

Connecticut State Department of Education Staff Directory

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Office of the Commissioner

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Commissioner	Charlene Russell-Tucker	(860) 713-6500	charlene.russell-tucker@ct.gov
Executive Secretary	Kimberly Zisa	(860) 713-6436	kimberly.zisa@ct.gov
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Coordinator of Systemic Implementation	Chloe Cummings	(860) 713-6559	chloe.cummings@ct.gov

Office of the Deputy Commissioner

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Office of Communications and Community Partnerships

Public information line: (860) 713-6548

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Legal and Governmental Affairs Office

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Staff Attorney	Kathleen Reiser	(860) 713-6539	kathleen.reiser@ct.gov
Staff Attorney	Louis Todisco	(860) 713-6594	louis.todisco@ct.gov
Staff Attorney	Matthew Venhorst	(860) 713-6514	matthew.venhorst@ct.gov
Paralegal	Jennifer Posteraro	(860) 713-6677	jennifer.posteraro@ct.gov

Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practices

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Internal Audit

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Accounts Examiner	(Vacant)		

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Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Equal Employment Opportunity

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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CT Educator Preparation and Certification Board

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Academic Office

Main line: (860) 713-6740

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Chief Academic Officer	Irene Parisi	(860) 713-6852	irene.parisi@ct.gov
Support Staff	Suzanne Alicea	(860) 713-6886	suzanne.alicea@ct.gov
Perkins State Director; Perkins Grant Manager; Industry Recognized Credentials; Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training Clusters	Kyllie Freeman	(860) 713-6592	kyllie.freeman@ct.gov
Perkins Grant Manager; College Career Pathways; Work-based Learning; Business Management & Administration, Finance, Health Science, and Marketing Clusters	(Vacant)		
Perkins Grant Manager; Agricultural Science, Architecture, Engineering, STEM and Transportation Clusters	Rebecca Rose	(860) 713-6866	rebecca.rose@ct.gov
Perkins Grant Manager; CTSO State Director, Manufacturing, STEM, Information Technology, and Arts/AV Clusters	Sean McKeown	(860) 713-6884	sean.mckeown@ct.gov
K-12 Curriculum Coordinator	Paul Castiglione	(860) 713-6936	paul.castiglione@ct.gov
Literacy English Language Arts K-12	Joanne White	(860) 713-6751	joanne.r.white@ct.gov
Mathematics K-12 and Computer Science	Jennifer Michalek	(860) 713-6557	jennifer.michalek@ct.gov
Science K-12	(Vacant)		
Social Studies K-12	Ryan Jones	(860) 713-6897	ryan.jones@ct.gov
Title III State Director, Bilingual Grant, Immigrant Grant, Multilingual Learners, Seal of Biliteracy	Megan Alubicki Flick	(860) 713-6786	megan.alubicki@ct.gov
Title II State Director; IIA/ESEA/Refugee/Neglected and Delinquent/Rural Grant Manager	James Dargati	(860) 713-6562	james.dargati@ct.gov
Title I State Director; Title I/ II/ESEA Education	Jennifer Murrihy	(860) 713-6503	jennifer.murrihy@ct.gov
Director of Equity and Languages	Maribel Olivero	(860) 713-6801	maribel.olivero@ct.gov

Adult Education Unit

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Diploma and Transcript Processing	Laura Lynch	(860) 807-2111	laura.lynch@ct.gov
Adult Education State Grant, Credit Diploma Program, Homeschooling, Working Papers	Marcy Reed	(860) 807-2130	marcy.reed@ct.gov
Adult Education Federal Grant, English as a Second Language, Citizenship, Professional Learning	Susan Kocaba	(860) 807-2073	susan.kocaba@ct.gov

Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Associate Education Consultant	Erin Edwards	(860) 713-6994	erin.edwards@ct.gov
Associate Education Consultant	Cody Fusco	(860) 713-6991	cody.fusco@ct.gov
Associate Education Consultant	Candice LaConti	(860) 713-6922	candice.laconti@ct.gov
Associate Education Consultant	Deirdre Savarese	(860) 713-6997	deirdre.savarese@ct.gov
Associate Education Consultant	Caroline Messenger	(860) 713-6636	caroline.messenger@ct.gov

Bureau of Special Education

Main line: (860) 713-6910

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Bureau Chief	Katherine Matz	(860) 713-6919	katherine.matz@ct.gov
Administrative Assistant	Mildred Pagan	(860) 713-6917	mildred.pagan@ct.gov
Support Staff, Approved Private Special Education Programs	Regina Gaunichaux	(860) 713-6937	regina.gaunichaux@ct.gov
Support Staff, Dispute Resolution	Jolie Medina	(860) 713-6571	yolanda.medina@ct.gov
Support Staff, Surrogate Parent Program	(Vacant)		
Durational Project Manager, General Monitoring and Supervision	Heather Levitt Doucette	(860) 713-6586	heather.levitt@ct.gov

Student Services & Supports

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Surrogate Parent Program, LRE, Bureau Bulletin, CSDE Liaison to DCF	Nicole Deal	(860) 713-6943	nicole.deal@ct.gov
Approved Special Education Programs, Restraint and Seclusion, Secondary Transition	Ashley DiGangi	(860) 713-6501	ashley.digangi@ct.gov
Paraeducators, Charters, Secondary Transition	Alexa Osterhout	(860) 713-6931	alexa.osterhout@ct.gov
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Disproportionality, Assistive Technology, Low Incidence Populations, MTSS Liaison	Viviana Toure	(860) 713-6924	viviana.toure@ct.gov

Dispute Resolution

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Complaint Investigator, Special Education COPs, Graduation/Dropout	Jay Brown	(860) 713-6918	jay.brown@ct.gov
Complaint Investigator, Restraint/Seclusion	Sean Cronin	(860) 713-6938	sean.cronin@ct.gov
Due Process, Hearings, Mediation	Kirsten Dovenberg	(860) 713-6879	kirsten.dovenberg@ct.gov
Complaint Investigations, Complaint Coordination	Jennifer James	(860) 713-6916	jennifer.james@ct.gov
Complaint Investigator, Differentiated Monitoring and Supports	Natalie Jones	(860) 713-6933	natalie.jones@ct.gov
Complaint Investigator, PPT Leadership Initiative, IEP Quality Training	Elisa Laudati	(860) 713-6716	elisa.laudati@ct.gov
Complaint Investigator, General Monitoring and Supervision	Laura Luna	(860) 713-6941	laura.luna@ct.gov

Program Improvement

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
General Supervision and Monitoring, Differentiated Monitoring & Supports	(Vacant)		
Early Childhood Special Education, IDEA Funds manager (3-5), Preschool Outcomes, CSDE Liaison to OEC	Renee Kleinman	(860) 713-6468	renee.kleinman@ct.gov
State Performance Plan (SPP), Annual Performance Report (APR), General Supervision, CT-SEDS/IEP	Michael Tavernier	(860) 713-6929	michael.tavernier@ct.gov

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
IDEA Funds Manager, Program/Fiscal Compliance System, State Part B Application, SSIP	Alycia Trakas	(860) 713-6932	alycia.trakas@ct.gov
CT-SEDS, Professional Development: New Teachers, Instructional Support Partners, SPP-APR	(Vacant)		

Office of Finance and Internal Operations

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services	Jessica Brunetti	(860) 713-6464	jessica.brunetti@ct.gov
Administrative Assistant	Cassandra Walcott	(860) 713-6622	cassandra.walcott@ct.gov

Accounting Unit

(Grants Reporting/Accounts Receivable)

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Associate Accountant	Kimberly Murphy	(860) 713-6641	kimberly.murphy@ct.gov
Associate Accountant	Nashrin Bhura	(860) 713-6674	nashrin.bhura@ct.gov
Associate Accountant	Rebecca Diaz-Sierra	(860) 713-6634	rebecca.diaz.sierra@ct.gov
Associate Accountant	Rachel Higgins	(860) 713-6757	rachel.higgins@ct.gov
Associate Accountant	Susan Shea	(860) 713-6646	susan.shea@ct.gov

Special Education Rate Setting Unit

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Fiscal Administrative Manager	(Vacant)		
Associate Accountant	(Vacant)		
Associate Accountant	(Vacant)		
Associate Accountant	(Vacant)		

Fiscal Unit

(Contracts/Travel/Accounts Payable/Purchasing)

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
Fiscal Administrative Supervisor	Robin Fiumara	(860) 713-6627	robin.fiumara@ct.gov
Fiscal Administrative Officer	Michael Conway	(860) 713-6637	michael.conway@ct.gov
Associate Fiscal Administrative Officer	Michael Orvis	(860) 713-6665	michael.orvis@ct.gov

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Fiscal Administrative Assistant	Lily Li	(860) 713-6642	lily.li@ct.gov
Fiscal Administrative Assistant	Carrie Varady	(860) 713-6628	carrie.varady@ct.gov

Operational Services

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Mail Handler	(Vacant)		

Grants Management Unit

(Grant Calculations/Data Analysis/System Maintenance)

Main line: (860) 713-6450

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Education Consultant	Leah Grenier	(860) 713-6632	leah.grenier@ct.gov
Education Consultant	Bonne Pathman	(860) 713-6458	bonne.pathman@ct.gov
Education Consultant	Mark Stange	(860) 713-6462	mark.stange@ct.gov
Education Consultant	Nghi Trieu	(860) 713-6683	nghi.trieu@ct.gov
Education Consultant	(Vacant)		

Payroll Unit

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Payroll Officer	Veronika Nelson	(860) 713-6658	veronika.nelson@ct.gov
Payroll Clerk	Deanna Dowdell	(860) 713-6496	deanna.dowdell@ct.gov

Performance Office

Main line: (860) 713-6870

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Administrative Assistant	Shondel Edwards	(860) 713-6887	shondel.edwards@ct.gov
Support Staff	Renee Brousseau	(860) 713-6865	renee.brousseau@ct.gov
Education Support Technician	Kimberly Johnson	(860) 713-6885	kimberly.johnson@ct.gov

Data Collection

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Special Education (CT-SEDS, SEDAC, R/S), Directory Manager	Laura Guerrero	(860) 713-6898	laura.guerrera@ct.gov
CT-SEDS, Evaluation Timelines, K-Inventory, K-3 Reading Initiative	Ada Kovaci-Kume	(860) 713-6855	ada.kovaci-kume@ct.gov
ED 165, Educator Data, Ed Evaluation, Directory Manager, Physical Fitness	Raymond Martin	(860) 713-6876	raymond.martin@ct.gov
Unit Coordinator, PSIS Manager, PSIS (Oct/June), Attendance, Loan Forgiveness, Kindergarten Inventory	Kendra Shakir	(860) 713-6896	kendra.shakir@ct.gov

Student Assessment

Main line: (860) 713-6860

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Accessibility, Accommodations, Special Populations, Interim Assessment	Deirdre Ducharme	(860) 713-6859	deirdre.ducharme@ct.gov
Next Gen Science, Assessment Support	Jeffrey Greig	(860) 713-6854	jeff.greig@ct.gov
CT SAT School Day, PSAT/AP, Assessment Support, ED159, Newsletters	Michelle Rosado	(860) 713-6748	michelle.rosado@ct.gov
Accessibility, Accommodations, Special Populations, Testing Support	Katherine Seifert	(860) 713-6722	katherine.seifert@ct.gov

EdSight

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Unit Coordinator, Accountability, EdSight ETL, EdSight Reports, Special Analysis	Danielle Bousquet	(860) 713-6832	danielle.bousquet@ct.gov
EdFacts Coordinator SAT/AP, ACT, IB Data, Data Loads Public/Secure Reports	Philip Gillett	(860) 713-6893	philip.gillett@ct.gov
EdSight, ETLs, Data Integration, Reporting (public and secure)	Briana Hennessy	(860) 713-6873	briana.hennessy@ct.gov
Summer EBT Program Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Data, Data Loads	Christopher Zachau	(860) 713-6837	christopher.zachau@ct.gov
Data Integration, Perkins, Enumeration, Condition of Education	Samuel Kamin	(860) 713-6877	samuel.kamin@ct.gov
Reporting (public and secure), Data Integration	Stephanie O'Day	(860) 713-6803	stephanie.oday@ct.gov
EdSight PM, ETLs, Data Integration, Release Management	John Watson	(860) 713-6899	john.watson@ct.gov

Special Analyses/Psychometrics

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Psychometrics, Reports, Special Analyses	Pei-Hsuan Chiu	(860) 713-6869	pei-hsuan.chiu@ct.gov
Part B Data Mgr., Smarter Balanced, Special Education Analyses, Restraint and Seclusion, SPP/APR	(Vacant)		
English Learners, Testing Support, Accountability, Assessment Data	Michael Sabados	(860) 713-6856	michael.sabados@ct.gov
NAEP State Coordinator, International Assessments, Accountability	Renee Savoie	(860) 713-6858	renee.savoie@ct.gov
Special Education, Restraint & Seclusion, SPP/APR, Special Analyses	Madelyn Chasse	(860) 713-6882	madelyn.chasse@ct.gov

Office of Strategic Planning & Partnerships

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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College and Career Readiness

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Consultant	Katherine Atkinson	(860) 713-6773	katie.atkinson@ct.gov

Statewide School Choice Programs

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Open Choice Programs and Policy	Brenna Casey	(860) 713-6457	brenna.casey@ct.gov
Magnet Programs and Policy	Meliha Korkutovic	(860) 713-6939	meliha.korkutovic@ct.gov
Sheff Lottery Coordinator	Laura Lyon	(860) 713-6598	laura.lyon@ct.gov
Magnet Plan Coordinator	Kelly Mero-Ridenhour	(860) 713-6454	kelly.mero@ct.gov

Regional School Choice/Sheff

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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RSCO Parent Resource Center	Shelby Caballero	(860) 713-6920	shelby.caballero@ct.gov
RSCO Parent Resource Center	Marilyn Cancel	(860) 713-6623	marilyn.cancel@ct.gov
RSCO Parent Resource Center	Carmen Santana	(860) 713-6626	carmen.santana@ct.gov

Office of Student Support Services

School Health, Nutrition and Family Services

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Support Staff	Marie Aligata	(860) 807-2061	marie.aligata@ct.gov
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Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

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Support Staff	(Vacant)		
CACFP child care centers/CACFP adult centers/CACFP at-risk afterschool meals	(Vacant)		
CACFP child care centers/adult centers	Benedict Onye	(860) 807-2080	benedict.onye@ct.gov
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for Fairfield, New Haven, and New London counties/Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP for Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, and New London counties	Caroline Cooke	(860) 807-2144	caroline.cooke@ct.gov
Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and School Breakfast Program (SBP) for New London and Windham counties/Civil rights/Claims processing/Food safety	(Vacant)		
CEP, NSLP, and SBP for Hartford county/Direct Certification/Verification	Therese Dandeneau	(860) 807-2079	teri.dandeneau@ct.gov
Summer EBT for Children (S-EBT)	David Donovan	(860) 807-2013	david.donovan@ct.gov
Food Distribution Program (FDP) / USDA Foods	Allison Calhoun-White	(860) 807-2008	allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov
Grants and contracts / National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant	Sean Fogarty	(860) 807-2055	sean.fogarty@ct.gov
Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), CEP, NSLP, and SBP for New Haven County	Greg King	(860) 807-6804	greg.king@ct.gov
CACFP child care centers / CACFP Family day care homes / SFSP for Middlesex, Tolland, and Windham counties	Flor Sprouse	(860) 713-6849	flor.sprouse@ct.gov
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) child care centers	Bernice Amponsah	(860) 713-2177	bernice.amponsah@ct.gov
CEP, NSLP, and SBP for Middlesex and Tolland counties /Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	Jennifer Bove	(860) 807-2044	jennifer.bove@ct.gov
Farm to school and school gardens/FDP: USDA Foods/NSLP procurement	Monica Pacheco	(860) 807-2086	monica.pacheco@ct.gov
SFSP for Hartford and Litchfield counties/SSO for Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland, and Windham counties/Special Milk Program (SMP)	Terese Maineri	(860) 807-2145	terese.maineri@ct.gov

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
CEP, NSLP, and SBP for Fairfield and Litchfield counties/Income and expenditure reports/Interschool agreements/School wellness policies	Fionnuala Brown	(860) 807-2129	fionnuala.brown@ct.gov
FFVP/Food service management companies/NSLP procurement	Andy Paul	(860) 807-2048	andrew.paul@ct.gov
Child Nutrition websites/Healthy Food Certification (HFC)/Nutrition education and resources/School Lunch Tray and CACFP Updates/Special diets (meal modifications)	Susan Fiore	(860) 807-2075	susan.fiore@ct.gov

Health/Family Services

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Family/Community Engagement, School Governance Councils, Parent Trust Fund	Judy Carson	(860) 807-2122	judy.carson@ct.gov
Attendance, Chronic Absence, Truancy	Kari Sullivan Custer	(860) 807-2041	kari.sullivan@ct.gov
School Discipline, Social/Emotional Learning, Teen Dating Violence, College and Career Readiness, School Counseling	Kim Traverso	(860) 807-2057	kimberly.traverso@ct.gov
School Psychology, Alternative School Program	(Vacant)		
School Mental Health, Prevention and Crisis Response, School Social Work, Title IV Part A, School-Based Diversion Initiatives	Kate Bohannon	(860) 807-2123	kate.bohannon@ct.gov
State After School Programs, Primary Mental Health, First Robotics grant programs, Faith-Based Initiatives	Agnes Quinones	(860) 807-2126	agnes.quinones@ct.gov
School Climate and Culture, Bullying Prevention	Amanda Pickett	(860) 713-6805	amanda.pickett@ct.gov
21st Century Community Learning Centers, Teen Parent and Fatherhood Program, Extended School Hours Program	Shelby Pons	(860) 807-2103	shelby.pons@ct.gov
McKinney-Vento Act, Education of Homeless Children and Youth, Family Resource Centers	Louis Tallarita	(860) 807-2058	louis.tallarita@ct.gov

Talent Office

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Bureau Chief	Jade Gopie	(860) 713-6739	jade.gopie@ct.gov
Office Supervisor	Nancy Velez	(860) 713-6721	nancy.velez@ct.gov
Support Staff	Michelle Belcher-Felton	(860) 713-6824	michelle.belcher-felton@ct.gov

Bureau of Educator Standards & Certification

Role	Name	Telephone	Email
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Certification Analyst	Julianne Frost	(860) 713-6969	julianne.frost@ct.gov
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