Desi Nesmith is the Deputy Commissioner of Academics and Innovation at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). He grew up in Bloomfield, attended school there from grades 1-9, and graduated from Northwest Catholic High School. Desi comes from a family of educators including his father (a teacher in Hartford Public Schools for 35 years) who served as his inspiration for becoming a teacher.

After attending the University of Connecticut, he began his education career at Mayberry Elementary School in East Hartford where he had the good fortune to teach 5th grade. Desi also served as principal of SAND School in Hartford and Metacomet School in Bloomfield which he attended as a child. He found that becoming the principal of the elementary school which he attended to be an amazing experience.

Desi feels blessed to work with some of the best educators in the state. He has been at CSDE for 4 years serving previously as the Chief Turnaround Officer before becoming Deputy Commissioner.

Desi lives in Windsor and is married with two children. His wife Aixa is a teacher and both of their children attend public school. In their spare time, the Nesmith family loves to travel and enjoy all things Disney.

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