity of local districts. In response, we provide rigorous academic curricula through three interdistrict magnet schools that enroll close to 1,600 students, seven special education schools and five alternative education schools that enroll over 600 students.



## ACES Interdistrict Magnet Schools

### ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA)

Located in the heart of New Haven's Audubon Arts District, ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) is a public, half-time, magnet high school for the 25 school districts in south-central Connecticut and beyond. Through intensive study of music, dance, theater, writing and visual arts, ECA students learn side by side with peers and practicing artists as they discover their creative potential. At ECA, we play, perform, question, and collaborate as we explore ourselves and our world. This year's graduates will attend universities and conservatories including Berklee School of Music, The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, University of Chicago, Howard University, The New School, UNH, UCONN, Quinnipiac, Savannah College of Art and Design, New York University and Yale. ECA alumni live and work all over the world, as creative directors, theater directors, graphic designers, journalists, and more. Experience the transformative power of the arts at ECA.

**ACES at Chase** is an interdistrict magnet school where 6th through 8th grade students focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics). The school empowers students to examine challenging problems through design, writing, research, and investigation to find innovative solutions. ACES at Chase is a six-time recipient of the Project Lead the Way Distinguished Program award. This year ACES at Chase also earned the Magnet Schools of America national award of excellence. ACES at Chase will be expanding to include high school grades with its inaugural 9th-grade class that will graduate in 2028.

**ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School (WIMS)** is a K-8 Magnet school serving close to 630 students from more than a dozen Connecticut school districts. ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School is dedicated to providing all students with a safe and nurturing environment that immerses each student in the arts, grounds them in restorative behaviors and engages their minds to ensure academic and personal success. Magnet Schools of America named WIMS a National Magnet School of Distinction in 2023, and a National Merit School of Excellence in 2024. ACES Educational Center for the Arts, Southern University, and the Shubert Theater are just a few of the partners who support the implementation of robust enrichment opportunities for all students. WIMS scholars are exposed to arts professionals who are influential on both local and global platforms through the Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools approach to instruction. Wintergreen's rigorous curriculum is designed and implemented to prepare students to leave our school with the inspiration to create, collaborate, communicate, and discover their passion through innovation and the arts.



Village School



Whitney North



Whitney Academy

## ACES Special Education Schools

### ACES Center for Autism Spectrum & Developmental Disorders (CASDD)

The ACES Science-based Approaches to Independence and Life Skills (SAILS) program at the Center for Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disorders (CASDD) is an educational program serving middle school, high school, and transition age students who present with significant cognitive, communication, behavioral, and adaptive challenges. ACES SAILS utilizes the science of ABA to deliver comprehensive and collaborative instruction to support complex learning and behavioral needs. Programming is designed based on each student’s unique needs and abilities and focuses on building the academic, social, communication, behavioral, and functional life skills needed to increase independent participation in family, community, and work environments. A variety of related services such as speech and language, occupational, and physical therapies are available and delivered in collaboration with each student’s Special Education Teacher and BCBA creating a holistic approach to support student skill development and application.

### ACES at Mead Elementary School (AMES)

In 2018, Ansonia Public Schools partnered with Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) to establish an exciting new K-5 program at Mead Elementary School, to focus on specific student needs including the areas of academic, behavioral, and therapeutic interventions. AMES offers a strong focus on academics with a full range of art, physical education and other activities with Mead School students. AMES is open to all Ansonia and surrounding area students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

### ACES at Ansonia Middle School (AAMS)

In 2021, Ansonia Public Schools continued its partnership with Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) to establish an extension program at Ansonia Middle School. The continuation of services with a looping model, allows for our Mead Elementary School program students to continue to receive services and support in grades six through eight. The middle school extension continues to support specific student needs in the areas of academic, behavioral, and therapeutic interventions while supporting the transition to the secondary education setting. AAMS is open to all Ansonia and surrounding area students in middle school. This Program has widely expanded to meet students’ needs from Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, and Stratford.



**ACES Mill Road School** is a K-8 public school that specializes in intensive intervention and support for a wide range of students with social, emotional and behavioral challenges. In order to meet the needs of our students, we use a collaborative and team-centered approach, ensuring that every student's particular needs are being met. Each classroom is staffed with highly qualified Teachers, Teacher Assistant Drivers, and other support staff. Each team has a Social Worker and behavioral staff to round out supports. At Mill Road, we believe that all students can learn, and learn at high levels with the comprehensive program we offer.

**ACES Whitney Academy EXPLORE and CREATE** is a therapeutic environment dedicated to serving a diverse student population, ages 14 – 22, who exhibit a range of cognitive, physical, behavioral, communication and medical challenges. Our educational program provides all of the necessary supports to enhance students' abilities to develop in the areas of academics, vocation/employment, life skills, communication and social skills. The related services model uses a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to provide an individualized and holistic approach to student support services, including mental health services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, nursing care, and behavioral support services. In addition to its academic mission, Whitney Academy provides opportunities for students to develop their skills and interests in the areas of athletics, technology, and the arts through participation in school and community-based activities. The CREATE program places a strong emphasis on the transition to life and work for students 18 - 22 years of age. The program supports students in developing self-advocacy and self-determination skills, as well as work and life skills that will assist students in their ability to be successful, independent working adults. This includes our on-site Work Center, an internal resource that provides students with an experiential and entry-level opportunity to the world of work, specializing in mass product assembly. These areas ultimately establish the foundation for all student programming in collaboration with outside agencies and community partners that may be involved with our students.

**ACES Whitney High School North** provides a positive, therapeutic, individualized and multifaceted program for high school students with significant behavioral, mental health and learning issues. Students participate in a full academic and vocational program that includes a motivational, behavioral management system. Instructional methods include frequent assessment of student progress and the expanded opportunity for students to receive remediation. In addition to academic and behavioral support, Whitney High School North features a Vocational program which includes an Automotive Department, Technology Department, Culinary Department and Graphic Arts Department where students are learning real world hands on skills that they can take with them into careers after high school. WHN also features the Gateway Partnership Program where students are given the opportunity to take courses and earn college credits.

**ACES Village School** provides special education instruction to students from all over the state of Connecticut. ACES Village School provides extensive, comprehensive, and collaborative services to children ages 3-14 with a wide range of abilities and complex support needs. Students who attend Village School all present with significant cognitive delays in addition to other support needs. Within Village School students participate in one of three programs; the integrated pre-school program, Early Intensive Behavior Intervention (EIBI) program, and the Village program. The integrated pre-school program provides opportunities for integration with typically developing peers for students ages 3-5 years old. In all three programs, student educational programming is aimed at making meaningful progress towards individual goals and objectives identified in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) which are linked to current state and national learning standards. A heavy emphasis is placed on increasing independence through supported instruction for students in a variety of academic, behavioral, and functional life skill areas. In order to maximize growth a variety of related services are available and include speech and language, physical and occupational therapies, social work services, behavioral services, adaptive physical education, music therapy, and nursing services.



## ACES Youth Justice and Education

The ACES Youth Justice and Education Programs support a specific group of students who require diversion through academic instruction, real-world learning experiences, and extended support from local and state providers. Our innovative efforts have gained recognition from the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) and other state-level justice agencies. Our leadership team has been assigned a role at the state level, co-chairing the JJPOC Diversion Committee in partnership with Thea Montanez, Governor Lamont’s senior advisor. Montañez leads interagency initiatives to connect more residents to opportunity in the state. Dr. Simone and Ms. Montanez’s role focuses on enhancing youth support and promoting prosocial opportunities within Connecticut communities. Our ongoing work in the Youth Justice and Education programs expands our scope to include partnerships with the Department of Children and Families, social service agencies, and private foundations that support justice efforts for our students. Through these collaborative efforts, we aim to provide comprehensive and practical support to our students, helping them transition successfully and positively impact their communities.

### ACES Hartford REGIONS

Since its inception in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACES Hartford REGIONS has been committed to providing exceptional education to students in a juvenile justice facility. The 2023-2024 school year showcased our dedication to academic rigor and project-based learning, featuring several curriculum-themed field trips. We offer community-based vocational opportunities and emphasize citizenship through community service projects, helping students develop practical skills and a sense of responsibility. Our mission is to provide transformative educational experiences that prepare students for successful futures, even in challenging circumstances.

### ACES Hamden REGIONS

ACES Hamden REGIONS opened its doors on December 16, 2020, with just two students. As we start the 2024-2025 school year, our dedicated team will offer an enriched educational program featuring exciting project-based learning, restorative justice practices, and cross-curriculum learning. Our students have seen remarkable academic achievements and growth, with notable improvements in their engagement and performance. Our educators are deeply involved, providing individualized support and fostering a dynamic learning environment that encourages student success. We will continue collaborating with The Bridge at ACES, enabling Hamden REGIONS Phase II students to transition smoothly into a community high school.

### ACES AFIR (Lisa's House)

We proudly announce the successful opening of ACES AFIR (Lisa's House), our first juvenile justice girls' residential program launched in December 2023 in Plainville. Collaborating with Community Solutions, Inc., we played a key role in launching their inaugural CSSD (Court Support Service Department) program. Our experienced team of educators has been instrumental in ensuring a smooth start, providing robust academic rigor, real-world activities, and vocational opportunities. The program has seen successful student engagement and growth since its opening. As we look forward to a bright and collaborative future, we are excited about the continued impact and success of ACES AFIR in supporting the development and achievements of our students.

### The Bridge at ACES

The Bridge at ACES has seen a notable increase in enrollment, particularly among students who have faced challenges in traditional classroom settings. Our program serves as a crucial "first step" for students transitioning from juvenile justice programs, offering a structured pathway back to community life. We provide accelerated clinical, academic, social-emotional, and team-building services to support all student learners. Our comprehensive support has successfully diverted many students from dropping out of school and helped them avoid negative community engagement. Our expanded collaboration with school districts beyond New Haven County has enabled us to reach and support a broader range of students engaged in juvenile justice or educational disconnection. The Bridge's dedicated support team is pivotal in fostering student success and promoting positive reintegration into their communities.

### The Bridge-ASPIRE Program

The Bridge ASPIRE Middle School Program, operating under a New Haven contract, provides a vital alternative for students struggling to succeed in traditional middle school settings. This program is specifically designed for students who have engaged in behaviors leading to stipulated expulsion agreements, offering them a chance to enroll in a supportive, small-scale environment. At The Bridge ASPIRE, students benefit from a comprehensive approach that includes clinical, academic, social-emotional, and team-building services. Our program also features support from the Bridge Mentorship Team, which includes high school students who play a key role in teaching, supporting, and guiding the 6th-8th grade participants. This mentorship helps divert students from negative engagement at school, home, and within their communities, fostering a positive and productive educational experience.



# ACES SERVICES

## ACES International

is a global engagement education service that brings learning communities together worldwide. Currently in collaboration with 17 countries, our office in Connecticut facilitates collaboration between North America, and Asia. We foster the development of understanding and mutual respect within communities and between nations by promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences. Students, educators, and offices of education are provided access to international experiences and global competency skills that make them active and responsible world citizens. Every project that ACES International facilitates prioritizes intercultural competencies and international relevance.

As the national provider for the Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA), ACES International offers comprehensive services and programs by assembling the greatest professional resources that bring together the most committed, experienced, and passionate staff in the field. With a vast network of trusted team members from around the world, our educational expertise at ACES fortifies our integrity as a public education organization under the authority of the Connecticut Department of Education. Our team works closely with stakeholders to support virtual and experiential learning, prioritizing intercultural exchange, transnational communication, and immersion:

- ACES Educators Summer Field Study Abroad (Japan: June 2025)
- ACES Summer STEM
- ACES Summer STEAM
- ACES at Yale Summer
- Early Education Multicultural Language Programming
- Global Competency Training
- School-to-School Intercultural Exchange Partnerships
- Student Exchange Learning Tours in 17 Countries
- Translation Services
- Visiting Scholars Program at ACES

## ACES Center for Safe Schools

operates as a safety resource service to support schools in establishing policies, protocols, and practices to ensure safe, supportive, and welcoming environments for students. Our work with Connecticut school districts and institutions promote emergency preparedness, staff safety training, facility audits, professional advisory, and strategic cultural practices to create secure learning environments. All of these services are unique as they provide a dedicated team of experienced educators that possess the lens as safety specialists and emergency managers.

## ACES UP - Transforming Schools into Sustainable Learning Environments

Launched to promote and facilitate the adoption of green energy technologies across Connecticut, ACES UP has been at the forefront of sustainable innovation since acquiring the state's first full-sized electric school bus in 2021. Building on the lessons learned, we developed a program designed to benefit every school district, making the transition to green energy both accessible and effective.

At its core, ACES UP offers turnkey development services for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at schools, all at no up-front cost to the host district. Beyond EV charging, we provide a comprehensive suite of renewable energy options, including solar power, fuel cells, and other distributed energy solutions, all tailored to reduce energy costs and carbon footprints while simplifying the process for school districts.

Our ACES Clean Schools Program further enhances this mission by managing every aspect of the sustainable transformation, from design and financing to construction. By leveraging state-of-the-art technologies and innovative financing models, we aim to make schools self-sufficient, improve classroom air quality, and redirect significant savings from utility costs back into education.

This all-inclusive solution encompasses solar rooftop and carport installations, electrification of school bus fleets, advanced battery storage, LED lighting, combined heat and power systems, and more. These initiatives not only drive sustainability but also ensure that the savings generated are reinvested into the future of education.

## Clinical Services

**Behavior Services** provides direct and support services for schools, organizations, and families in south-central Connecticut. The services involve behavioral assessment, support plan management and implementation, intensive instructional programming, and staff training/development. Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians provide intervention and support to students through collaboration with staff within students' public school districts. Additionally, ACES Behavior Services provides regional professional development opportunities.

Our Treatment and Learning Center (TLC) Offers insurance-based ABA services to young children (2-6) with autism spectrum disorder. TLC is staffed with a team of board-certified behavior analysts and registered behavior technicians. In addition to these services, TLC serves as a site for ACES Systematic Safety Intervention Strategy Training, parent training, assessment, and periodic after-school social skills groups for students with disabilities of all ages.

**Extension Therapy Services** provides contractual occupational therapy and physical therapy to member school districts, local private schools and agencies. Services are provided as a related service when deemed necessary for a special education student to participate in his and/or her educational curriculum and also to provide, as requested by the school district or school, support to the general education curriculum. Services include assessment, direct treatment, consultation, and professional development.

**Assistive Technology Services** provides contractual assessments and consultative services to member school districts, local private schools, and agencies. Services are provided through a collaborative process offering consultation to students, consultation to staff, and assessments related to assistive technology needs in the following areas: Educational Access, Physical Access, or Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices. The ACES Assistive Technology Services Department consists of multiple highly-trained assistive technology (AT) professionals with backgrounds in Speech Language Pathology, Special Education, and Occupational Therapy.

**Early Childhood Services (ECS)**, part of ACES PDSI, offers a wide range of support for public and community-based early care programs. In partnership with the Office of Early Childhood and the RESC Alliance, ECS supports the CT Accreditation Quality Improvement System (AQIS), a state resource system providing leadership and support for early childhood programs to achieve and maintain program accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC study groups and overview sessions are held regularly, as well as professional learning on the CT ELDS, CT DOTS, and the Pyramid Model. ECS provides early care programs with customized professional learning and coaching on a variety of topics including curriculum development, social/emotional development, implementing and planning with the CT ELDS and CT DOTS, and content specific support for young learners (language/literacy, science, math, etc.).

**Educational Technology** specializes in the K-12 education sector, offering comprehensive support for current and evolving educational technology initiatives. Our deliverable services include strategic digital learning plans, data services, data integration, software application onboarding, training and support (e.g., PowerSchool, ParentSquare, LearnPlatform), data privacy best practices, project management, ADA compliance, service desk management, and regional technology council networking opportunities.

**Health Insurance Collaborative** is a coalition for health insurance among ACES member districts and communities. The combined buying power of ACES towns, school boards and non-profit agencies helps to provide high-quality health insurance at competitive rates. Insurance Collaborative participants include the Town of North Haven, the North Haven Board of Education, the Ansonia Board of Education, the East Haven Board of Education, and the Ellington Board of Education.

**Network Services** delivers cost-effective solutions to meet the technology needs of school districts throughout the ACES region. Deliverable services include: end-users' computing, hardware purchasing and support, network health, preventative measures, disaster recovery, virtual environments, and cyber security.

**Professional Development and School Improvement (PDSI)** is the professional learning division of ACES. PDSI is a driven team of individuals that designs customized and cost-effective solutions to support the professional learning needs of ACES schools and programs, and ACES region districts. They offer their expertise in a variety of specialties including: coaching, curriculum development, instructional strategies, teacher leadership, educator evaluation, technology integration, data analysis, assessment, facilitation of district planning processes, and more. These professional learning opportunities are available to administrators, coaches, teachers, and a multitude of other PreK-12 staff. The PDSI team offers unique and targeted services and learning designs that support educators in a myriad of content areas for learners of all ages and abilities. In addition to providing coaching, consultation, and technical assistance, PDSI facilitates regional education programs, and two Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) programs, the Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialists (ARCLMS) and Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Learners (ARCTEL).

**Regional Special Education Transportation (RSET)** provides cost-saving, safe, quality transportation for special education students traveling to non-ACES placement sites. The ACES RSET initiative was launched in September 2018. In 2023-2024, ACES RSET worked with 24 districts and transported 318 students.

**ACES Security and Emergency Preparedness** operates under three major areas of service: Student, Staff and Visitor Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Planning, and Staff training. Security staff work directly with the schools, programs, and services of ACES on safety procedures. With the installation of a new surveillance platform throughout the organization, ACES is connected effectively to streamline monitoring and share resources with response agencies in the event of an emergency. The specialization in school security is operation critical to support the stakeholders of ACES. In the 2020-2021 year, the new ACES-A.L.I.C.E. partnership brought attention to safety and security training as a regional New England provider for educators and first responders. The training initiative has continued, expanding its participation to prioritize ACES staff and local community officials. In its role as a service provider, ACES Security is assisting ACES partner school districts with planning and prevention, communications, command structures, and assessment. A.L.I.C.E. will be expanding to an online training with a roll out to all staff, and eventually there is a piece designed for students and families we hope to implement in the 23-24 & 24-25 school years.

**ACES Speech and Language Services** provides contractual speech therapy and professional development in the areas of communication and/or communication disorders to member school districts, local private schools, and agencies. Services are provided as a related service when deemed necessary for special education students to participate in their educational curriculum within their district. Services include assessment, direct treatment, consultation, and professional development.

### **Transportation Services**

At ACES transportation, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and compassionate transportation. We are dedicated to supporting the educational journey of everyone by ensuring their transportation needs are met with the highest standards of care and professionalism. Our specialized services are designed to accommodate the unique needs of our students and individuals, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.

We believe everyone deserves access to quality education, and transportation should never be a barrier. Our team of trained and empathetic drivers and aides are committed to creating a positive and nurturing experience for our students from the moment they board our vehicles to the moment they arrive at their destination.

Through ongoing training and collaboration, we maintain a close partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure all vehicles receive regular maintenance and safety inspections throughout the year.

At ACES transportation we are not just providing transportation; we are facilitating opportunities for growth, learning, and success for all our students and individuals.

Together, we are driving towards a brighter future for our children and individuals.

**ACES World Language Services** provides quality interpretation and translation services for clients within educational settings. Recently, the department has expanded to provide support to businesses, to include law firms, non-profit organizations and out-of-state school districts. Every request is distinctive, and we work closely with clients to ensure high-quality results.

In 23/24, ACES World Language Services diversified the department to include workshop and professional development offerings. Our first workshop, Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The Art of Interpretation with Cultural Sensitivity and Skill was held in April and received positive reviews. The workshop generated inspiration for expansion of additional offerings. Educational opportunities can be tailored to suit school district needs.

Also included in the diversification, the department has collaborated with Bilingual School Psychologists to offer evaluation services for Multilingual Learners.

# ACES Regional Educational Programming

## ACES Early Head Start

is a federally funded community-based program recruiting and serving families with children birth to 3 years including expectant families in Middlesex County. This home visiting program prioritizes categorical and income eligible families and is designed to promote school readiness.

## ACES Adult Career & Community Empowerment Support Services (ACCESS)

provides hope, purpose and structure to adults with developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities. ACCESS program participants (or individuals) range in age from 23 - 70+ and possess a wide array of interests, abilities, and skills. We offer enrichment opportunities in our Day program and employment through our Individual and Group Supported Employment programs.

ACCESS individuals possess a wide array of skill sets, including food prep and delivery, laundry services, scanning and basic office tasks. Current employers include The Strong Kitchen, Die-Cut Paper Products, and Fascia's Chocolates. Additionally, ACCESS runs four businesses: United Lawn Care, United Cleaning, Designs by ACCESS, and ACES Shines mobile shoeshine. ACES ACCESS Day Program provides a wide variety of enrichment initiatives, including volunteer opportunities, a recycling program, visual arts, gardening, community-based experiences and physical activities.

## ACES Open Choice

program started in 1998. It provides options for families to choose available openings in urban (New Haven) and suburban schools in the ACES region. In 2023-2024, 371 students, 44 schools and 12 school districts participated in ACES Open Choice Program.

## ACES Magnet School Parent Choice

is coordinated by ACES for districts in the ACES region. Families in any school district can apply to a lottery for open seats in ACES WIMS or ACES at Chase. In some districts, families provide student transportation, with a travel subsidy provided by ACES. Many districts will be provided with transportation at no cost to the families.

## ACES West Haven Collaborative

is a long standing in-district, collaborative program at West Haven High School. These two classrooms provide educational services to twenty students with intellectual or other disabilities. The staffing for this multi-faceted program consists of two special-education students, three Teacher Assistants and three Teacher Assistant/Drivers who work together to provide students with the necessary supports in order to develop and enhance their academic, vocational, life and social skills abilities.

In the fall of 2021, two additional collaborative ACES classrooms were opened at Mackrille Elementary School in West Haven. The first of the classrooms educates students in grades Kindergarten and 1 while the second classroom is comprised of students in grade 2. The students in both classrooms have been identified as needing additional social, emotional and behavior support in order to have successful school experiences. The staffing for this program consists of two Special Education teachers, two Teacher Assistants, four Behavior Technicians, a part time Social-Worker and a part-time Behavior Analyst. The goal of this program, is that with early intervention, students will be able to return to mainstream classrooms.



# ACES Central Administration

ACES Central Administration is dedicated to providing the sound technology, administration, fiscal and related services necessary to carry out ACES mission and goals. Central Administration oversees the smooth and efficient operation of our agency.

## Executive Director

serves as the Chief Executive Officer of ACES, as a regional service agency and as the superintendent of ACES schools.

## Deputy Executive Director for Services

oversees the Market Services Division, which includes a wide array of innovative specialized services such as Clinical Services (encompassing Behavior Services, Autism Programs, Extension Therapy Services, and Assistive Technology), Health Insurance Collaborative, International Programming, Professional Development and School Improvement, Speech and Language Services, Trauma Services, and Translation. Additionally, this office is responsible for managing the agency's budgeting process, spearheading program development, and driving strategic initiatives that enhance the overall effectiveness and reach of the organization.

## Assistant Executive Director of Operations & Facilities

ACES Operations Division achieves its mission is to ensure the smooth functioning of internal processes, empower employees with the necessary resources, and continuously improve operational excellence by leading the effective operation of the Buildings and Grounds Department, including Facility Budget Management, Capital Improvement projects, Nutrition Services, Network Services, Internal Transportation, Security Management and Preparedness, Magnet School & Open Choice, HIPPA compliance and ACES Internal Operations. The operations division also oversees two of ACES's long-standing programs, ACCESS and Early Headstart.

## Human Capital Development

oversees all aspects of Human Resources and personnel activities from recruitment, orientation, onboarding and benefits to employee assignments, workforce planning and policy development. Our goal is to attract talent, support employees and encourage them to reach their full potential. We work collaboratively with our unions, other ACES platforms, and the Executive Leadership Council (ELC) to not only match employees with positions that allow them to grow but also promotes employee development.

## Core Knowledge

provides a centralized location within the agency's structure for utilizing data, research, and development to capture and cultivate excellence within the agency, and to further support the incubation and implementation of new opportunities for schools, services and more broadly for ACES staff and clients. As a component of the shared services platform, Core Knowledge provides a strategic link across the agency's structure for data-informed practices, processes and decision making related to vital functions such as curriculum and instruction, program evaluation, and career-connected professional learning.

## **Marketing Services**

defines and manages the ACES brand and voice, and promotes the agency's mission and services by increasing ACES' visibility across the region and internationally. The Marketing Department produces all internal and external publications, supports agency campaigns and initiatives, and communicates with stakeholders in regard to all brand management and promotional efforts. Additionally, the department manages advertising, collateral, crisis communication, events management, marketing merchandise, search engine optimization, social media content, weather notifications, and website maintenance.

## **Fiscal Services**

manages all functions of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll, Budgeting, Auditing, Financial Projections and Reporting, Grants, and Investments.

## **Pupil Personnel and Related Services**

provide ACES internal schools with specialized services such as social work, developmental guidance, psychology services, speech, physical and occupational therapies, nursing and psychiatric counseling services. In collaboration with the CSDE and SERC, and as part of a RESC Alliance initiative, ACES Pupil Personnel Services responds to identified trends in special education to provide resources, design and implement initiatives and determine effectiveness.

## **Special Programs**

Special Programs covers ACCESS, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Early Head Start, and Family Engagement.

## **Director of Talent Development**

supports all ACES employees to grow their knowledge and practice in order to enhance and transform the lives of students and clients. Activities include facilitating the beginning teachers' induction program (TEAM), leadership coaching and collaboration, supporting supervision and evaluation processes, career and educational pathway planning, and assisting with CT Department of Education interactions. The Director of Talent Development partners with ACES schools and programs to provide specific professional learning to support goals and identified needs.



## The Connecticut RESC Alliance

ACES is one of six regional educational service centers (RESCs) in Connecticut. All RESCs support Connecticut school districts' instructional and operational components. The RESC Alliance works collaboratively to develop and deliver high-quality, cost-effective educational resources, programs and services to the state's public schools. For additional information on the RESC Alliance, go to [www.rescalliance.org](http://www.rescalliance.org). This year, ACES collaborated with our RESC partners on several high stakes projects that will have lasting impact on Connecticut educators.

### Igniting Change

The RESC Alliance facilitated year two of the Igniting Change initiative in 2023-24. Igniting Change is a multi-faceted professional learning experience focused on meeting the needs of all schools and districts throughout Connecticut by providing equity-centered learning opportunities grounded in four professional learning pathways. Districts and schools are encouraged to engage with the professional learning designs that best meet their needs.

Approximately 350 Connecticut educators and leaders attended the fall conference on September 28, 2023, at the Connecticut Convention Center. The fall conference included keynotes from Dr. Bettina Love and Cornelius Minor. The follow-up spring conference on May 14, 2024, also attracted approximately 345 attendees and featured keynotes from Gloria Ladson-Billings and Joe Feldman.

The conferences bookended a series of professional learning pathways that focused on a prioritized area in response to school or district commitments with the support of topic experts and colleagues doing similar work across the state. More than 80 Connecticut educators and leaders attended sessions related to:

- Grading for Equity
- Equity-Centered Leadership
- Culturally Sustaining Practices: Pedagogy and Inclusive Schools
- Supporting Linguistically Diverse Students

Igniting Change continues at the fall conference on October 30, 2024 with keynote speakers Dena Simmons, Ed.D. and Dr. Gholnescar (Gholdy) Muhammad! More information can be found at [ignitingchangect.org](http://ignitingchangect.org).

## IEP Quality & CT-SEDS Professional Support

The RESC Alliance continued its partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Education to provide professional learning supports to educators in developing high-quality Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and navigating the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS).

### Supports included:

- Supporting the CSDE dedicated help desk for support and technical assistance for districts on the IEP/PPT Process, and entering IEPs, referrals, and evaluations into CT-SEDS
- Statewide and in-district IEP Quality Training and IEP Quality Training Refreshers for all educators involved in planning and placement teams (PPTs) around IEP development based on the new IEP. Upon completion, educators will gain the capacity to develop and implement high-quality IEPs within CT-SEDS.
- CT-SEDS Onboarding designed for new special educators or new to CT-SEDS.
- Targeted sessions that provide opportunities for school-based professionals to gain knowledge and increase competency within specific topics related to CT-SEDS or the new IEP, including 504, progress reporting, PreK, and more. Sessions included information on system updates, with live CT SEDS demonstrations (when applicable).
- Collaborative Working Sessions offered a brief demonstration of the IEP Process and Progress Reporting modules and an opportunity for small group troubleshooting alongside RESC Alliance Help Desk Agents.

Approximately 1300 educators statewide enrolled in professional learning sessions in the 2023-24 school year. ACES PDSI provides registration and tech support for these trainings.

## AQIS

In partnership with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and the RESC Alliance, ACES PDSI supports the CT Accreditation Quality Improvement System (AQIS), a state resource system providing leadership and support for early childhood programs to achieve and maintain program accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC study groups and overview sessions are held regularly, as well as professional learning on the CT ELDS, CT DOTS, CT CKC Framework, and the Pyramid Model. ACES PDSI provides NAEYC accreditation support to the south-central region of Connecticut. Programs we have supported through accreditation have a pass rate of 90% and higher.

## GEER

As part of the Governor's Education Emergency Relief (GEER) Fund, the RESC Alliance partnered with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) for the purpose of ensuring continuing educational opportunities for students of all ages affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the third year of this project, ACES PDSI professional learning specialists provided technical assistance and coaching support focused on leveraging educational technology to engage and communicate with children and families. In addition, the GEER Online Learning Hub was launched in January 2023. The GEER Online Learning Hub seeks to provide online professional learning opportunities for early childhood program providers and families. Since its launch, more than 1200 childcare providers have accessed "Tech-to-Go" tutorials and "pint-sized" asynchronous learning modules. The GEER Online Learning Hub is managed by ACES PDSI and be accessed at [sites.google.com/aces.org/geeronlinelearninghub/home](https://sites.google.com/aces.org/geeronlinelearninghub/home). During the 2023-2024 school year, GEER coaches provided in-person professional learning sessions on various topics focused on how to leverage technology in early childhood programming.

## Trauma-Informed Care

Public Act No.22-47 (sections 17 &18) stated that effective July 1 of 2022, each of the state’s 6 Regional Educational Service Centers were responsible for hiring a Regional Trauma Coordinator. The Coordinators were tasked with working together to create and implement a no-cost trauma-informed care training program available to all public-school districts in Connecticut. The program includes UPLIFT- A Trauma-Informed Care curriculum, technical assistance, consultation, professional development opportunities and training for school-based mental health staff to be trainers of the trauma-informed curriculum.

## Regional Trauma Coordinators

Public Act No. 22-47 (Sections 17 & 18) stated that effective July of 2022, each of the 6 Regional Educational Service Centers were responsible for hiring a Regional Trauma Coordinator. The six Coordinators were tasked with working together to develop and implement a no cost trauma-informed care training program, provide technical assistance to regional and local boards of education in implementing the program and train school mental health specialists to be trainers of the trauma-informed program.

## Pathways to Success for Multilingual Learners

is a series of professional learning opportunities funded through Title III statewide activities funds, coordinated by ACES, and facilitated by the RESC Alliance. In 2023-24, 131 educators participated in the Pathways asynchronous professional learning modules hosted by ACES on the Canvas learning management system. This series of online modules is focused on enhancing academic outcomes for multilingual learners by increasing the capacity of school and district professionals to effectively meet the needs of their students through effective, research-based practices and strategies, and adherence to state/federal policies. These online modules were developed by the CT RESC Alliance in collaboration with the CT State Department of Education and consist of a video presentation and access to useful resources for teachers. Modules are self-paces or can be completed with a group or professional learning community (PLC).

## Recruitment Aimed at Diversifying the Educator Workforce

As part of a statewide RESC partnership, ACES has offered member districts a series of workshops focused on increasing educator diversity. ACES continues to sponsor cohorts for the Teacher Residency Program, an alternate pathway to teaching certification that aims to increase the diversity of education in Connecticut.



# 2023-2024 Service Recipient Chart

	Ansonia	Bethany	Branford	Cheshire	Derby	East Haven	Hamden	Meriden	Middletown	Milford	Naugatuck	New Haven	North Branford	North Haven	Orange	Oxford	Seymour	Wallingford	Waterbury	West Haven	Wolcott	Woodbridge	Reg Dist #5	Reg Dist #13	Reg Dist #16	ACES Programs	Other	
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS</b>																												
AAMS	X					X				X										X							2	
AMES	X				X										X					X		X				X	5	
CASDD	X		X		X	X	X				X	X				X		X		X							10	
Mill Road School	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X					X	7	
Village School	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X				X		18	
Whitney Academy	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		17	
Whitney North	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X		X	11		
<b>MAGNET SCHOOLS</b>																												
ECA	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	14
ACES at Chase	X			X	X		X	X	X		X						X	X	X		X				X	X	15	
WIMS	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X							4	
<b>ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SCHOOLS</b>																												
ASPIRE												X															-	
The Bridge at ACES	X		X			X		X	X	X		X						X	X	X							10	
REGIONS Hamden	X							X	X			X															10	
REGIONS Hartford												X						X									6	
ACES at AFIR Plainville												X							X								4	
<b>SERVICES</b>																												
ACCESS			X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X		X				X			X	2
Behavior Services	X		X	X			X	X				X				X	X	X	X	X	X						X	5
Communications Services				X																				X			0	
Early Headstart									X																X		12	
Extension Therapy Clinical Services OT/PT	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X							X	4
Health Insurance	X					X								X													1	
In-District Collaboratives	X											X								X							0	
International	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	63
Magnet School Parent Choice	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X					20	
Minority Teacher Recruitment							X	X	X		X	X		X					X	X		X					0	
Open Choice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X	X				1	
Pupil Related Services	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X	X						30	
Assistive Technology	X		X		X	X				X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X				X		X	1
Regional Special Ed Transportation	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	5
Security																											0	
Education Technology	X													X													X	4
Transportation	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X				X		X						X	X	1
World Language Services	X		X	X	X									X								X			X		X	10
Network Services	X						X	X				X							X	X	X	X						
PDSI/Early Childhood Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	292

## Major Interagency Relationships & Sources of Funding

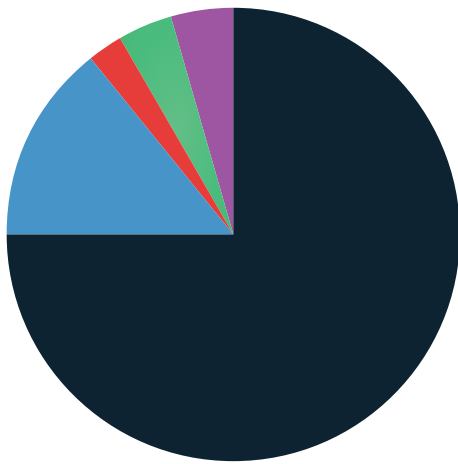
ACES maintains strong relationships with the school districts that created and govern the organization. This connection with member districts, plus other local funds, accounts for 75.06% of ACES financial support. Programs ranging from education for students with cognitive, emotional, and physical challenges to professional services including occupational and physical therapy and behavior services are financially supported by member districts through tuition and fees for services.

The second major source of support is the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). ACES receives grants and contracts primarily for state initiatives, such as the magnet school initiative, the Open Choice program, professional development activities, school construction, and school readiness programs. These programs have an impact on both school districts and local communities. This support accounts for 14.26% of ACES income.

The third major ACES interagency relationship involves the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS). ACES principal involvement with this agency is through programs for disabled adults. This funding represents 2.37% of ACES budget. The fourth major source of support for ACES programs is federal funding through grants for educational programming. This source accounts for 3.99% of the total budget.

The final category of major revenue is from private sources in the form of grants from charitable foundations and other special contracts. These grants and “other” contracts represent approximately 4.32% of the ACES annual budget.

ACES is a member of the Connecticut Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers and works closely with the other RESC’s on collaborative projects.



### ACES Funding Sources

- Local Education Agencies **\$90,184,604** | 75.06%
- State Department of Education Grants **\$17,129,546** | 14.26%
- CT Department of Developmental Services **\$2,848,624** | 2.37%
- Federal Education Grants **\$4,791,593** | 3.99%
- Foundations/Private Donations/Other **\$5,184,037** | 4.32%

**TOTAL: \$120,138,404**

# 2023-2024 Expenditures

PROGRAM/DESCRIPTION		SOURCE	BUDGET	EXPENSE
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS</b>				
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>				
1001/1002	Whitney Academy/CREATE/RISE	L	\$11,741,413	\$11,426,952
1003/1017	Mill Road School/ASCEND	L	9,844,868	9,040,450
1004	Village School	L	6,975,467	6,854,233
1005	Village EIBI	L	7,003,606	6,297,217
1007	SAILS - Intensive	L	6,064,230	5,900,351
1011	Whitney High School North	L	6,900,053	6,700,794
1012	West Haven Elementary Program	L	719,678	721,826
1013	West Haven High Program	L	854,578	819,701
1019	ACES Mead Elementary	L	1,681,884	1,639,586
1040	Transportation	L	3,462,164	3,369,723
1060	Summer School	L	2,326,920	3,409,031
			<b>\$57,574,861</b>	<b>\$56,179,865</b>
<b>MAGNET SCHOOLS</b>				
1203	Educational Center for the Arts	S,L,O	\$3,750,734	\$4,024,772
1205	Wintergreen Magnet School (WIMS)	S,L,O	8,828,993	8,279,423
1210	ACES at Chase	S,L	10,355,398	10,426,981
2001	MSAP WIMS YR.1	F	434,900	412,730
2002	MSAP WIMS YR.2	F	562,654	562,654
2405	Magnet Transportation	L,S	2,165,000	2,311,249
2638	Title IV - Student Support & Enrichment	F	35,279	22,977
2238-24	Title I Improving Programs 6/24	F	483,999	428,860
2239-23	Title II A Teachers 6/23	F	2,065	2,065
2239-24	Title II A Teachers 6/24	F	69,661	69,661
			<b>\$26,688,684</b>	<b>\$26,541,372</b>
<b>REGULAR EDUCATION</b>				
1204	NH Cooperative High School	L	\$282,395	\$282,395
1206	NH Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School	L	394,253	394,253
1209	New Haven (NH) ASPIRE	L	1,458,937	1,458,937
1218	Urban Youth	L	1,123,610	1,104,598
1219	New Haven Magnet Schools	L	50,093	50,093
1220	BRIDGES	L	772,064	911,832
1221	REGIONS (Hartford)	L	650,959	797,231
1222	REGIONS (Plainville)	L	137,300	96,829
1223	REGIONS (Hamden)	L	556,012	509,369
1227	New Haven FY22 to FY23 Carryover	L	96,916	87,711
2616	Perkins Grant - West Haven	F	176,295	166,780
			<b>\$5,698,834</b>	<b>\$5,860,030</b>
<b>INTERDISTRICT PROGRAMS</b>				
1018	Regional Special Education Transportation	L	\$4,493,739	\$5,423,644
			<b>\$4,493,739</b>	<b>\$5,423,644</b>
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS</b>			<b>\$94,456,119</b>	<b>\$94,004,911</b>
<b>PUPIL PERSONNEL &amp; SUPPORT SERVICES</b>				
1101	Pupil Services	L	\$1,523,829	\$1,818,037
1102	Extension Therapy Services	L	3,816,364	3,539,585
1103	Behavioral Services/TLC	L	4,135,590	4,316,808
1105	Assistive Technology	L	409,635	386,280
<b>TOTAL PUPIL PERSONNEL &amp; SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			<b>\$9,885,418</b>	<b>\$10,060,711</b>
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD/EARLY HEAD START</b>				
2810	Early Head Start 1/24-12/24	F	\$550,318	\$550,318
2812	Early Head Start 1/23-12/23	F	721,482	721,482
<b>TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD/EARLY HEAD START</b>			<b>\$1,271,800</b>	<b>\$1,271,800</b>



PROGRAM/DESCRIPTION		SOURCE	BUDGET	EXPENSE
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS</b>				
1602	Professional Dev/School Improvement	S, L, O	\$2,496,559	\$2,319,396
1604	Conference Management	L	63,895	95,888
1617	ACES International	O	680,821	929,486
1618	ACES PreK	O	1,645,793	1,758,717
2651-23	Title III A English Acq. 6/23	F	4,528	4,528
2651-24	Title III A English Acq. 6/24	F	62,801	52,395
<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS</b>			<b>\$4,954,396</b>	<b>\$5,160,409</b>
<b>RESC ENTITLEMENTS</b>				
2401	Administering Open Choice	L,S	\$233,052	\$262,968
2404	Choice Transportation	L,S	3,683,482	3,546,748
<b>TOTAL RESC ENTITLEMENTS</b>			<b>\$3,916,533</b>	<b>\$3,809,716</b>
<b>CAREER SERVICES</b>				
1504	ACCESS - Supported Employment	L,S,O	\$3,394,823	\$3,108,494
1550	Vocational Support Services	L,O	18,784	18,784
2104	Workforce Alliance	S	8,134	8,134
2105	Workforce Alliance	S	26,118	25,458
2110	Workforce Alliance	S	14,000	13,962
<b>TOTAL CAREER SERVICES</b>			<b>\$3,461,859</b>	<b>\$3,174,832</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2023-2024</b>			<b>\$120,602,152</b>	<b>\$120,138,404</b>

**Budgets Included in Above:**

Central Office (1370,1401-1416)	\$13,420,319	\$12,857,836
Building Operations (1301-1319, 1322)	\$12,134,170	\$11,227,063
Magnet School Operating Grants	\$10,435,998	\$10,435,998
Misc. Grants (Funding not guaranteed on an annual basis)	\$2,656,026	\$2,656,026

**Legend of Funding Sources:** L: Local F: Federal S: State O: Other

PROGRAM/DESCRIPTION		SOURCE	BUDGET
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS</b>			
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>			
1001/1002	Whitney Academy/CREATE/RISE	L	\$11,741,413
1003/1017	Mill Road School/ASCEND	L	9,844,868
1004	Village School	L	6,975,467
1005	Village EIBI	L	7,003,606
1007	SAILS - Intensive	L	6,064,230
1011	Whitney High School North	L	6,900,053
1012	West Haven Elementary Program	L	719,678
1013	West Haven High Program	L	854,578
1019	Mead Elementary School	L	1,681,884
1040	Transportation	L	3,462,164
1060	Summer School	L	2,326,920
			<b>\$57,574,861</b>
<b>MAGNET SCHOOLS</b>			
1203	Educational Center for the Arts	S,L	\$3,750,734
1205	Wintergreen Magnet School (WIMS)	S,L	8,828,993
1210	ACES at Chase	S,L	10,355,398
2001	MSAP WIMS YR.1	F	434,900 *
2002	MSAP WIMS YR.2	F	562,654
2405	Magnet Transportation	S	2,165,000
2638	Title IV - Student Support & Enrichment	F	35,279
2238-24	Title I Improving Programs 6/24	F	483,999
2239-23	Title II A Teachers 6/23	F	2,065
2239-24	Title II A Teachers 6/24	F	69,661 *
			<b>\$26,688,684</b>
<b>REGULAR EDUCATION</b>			
1204	NH Cooperative High School	L	\$282,395 *
1206	NH Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School	L	394,253 *
1209	New Haven (NH) ASPIRE	L	1,458,937
1218	Urban Youth	L	1,123,610
1219	New Haven Magnet Schools	L	50,093 *
1220	BRIDGES	L	772,064
1221	REGIONS (Hartford)	L	650,959
1222	REGIONS (Plainville)	L	137,300
1223	REGIONS (Hamden)	L	556,012
1227	New Haven FY22 to FY23 Carryover	L	96,916
2616	Perkins Grant - West Haven	F	176,295
			<b>\$5,698,834</b>
<b>INTERDISTRICT PROGRAMS</b>			
1018	Regional Special Education Transportation	L	\$4,493,739
			<b>\$4,493,739</b>
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS</b>			<b>\$94,456,119</b>
<b>PUPIL PERSONNEL &amp; SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			
1101	Pupil Services	L	\$1,523,829
1102	Extension Therapy Services	L	3,816,364
1103	Behavioral Services/TLC	L	4,135,590
1105	Assistive Technology	L	409,635
<b>TOTAL PUPIL PERSONNEL &amp; SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			<b>\$9,885,418</b>

PROGRAM/DESCRIPTION		SOURCE	BUDGET
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD/EARLY HEAD START</b>			
2810	Early Head Start 1/24-12/24	F	\$550,318 *
2812	Early Head Start 1/23-12/23	F	721,482 *
<b>TOTAL EARLY CHILDHOOD/EARLY HEAD START</b>			<b>\$1,271,800</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS</b>			
1602	Professional Dev/School Improvement	S, L, O	\$2,496,559
1604	Conference Management	L	63,895
1617	ACES International	O	680,821 *
1618	ACES PreK	O	1,645,793 *
2651-23	Title III A English Acq. 6/23	F	4,528 *
2651-24	Title III A English Acq. 6/24	F	62,801 *
<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS</b>			<b>\$4,954,396</b>
<b>RESC ENTITLEMENTS</b>			
2401	Administering Open Choice	S	\$233,052 *
2404	Choice Transportation	S	3,683,482 *
<b>TOTAL RESC ENTITLEMENTS</b>			<b>\$3,916,533</b>
<b>CAREER SERVICES</b>			
1504	ACCESS - Supported Employment	L,S,O	\$3,394,823
1550	Vocational Support Services	L,O	18,784
2104	Workforce Alliance	S	8,134
2105	Workforce Alliance	S	26,118
2110	Workforce Alliance	S	14,000
<b>TOTAL CAREER SERVICES</b>			<b>\$3,461,859</b>

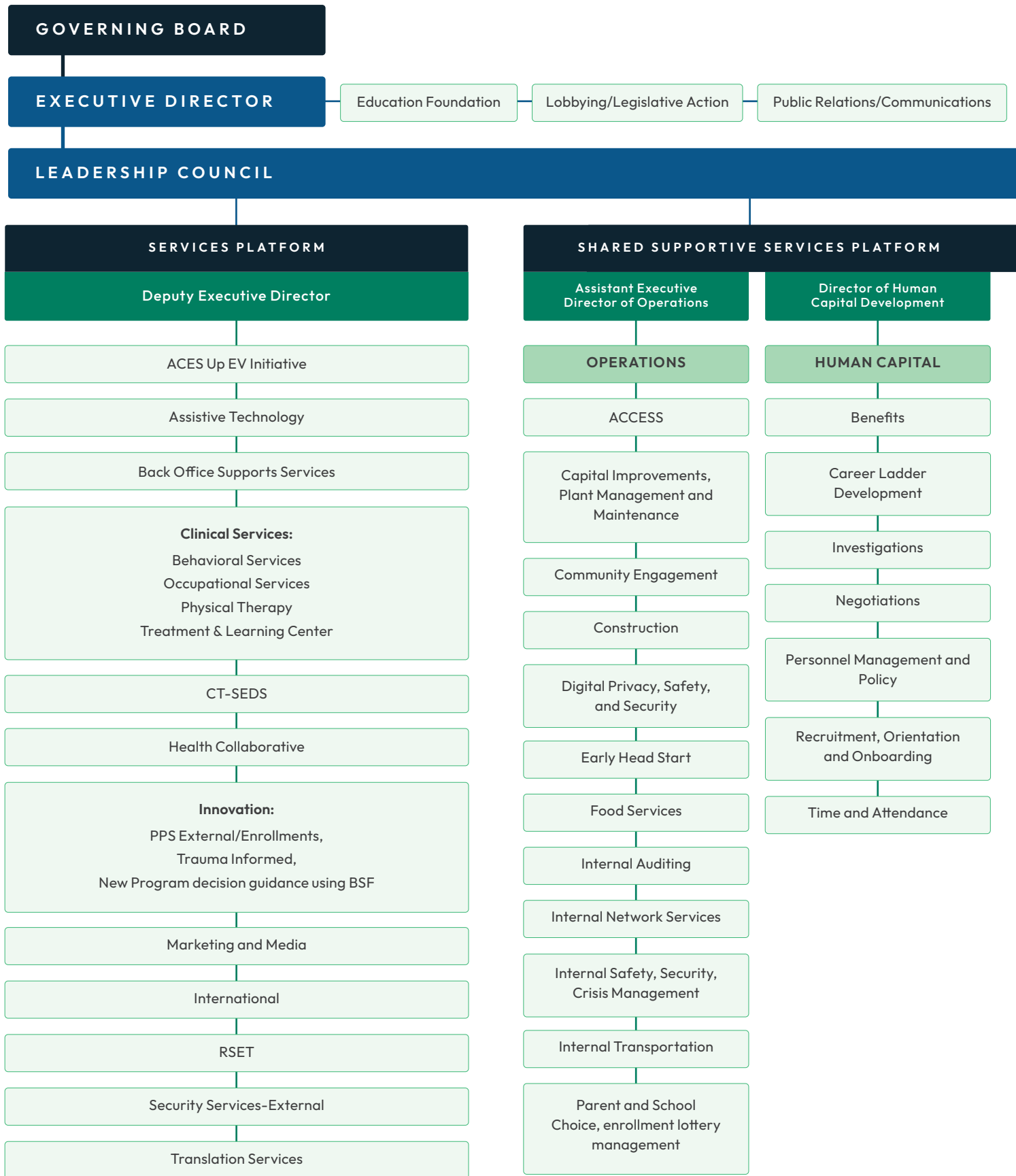
**GRAND TOTAL 2023-2024 BUDGETS: \$120,602,152**

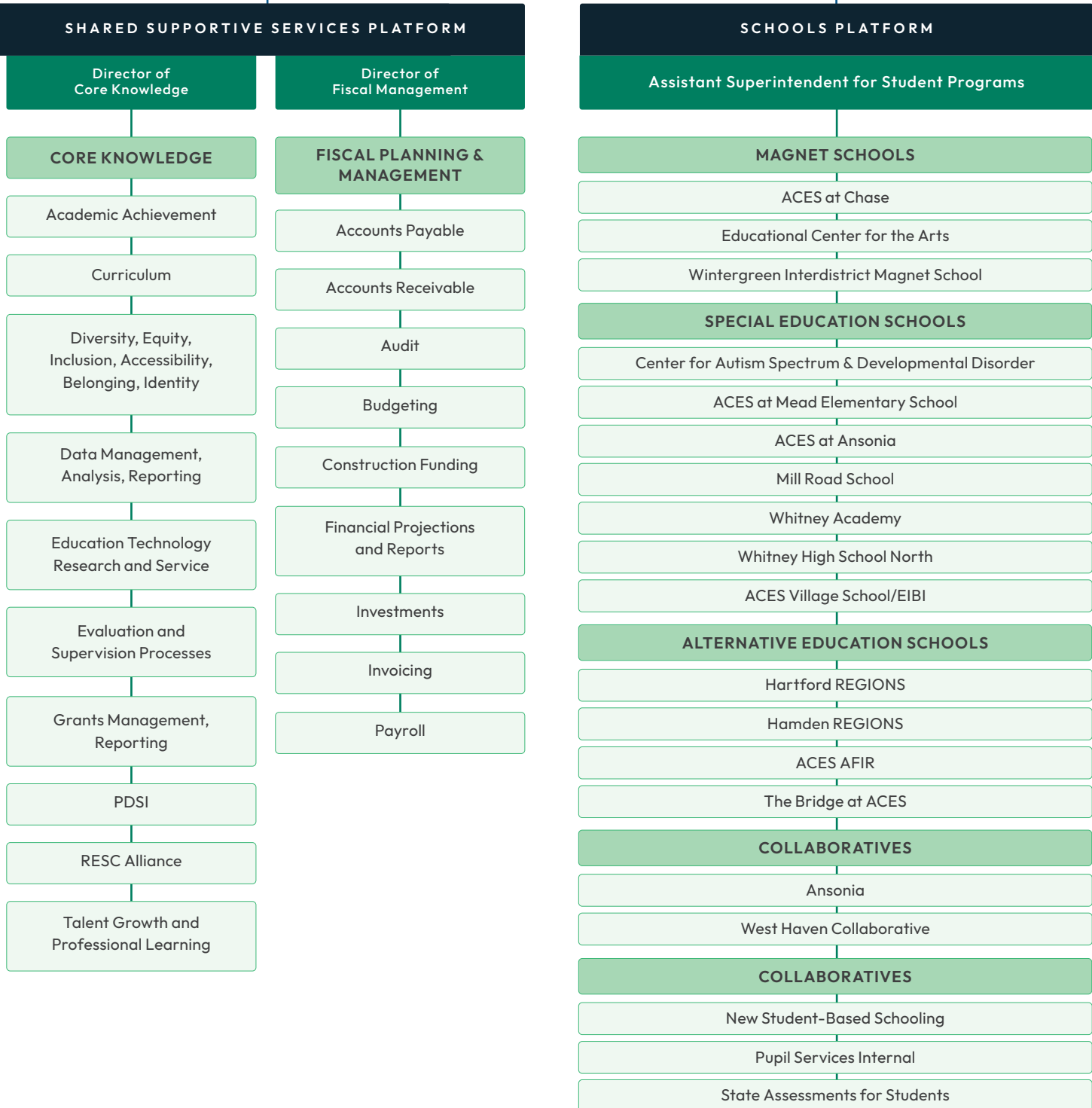
**Budgets Included in Above:**

Central Office (1370,1401-1410, 1415, 1416)	\$13,420,319
Building Operations (1301-1321, 3100)	\$12,134,170
Magnet School Operating Grants	\$10,435,998 *
Misc. Grants (Funding not guaranteed on an annual basis)	\$2,656,026 *

\* Estimated Budgets

**Legend of Funding Sources:** L: Local F: Federal S: State O: Other





# Central Administration

**Peter C. Young**  
**Administration Building**  
 370 James Street  
 New Haven, CT 06513  
 (203) 498-6800  
 Directions: (203) 498-6885

**Executive Director**  
 Thomas M. Danehy, Ed.D.  
 (203) 498-6817

**Deputy Executive Director**  
 Timothy Howes  
 (203) 498-6838

**Assistant Executive Director, Operations & Facilities**  
 William Rice  
 (203) 498-6868

**Director of Human Capital Development**  
 Rebecca Cuevas  
 (203) 498-6823

**Director of Core Knowledge**  
 Emily Freel  
 (203) 407-4400

**Director of Fiscal Management**  
 Timothy Howes  
 (203) 498-6812

**Director, Talent Development**  
 William Grimm  
 (203) 498-6869

## Schools

**ACES at Ansonia Middle School**  
 115 Howard Avenue  
 Ansonia, CT 06401  
 Heather Gish, Principal  
 (203) 736-5070

**ASPIRE**  
 261 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Dr. Lisa Simone (LCSW), Principal  
 William Shanley, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 507-5545

**The Bridge at ACES**  
 261 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Dr. Lisa Simone (LCSW), Principal  
 John (Jack) F. Kitching, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 507-5545

**ACES AFIR (Lisa's House)**  
 50 Bank Street  
 Plainville, CT 06062  
 Dr. Lisa Simone (LCSW), Principal  
 John (Jack) F. Kitching, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 484-9501

**ACES Center for Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disorders**  
 26 Old Post Road  
 Northford, CT 06472  
 Jennifer Santarcangelo, Interim Principal  
 (203) 484-9501

**ACES at Chase**  
 565 Chase Parkway  
 Waterbury, CT 06708  
 Dr. Frank LaBanca, Principal  
 Vicki Rose, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 639-8403

**ACES Educational Center for the Arts**  
 55 Audubon Street  
 New Haven, CT 06510  
 Kevin Buno, Principal  
 Amy Christman, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 777-5451

**ACES at Mead Elementary School**  
 75 Ford Street  
 Ansonia, CT 06401  
 Heather Gish, Principal  
 (203) 736-5090 ext 4229

**ACES Mill Road School**  
 295 Mill Road  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Kerri Gilmore, Principal  
 Steve Cook, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 281-6949

**ACES REGIONS**  
 995 Sherman Avenue  
 Hamden, CT 06514  
 123 Washington Street  
 Hartford, CT 06514  
 Dr. Lisa Simone (LCSW), Principal  
 John (Jack) F. Kitching, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 507-5545

**ACES Village School**  
 31 Temple Street  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Virginia Tagliatela, Principal  
 Kristen Peck, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 234-7611

**ACES Whitney Academy**  
 130-A Leeder Hill Drive  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Juliellen Rodriguez, Principal  
 Patricia Hart, Assistant Principal  
 Eric Paradis, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 281-3577

**ACES Whitney High School North**  
 130-B Leeder Hill Drive  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Bryan Markewicz, Principal  
 Kristin Harvey, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 407-4500

**ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School**  
 670 Wintergreen Avenue  
 Hamden, CT 06514  
 Zakiyyah Baker, Principal  
 Megan Conaster, Assistant Principal  
 (203) 281-9668

## Services

**ACCESS**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Enid DeJesus  
 (203) 234-1344

**Clinical Services**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Carrie Hartman  
 (203) 484-6862

**Educational Technology**  
 60 United Drive  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Wanda Wagner, D.M.  
 (203) 287-6840

**Health Insurance Collaborative**  
 350 State Street  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Timothy Howes  
 (203) 498-6838

**International Programs & External Security**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Jason Hiruo  
 (203) 498-6832

**ACES International Preschool and Childcare Center**  
 124 S. Pomperaug Avenue  
 Woodbury, CT 06798  
 7 Berkshire Road  
 Newtown, CT 06482  
 Lucia Fonseca  
 203-266-4392 ext. 2

**Early Head Start**  
 300 Washington Street  
 Middletown, CT 06457  
 Heather Granja  
 (860) 704-0725

**Marketing & Communications**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Elaine Sein  
 (203) 498-6816

**Network Services**  
 370 State Street  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Lon Harrigan  
 (203) 287-6850

**Professional Development and School Improvement Services / Early Childhood Services**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Michelle Gohagon  
 (203) 407-4408

**Pupil Services and Collaborative Programs**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Kevin Keating  
 (203) 498-6849

**Regional Special Education Transportation**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Olga Sanchez  
 (203) 498-6838

**Speech & Language Services**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT  
 Leslie Peters M.S., CCC/SLP  
 (203) 407-4422

**Trauma & Collaborative Programs**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Cynthia Ratchelous  
 (203) 407-4421

**Translation Services**  
 205 Skiff Street  
 Hamden, CT 06517  
 Melissa Alers  
 (203) 498-6845

**Transportation Services**  
 60 United Drive  
 North Haven, CT 06473  
 Rosemarie Arma-Nowlin  
 (203) 234-2406



# CULTIVATING SUCCESS

The Growth of ACES and its People

aces

205 SKIFF STREET • HAMDEN, CT 06517

(203) 498-6800 / [www.aces.org](http://www.aces.org)

