

**We Support**



**CONNECTICUT  
GREEN LEAF  
SCHOOLS**

*Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering  
healthy, green schools for all*

**Connecticut Green LEAF Schools  
Collaboration Partners**

*CT Department of Education  
CT Department of Energy and Environmental  
Protection  
CT Department of Construction Services  
CT Department of Public Health*

*Association of School Nurses of Connecticut  
Central Connecticut State University  
Common Ground School  
Connecticut Audubon Society  
Connecticut Business and Industry Association  
Connecticut Department of Health Asthma  
Program*

*Connecticut Education Association  
Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund  
Connecticut Environmental Literacy Plan  
Connecticut Green Building Council  
Connecticut Light & Power  
Connecticut Sea Grant  
Conn-OSHA*

*CREC  
CRRRA  
CT Forest and Park Association  
CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe  
Schools  
CT Outdoor and Environmental Education  
Association*

*CT Science Teachers Association  
EASTCONN  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
EPA Region 1  
Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU  
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership  
Reforest the Tropics  
Southern Connecticut State University  
United Illuminating  
Yale University*

March 15, 2013

Dear Superintendent,

We are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for your schools to join the **Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program**. This program, which focuses on “Leading, Educating, Achieving, and Fostering healthy, green schools for all,” is a collaborative effort of our offices – the Connecticut Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Construction Services, and Public Health, in partnership with more than twenty environmental and educational non-governmental organizations in Connecticut.

The **Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program** has the following goals:

**Provide effective environmental and sustainability education**, including: interdisciplinary learning featuring relationships between the environment, energy, and human systems; connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content and practice; and civic engagement with the local community;

**Improve the health and wellness of students and staff**, including: an integrated school environmental health program; standards for nutrition and fitness; and quality outdoor time; and

**Reduce environmental impact and cost**, including: maximizing building energy and water efficiency; encouraging waste reduction; and promoting alternative transportation use.

We recognize that each of these goals is important to your schools and communities, and that you may already be making progress in many of these areas. The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program supports and encourages your efforts by providing resources and professional development to improve the sustainability of all Connecticut schools.

We encourage all Kindergarten through Grade 12 schools in your district to participate in this initiative. Please see the enclosed brochure for more information about the program and visit [www.ctgreenschools.org/ctgreenleaf.htm](http://www.ctgreenschools.org/ctgreenleaf.htm) for guided instructions.

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Our departments will recognize all schools that participate and present “CT Green LEAF School” awards to those which have made substantial progress in making their schools more sustainable. The Connecticut State Department of Education will also nominate up to four schools, selected from program participants, to be considered for the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools Award.

We hope that you will join us in this important effort to create green and healthy schools for all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stefan Pryor".

Stefan Pryor  
Commissioner  
Connecticut State Department of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel C. Esty".

Daniel C. Esty  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Energy and  
Environmental Protection

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald DeFronzo".

Donald DeFronzo  
Acting Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Construction Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jewel Mullen, MD".

Dr. Jewel Mullen  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Public Health

cc: Principals

Enclosure