

2026|2027

Member District Calendar



EdAdvance
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CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

• Executive Director	Jonathan P. Costa, Sr.	costa@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1115
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• Chief Operations Officer	Richard Carmelich	carmelich@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1141
• Chief Talent & Development Officer	Tracey Lay	lay@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1143
• Director of Regional & Transition Services	Jody Minotti	minotti@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1127

PROGRAMS & SERVICES CONTACTS

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• Adult Training & Development Network (ATDN)	Amy Ferrari	ferrari@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1132
• BASES (Before and After School Extended Services)	Sarah Moran	moran@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1193
• Birth to Three	Bruni Edwards	edwards@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1170
• College and Career Accelerator	Dan Cocchiola	cocchiola@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1041
• Center for Program Research & Evaluation	Elizabeth Radday	radday@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1209
• Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching Regional Learning Center	Brett Fiore	fiore@edadvance.org	(860) 618-7403 x1256
• Early Childhood & Family Programs	Michelle Anderson	andersonm@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1177
• Facilities	Tim Noel	noel@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1149
• Fiscal Services	Mia Toimil	toimil@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1157
• Food Services	Becky Tyrrell	tyrrell@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1148
• Grants & Special Programs	Abby Rose	rose@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1166
• Head Start/Early Head Start	Carmella Galipault	galipault@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1213
• Human Resources	Rose Forzano	forzano@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1111
• Marketing & Communications	Devonna Dionne	dionne@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1124
• Professional Learning	Lisa Bowden	bowden@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1117
• Regional & Transition Services	Jody Minotti	minotti@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1127
• School Climate & Mental Health Services	Judith Palmer	jpalmer@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1175
• Skills21 and Artificial Intelligence	Matt Mervis	mervis@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1129
• Special Education Programs & Services	Seamus Cullinan	cullinan@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1079
• Technology Services	Jaren Havell	havell@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1155
• Transportation	Michael LoRusso	lorussom@edadvance.org	(860) 567-0863 x1131

Adult & Continuing Education



The Adult & Continuing Education program is a consortium of 16 school districts that provides free in-person and online academic programs and fee-for-service enrichment classes for adult learners at convenient locations around Litchfield County.

These classes are FREE for adults who live in our service area

- GED (General Educational Development) Preparation
- CDP (High School Credit Diploma Program)
- NEDP (National External Diploma Program)
- Adult Basic Education: Reading and Math
- ESL (English As A Second Language)
- Citizenship Classes

EdAdvance Adult & Continuing Education can design and deliver customized workplace training to meet the specific needs of any business or organization. Our services include upskilling opportunities for incumbent employees as well as Workplace Literacy programs that strengthen foundational skills such as reading, writing, math, and English language proficiency, ensuring employees are better equipped to succeed and grow within their roles.

EdAdvance Continuing Education offers in-person and online enrichment classes each semester. These classes cover a wide range of topic areas including Arts & Crafts, Computer Training, Finance, Languages, Personal Development, and Recreation & Leisure.

We are an Eligible Training Provider through CTHires for ServSafe Food Manager and Paraprofessional. Additional career enhancement topics can be taken through our Ed2Go portal. Districts can access essential staff development options through our Global Compliance Network portal.

The course catalog is mailed in late August (fall semester) and late December (spring semester) to homes in Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Plymouth, Salisbury, Sharon, Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Watertown, Winchester, Winsted, and Woodbury.

Our Pearson Vue Testing Center offers convenient testing in Northwest Connecticut for all Pearson tests including GED, Foundations of Reading, and many professional certifications and for Educational Testing Service (ETS) exams including Praxis and ParaPro.



BASES Programs



Our BASES (Before and After School Extended Services) Programs provide a state-licensed twelve-month program for children of elementary and middle school age. On-site before and after school programs, as well as full-day summer programs, offer a variety of enriching and quality experiences. Parents have peace of mind knowing their child receives quality, affordable care conveniently located in the school buildings. These programs are primarily funded by parent fees and require no additional funding from school districts.

Scheduled activities include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) and literacy enrichment components, physical activities, SEL (Social Emotional Learning) focused activities, quiet time, and homework time. Students have some choice in planning and implementing activities in which they want to participate. The program provides daily nutritious snacks.

BASES Summer Programs are currently offered in Newtown and Torrington and operate full day (7:00 am-6:00 pm), throughout the summer to support working families. Each week's schedule includes swimming, field trips, and fun activities based on our version of STEAM-Science, Technology, Energy (physical activities), Arts, Measure up (cooking with math). BASES partners with school districts to provide wrap-around care for district led summer school.

We Offer

- On-site before and/or after school programs for elementary and middle school age students.
- Full day summer programs for students.
- Consulting and technical assistance for out-of-school time programs in your district/agency.

We Can Help Your School District

- Prepare a comprehensive needs assessment for your before and after school needs.
- Offer programming based on your district needs including early dismissals and summer.
- Design, implement, and evaluate local before and after school programs.
- Consult with local programs as Quality Advisors or Education Consultants.



August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17 <u>New Staff/Teacher Orientation:</u> Bethel Danbury Region 12	18 <u>New Staff/Teacher Orientation:</u> Bethel Danbury Region 1 Schools Region 12	19 <u>New Staff/Teacher Orientation:</u> Bethel Danbury Region 14 Torrington <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Region 12 <u>Teacher Professional Meetings:</u> Region 1 Schools <u>Teacher Work Day:</u> New Milford	20 <u>New Teacher Orientation:</u> Brookfield, New Fairfield, Region 14, The Gilbert School, Torrington, Winchester <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Danbury New Milford Region 1 Schools Region 12 <u>Teacher Professional Meetings:</u> Region 1 Schools	21 <u>Convocation:</u> New Milford <u>Convocation and Staff Development:</u> The Gilbert School <u>New Teacher Orientation:</u> Brookfield, New Fairfield, Thomaston, Winchester <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Danbury Region 12
24 <u>Convocation:</u> Danbury, Plymouth, Torrington <u>Convocation/Professional Development:</u> Region 14, Region 20 <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, Colebrook, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Hartford, Newtown, Norfolk, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Watertown, Winchester <u>School Begins:</u> New Milford - (Early Dismissal) <u>Teacher's First Day:</u> New Fairfield	25 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Milford - (PD) <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Bethel, Brookfield, Colebrook, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 7, Region 10, Region 14, Region 20, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester <u>School Begins:</u> Danbury Region 1 Schools - (Early Dismissal) Region 12 <u>Staff Only:</u> Barkhamsted	26 <u>Convocation/Professional Development</u> <u>(No Students):</u> Brookfield <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools, New Fairfield, Newtown, Plymouth, Region 20, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester <u>School Begins:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Colebrook, Hartland, New Hartford, Norfolk, Region 7, Region 10 - (Early Dismissal), Region 14, The Gilbert School - (Grades 7 & 9), Thomaston - (Early Dismissal)	27 <u>Convocation:</u> Region 15 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Thomaston <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Bethel Watertown <u>School Begins:</u> Brookfield EdAdvance Special Education Schools New Fairfield Newtown - (Early Dismissal) Plymouth Region 20 The Gilbert School Torrington Winchester	28 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Newtown Thomaston <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Bethel Region 15
31 <u>New Teacher Orientation:</u> Sherman <u>School Begins:</u> CCA, Watertown - (Early Dismissal - PD) <u>Teacher Work Day:</u> Region 15				

College and Career Accelerator



The College and Career Accelerator (CCA) prepares students for college, career, and life after high school through stackable, dual credit and career-connected pathways.

CCA at the Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching Regional Learning Center

At the Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching Regional Learning Center in Torrington, CCA offers defined regional pathways in Manufacturing Engineering, Education, Healthcare, and Public Safety. Through these pathways, high school students can earn tuition-free college credit, gain hands-on workplace readiness skills, pursue industry-recognized credentials and college certificates, and even work toward an associate degree while still in high school.

CCA In-District Pathways

CCA In-District Pathways helps districts build strong career pathway programs in their own schools. This work includes support with curriculum, teaching and learning, teacher professional development, inclusive practices for diverse and exceptional learners, and the design of clear course sequences that lead to

stackable credentials. The goal is to help districts create pathways where students can explore careers, earn credentials, and move through a connected program instead of a set of one-time experiences.

Together, CCA's regional and in-district models connect students with higher education partners, industry engagement, experiential learning, and access to credit- and credential-bearing opportunities.



September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Watertown - (PD) <u>Opening Day for Teachers:</u> Sherman <u>School Begins:</u> Region 15	2 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD)	3 <u>School Begins:</u> Sherman - (Early Dismissal)	4 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (PD) Sherman <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Region 1 Schools
7 <u>LABOR DAY:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	8	9	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Torrington	11 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Hartland - (PD) Norfolk - (PD)
14	15	16 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 Schools - (PD) Region 10 - (PD) Region 14 - (PD) Region 20 - (Teacher Work Day) The Gilbert School Winchester - (PD)	17 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Torrington - (PLC)	18
21 <u>YOM KIPPUR - Schools Closed:</u> Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Region 15	22	23	24 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Plymouth - (PD) Region 12 - (PD) Watertown - (PD)	25
28	29 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD)	30		

Early Childhood & Family Programs



The Early Childhood & Family Programs partners with early childhood education centers, schools, families, and communities to ensure successful outcomes for all children and families. We offer an array of programs and services to meet community and family needs.

Programs and services in school districts and communities include

- BASES (Before and After School Extended Services)
- Early Childhood consultation and TA support
- Early Childhood planning and Early Start CT support to providers
- Early Childhood professional development
- Facilitation of the Local Governance Partners (LGP) for 3 communities
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Litchfield County Family Child Care Network
- Management of the Western CT Home Visitation Partnership
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education and Outreach (Birth to 12th grade)
- NAEYC Accreditation Support
- Parents as Teachers Home Visitation Program
- Parent engagement, outreach, and referrals
- Plymouth Family Resource Center at PLA
- Plymouth Family Resource Center Preschool at PLA
- Torrington Family Resource Center at Vogel-Wetmore School in Torrington

EdAdvance's Early Childhood and Family Programs Department is a full-service resource hub for early childhood professionals and families in our region.

Birth to Three Services

Birth to Three provides comprehensive early intervention services (IDEA Part C) to infants and toddlers with developmental delays. The program's goal is to support and strengthen a family's capacity to help their child grow and develop in their natural setting. Our autism-specific program offers assessment, intensive home visitation, and behavioral supports by qualified staff. Birth to Three works closely with families and school districts to ensure a smooth transition to pre-kindergarten services at age three.



October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD)	2
5 <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Newtown	6	7 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD)	8 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Norfolk - (PD) Watertown - (PD)	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 20 - (Teacher Work Day) <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, Norfolk, Region 7, Region 10, Region 14
12 <u>STATE HOLIDAY Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester <u>Open:</u> Newtown <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Bethel, Brookfield	13	14 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 Schools - (PD)	15 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) New Milford - (PD) Torrington - (PLC)	16 <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Region 15
19	20 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD)	21 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Region 12 - (Conferences) Region 14 - (PD) The Gilbert School Winchester - (PD)	22 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Region 12 - (Conferences) Sherman - (PD) Watertown - (PD)	23 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Region 12 - (Conferences)
26	27	28 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield - (Conferences)	29 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield - (Conferences) Plymouth - (PD)	30 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield - (Conferences)

Food Services



The Food Services Department understands that today's students face many challenges, both inside and outside the classroom. A fundamental need of all children and young adults for proper growth and development is good nutrition.

Food Services works collaboratively with our districts, the Connecticut State Department of Education's Office of Child Nutrition, and the School Nutrition Association to improve the health and education of children by creating innovative public and private partnerships that promote nutritious and healthy habits that last a lifetime. Our Food Services staff have many years of experience in managing, operating, and implementing food service programs.

We Can Provide Customized Services in the Following Areas

- After School Snack Programs
- Assistance with School Wellness Programs
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Consultation Services
- Farm-to-School
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Programs
- Free and Reduced Claims Management
- Grant Assistance
- Healthy Food Certification
- Management of National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Menu Planning/Development
- On-Site/Off-Site Catering
- Purchasing of Government Commodities
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- State Administration Review Assistance
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Technical Assistance
- Training/USDA Required Professional Development



November 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> New Hartford Region 10	3 <u>ELECTION DAY</u> <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 7, Region 12, Region 14, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Winchester <u>Closed:</u> New Milford (Conferences), Watertown (Conferences) <u>Open:</u> New Hartford, Region 1 Schools, Region 10, Region 15 (Early Dismissal Elem & MS)	4 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Brookfield - (Conferences) Danbury (Elem) - (Conferences) Newtown - (Conferences) Region 1 Schools - (PD) Region 14 - (PD) Region 15 (Early Dismissal Elem & MS) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Thomaston - (Conferences) Winchester - (Conferences)	5 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Brookfield - (Conferences) Danbury (Elem) - (Conferences) New Milford - (Conferences) Newtown - (Conferences) Region 15 (Early Dismissal Elem & MS) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Thomaston - (Conferences) Watertown - (Conferences) Winchester - (Conferences)	6 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (Elem) - (Conferences) Newtown (Elem, Reed & MS) - (Conferences) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Winchester - (Conferences)
9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 7 (MS) - (Conferences)	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 7 (MS) - (Conferences) Region 10 (Har-Bur) - (Conferences)	11 <u>VETERAN'S DAY Closed:</u> Bethel, CCA, Danbury, New Milford, Region 1 Schools, Region 12, Region 14, Region 20, Thomaston, Watertown <u>Open:</u> Barkhamsted, Brookfield, Colebrook, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 7, Region 15, Sherman (Early Dismissal), The Gilbert School, Torrington, Winchester	12 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (HS) - (Conferences) EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Region 20 (MS & HS) - (Conferences) Torrington - (PLC)	13 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (HS) - (Conferences)
16	17 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences)	18 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (MS) - (Conferences) Region 14 - (PD) Torrington - (Conferences)	19 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (MS) - (Conferences) Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences) Torrington - (Conferences) <u>Late Opening:</u> Sherman - (Conferences)	20 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury (MS) - (Conferences) Region 10 (LGS/HCS) - (Conferences) Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences) Sherman - (Conferences) Torrington - (Conferences)
23 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Colebrook - (Conferences) Hartland - (Conferences) New Hartford - (Conferences) Norfolk - (Conferences)	24 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Colebrook - (Conferences) Hartland - (Conferences) New Hartford - (Conferences) Norfolk - (Conferences)	25 <u>THANKSGIVING RECESS - Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Brookfield, New Milford, Region 14	26 <u>THANKSGIVING DAY:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	27 <u>THANKSGIVING RECESS:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed
30				

Head Start: Prenatal to Five



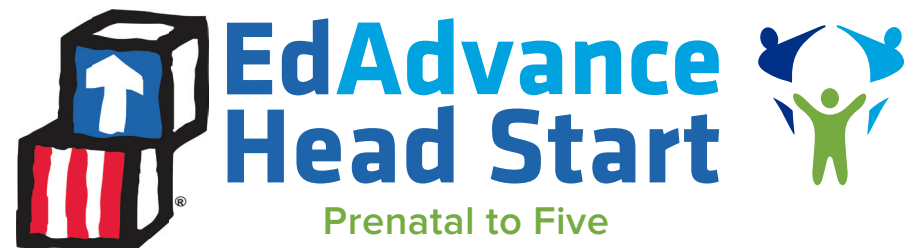
Early Head Start: Prenatal to Three

Early Head Start: Prenatal to Three provides home-based services for expectant families and children ages birth to three that meet eligibility requirements. Services include weekly home visits focusing on health, nutrition, education, social services, and parent engagement. Playgroups are held each month at the Torrington and Winsted sites.

Head Start: Three to Five

Head Start: Three to Five provides an array of quality, comprehensive services, including health, nutrition, parent support, education and mental health, to children ages three to five and their families. Our vision is “each child and family leaves Head Start, healthy, eager to learn, and ready for success.” Program staff work closely with families to ensure that each child has the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in kindergarten. Our goal is to lay the foundation for children and their families to be life-long learners.

Head Start sites are located in New Milford, Torrington, and Winsted. We also have Early Start CT slots at our Torrington and Winsted sites.

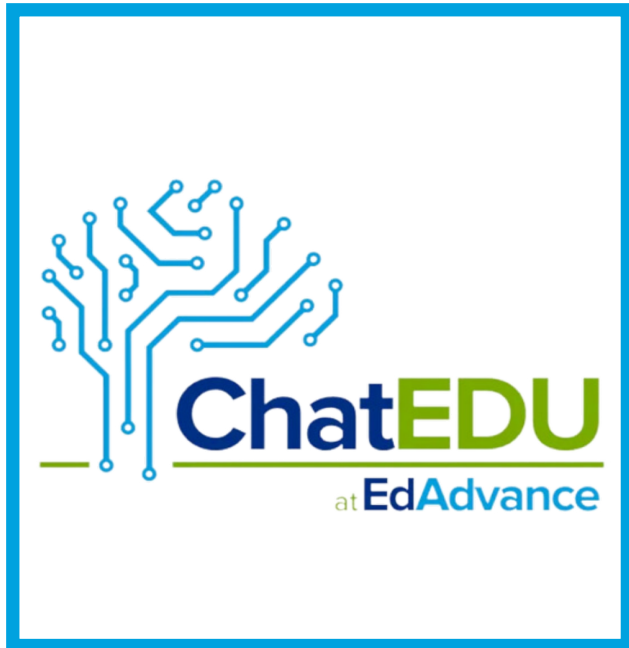


December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) Region 15 - (PD) The Gilbert School Winchester - (PD)	3 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD)	4
7 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 (WMS) - (Conferences)	8 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD) Region 14 (WMS) - (Conferences)	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 Schools - (PD) Region 10 - (PD)	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Fairfield - (PD) New Milford - (PD) Region 12 - (PD) Region 14 (WMS) - (Conferences)	11 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Norfolk - (PD)
14 <u>Delayed Opening:</u> Newtown	15	16 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD)	17 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Plymouth - (PD) Torrington - (PLC)	18
21	22	23 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Winchester <u>WINTER RECESS Closed:</u> CCA, Region 1 Schools	24 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	25 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed
28 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools Closed	29 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools Closed	30 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools Closed	31 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	

Learning Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Skills21 supports schools, organizations, and businesses looking to amplify their success through GenAI. This work includes keynote presentations, hands-on training, and AI tools. Skills21 has provided AI Professional Learning support for 15,000 CT educators.

Topics have included:

- Exploring AI and What's Next for AI in Education and Workforce Development
- Planning for Change
- Crafting Safe and Effective AI Use
- Building Durable Tasks in the Age of AI
- AI Prompts for Leaders
- AI Equity Challenges and Opportunities
- Mastering Tough Conversations with AI
- AI and Creativity
- Student-Facing AI
- Gems, NotebookLM, and more!

AI Conferences

EdAdvance hosted 10 sold out regional conferences (fall and spring) on AI in Education and the service center will continue to host these in the 26-27 school year in Litchfield, CT.

ChatEDU: AI in Education Podcast

Skills21 at EdAdvance continues to host their weekly AI in Education podcast as well as a short form semiweekly podcast to support K12 teachers and school leaders as they

navigate the rapidly evolving world of AI in Education. Each week the co-hosts (Matt Mervis and Liz Radday) explore a range of current topics in AI and together they go beneath the surface as they do a deep dive into a critical AI issue facing schools. For more information visit <https://www.skills21.org/podcast>.

AI Microcredentials

During the 26-27 academic year, Skills21 at EdAdvance will continue to run their quarterly AI microcredential. The microcredentials will run over a six-week period with 4 synchronous meetings. For more information visit skills21.org/AI.

Student AI Literacy Course

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of artificial intelligence, tracing its evolution from everyday applications to its future impact on global industries. Students will develop essential digital literacy by examining critical risks—including bias, deepfakes, and privacy concerns—while simultaneously building “AI superpowers” through advanced prompting techniques for creative and research-based tasks. Participants will gain the critical thinking skills necessary to navigate and thrive in an AI-driven world.

January 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed
4 <u>WINTER RECESS:</u> Sherman Closed	5 <u>Teacher Workday (No Students):</u> Sherman	6 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) <u>Teacher Workday (No Students):</u> Sherman	7 <u>Teacher Workday (No Students):</u> Sherman	8 <u>Teacher Workday (No Students):</u> Sherman
11	12	13 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Brookfield - (PLC)	14 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Region 14 (NHS) - (Conferences) Torrington - (PLC) Watertown - (PD)	15 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Hartford - (PD) Norfolk - (PD) Region 10 - (PD) Region 14 - (PD) Region 20 - (Teacher Work Day) <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Region 12
18 <u>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	19 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Exams)	20 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 Schools - (PD) Region 14 - (PD) The Gilbert School - (Exams) Winchester - (PD)	21 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Exams)	22 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Exams)
25	26 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD) Region 20 - (Exams MS & HS)	27 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Newtown - (PD) Region 20 - (Exams MS & HS)	28 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Plymouth - (PD) Region 20 - (Exams MS & HS) Watertown - (PD)	29 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 20 - (Exams MS & HS)

Learning Intelligence

Professional Learning



Leadership/Instructional Coaching and Support

- Administrator Coaching and Support
- Instructional Coaching and Support

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment for High Leverage Learning

- CT Standards Alignment and Priorization
- Curriculum Audits, Revision, and Writing for Deep Learning

Our Professional Learning Team offers customized training, facilitation, and support in many areas, including the high-leverage areas identified below. We are committed to supporting your focused efforts on learning outcomes, practices and standards that are foundational for students' future success in life, learning, and work beyond school.

- Use of AI Tools to Create, Review, or Revise Curriculum
- Assessment Practices and Effective Feedback
- Culturally Responsive and Equitable Teaching Practices
- High Quality Instructional Practices
- Personalized Learning
- Play/Inquiry-based Learning
- MTSS Support

Educator Talent, Evaluation and Support

- Foundational Skills for Evaluators of Leaders/Teachers
- TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) and TEAM Review of Practice (ROP)
- Teacher Evaluation and PDEC Support
- Leader/Educator Goal-Setting and Professional Learning Plans

Professional Councils and Learning Communities

- Curriculum, English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Library Media Science
- English/Language Arts and Mathematics Instructional Coach Professional Learning Communities
- Technology

Strategic Coherence Planning

- NEASC Accreditation Preparation and Support
- School Improvement Planning
- District Level Strategic Coherence Planning

Powerschool Support/Data Analysis

- Powerschool Support/Scheduling, etc.
- District and School Data Analysis
- Student Data Analysis

February 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD)	4 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Milford - (PD)	5
8	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD)	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 - (PD) The Gilbert School Winchester - (PD) <u>Late Opening:</u> Sherman - (Conferences)	11 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Sherman - (Conferences) Watertown - (PD)	12 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted (PD), Brookfield - (PLC) Colebrook (PD), Hartland (PD), Region 7, Region 20 (Teacher Work Day), Sherman - (Conferences) <u>PRESIDENTS' DAY RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Bethel, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, New Milford, Newtown <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> New Fairfield, New Hartford, Region 10, Region 12, Region 15, Thomaston
15 <u>PRESIDENTS' DAY:</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed	16 <u>PRESIDENTS' DAY/FEBRUARY BREAK - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, The Gilbert School, Watertown, Winchester <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Bethel, Torrington <u>Schools Open:</u> New Milford, Region 12, Sherman, Thomaston	17 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) <u>Professional Development (No Students):</u> Norfolk Region 1 - (PD)	18 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Torrington - (PLC)	19
22	23	24	25 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Plymouth - (PD) Watertown - (PD)	26



Skills21 offers a range of self-paced student projects and professional learning supports designed to accelerate student success. The project curricula and platforms have been crafted specifically to meet the unique challenges districts currently face. An increased focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with generative AI is reflected across the team's work.

- **Capstone** - In the Skills21 Capstone Program, students demonstrate key college and career ready skills through an individual passion project. Skills21 works with school districts to design a Capstone program that aligns with the school's portrait of a graduate and can be used to fulfill state level mastery-based graduation requirements.
- **Social Balance** - An innovative curriculum program for middle and high school students that explores the impact of social media through the lens of STEM. The Social Balance helps students, teachers, and families think critically, so they can leverage the benefits of social media while navigating risks and putting a premium on real-world, in-person relationships. The Social Balance strives to positively impact student relationships and school culture.
- **Sidekick AI Academy** - Sidekick AI Academy is a dedicated space for students and teachers to learn how to use AI chatbots. The platform walks students through seven unique AI prompts and features instructional videos on how to get the most out of AI in a safe and productive manner. Sidekick AI Academy complies with student data privacy standards and allows teachers to review and provide feedback on student interactions with the chatbot.
- **Personal Interest Projects (PIP)** - The Skills21 Personal Interest Project (PIP) provides an opportunity for students to follow their passions and complete a project where they can “learn, solve, make, or do” while mastering high leverage skills necessary for school and beyond.
- **Journey of You (JOY)** - In the Skills21 Journey of You (JOY), students embark on an experience that builds resilience. Through each activity, students explore new practices that will instill positivity, healthy habits, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strength building.



March 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Milford - (Conferences), Region 14 - (PD), Region 15 - (PD), The Gilbert School, Winchester - (PD)	4	5 <u>Professional Development - No School:</u> Region 10 Region 20
8	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD) Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences) <u>EID-AL-FITR - Schools Closed:</u> Bethel	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Sherman - (PD) Watertown - (Conferences)	11 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Hartland - (Conferences) New Milford - (PD) Newtown - (Conferences) Region 12 - (Conferences) Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences) Region 20 (MS & HS) - (Conferences) Watertown - (Conferences)	12 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Hartland - (Conferences) New Hartford - (PD) Newtown (Elem & Reed) - (Conferences) Region 12 - (Conferences) Region 14 (BES/MES) - (Conferences) <u>Professional Development - No School:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools
15	16	17 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield (CLES) - (Conferences) Norfolk - (Conferences) Region 14 - (PD) Region 15 (Elem) - (Conferences) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Winchester - (Conferences)	18 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield (WMS) - (Conferences) EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Norfolk - (Conferences) Region 15 (Elem) - (Conferences) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Winchester - (Conferences)	19 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (Conferences) Bethel - (Conferences) Brookfield (BHS) - (Conferences) Norfolk - (PD) Region 10 (LGS/HCS) - (Conferences) Region 20 (Elem) - (Conferences) The Gilbert School Winchester - (Conferences) <u>Professional Development - No School:</u> Region 14
22 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Torrington - (Conferences)	23 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Torrington - (Conferences)	24 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Colebrook - (Conferences) New Hartford - (Conferences) Newtown (NMS & NHS) - (PSAT/SAT) Torrington - (Conferences)	25 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Colebrook - (Conferences) New Fairfield - (PD) New Hartford - (Conferences) Plymouth - (PD) Region 12 - (PD) Torrington - (PLC) Watertown - (PD) <u>Professional Development - No School:</u> The Gilbert School Winchester	26 <u>GOOD FRIDAY:</u> All Schools Closed
29 <u>MARCH BREAK - Schools Closed:</u> Plymouth, Region 20 <u>Professional Development - No School:</u> New Hartford, Region 1 Schools	30 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD)	31 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Thomaston - (Conferences)		

School Climate & Mental Health Services



Supporting district and school leaders in creating and sustaining conditions for a positive school climate and culture.

School Climate Legislation Support

A positive school climate gives students and adults a sense of safety, well-being, and belonging. EdAdvance supports district and school leaders in meeting the requirements of Public Act 23-167 with a range of professional learning and customized in-district supports. Highly qualified school climate coaches are available to partner with building leaders.

Available support includes:

- School climate assessment & planning (customized school climate surveys, school climate improvement planning, and school climate data analysis)
- Customized in-district support for administrators, school teams, and staff
- Foundational Elements of Restorative Practices
- Behavior response system development and implementation
- Family collaboration and engagement
- Creating and sustaining quality relationships

To learn more or schedule a consultation, contact EdAdvance's School Climate and Mental Health Services Department.

April 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD) Thomaston - (Conferences)	2 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 20 - (Teacher Work Day)
5	6 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Sherman - (PD)	7 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) The Gilbert School Winchester - (PD)	8 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Torrington - (PLC)	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (PD) Hartland - (PD) Norfolk - (PD) Region 10 - (PD)
12 <u>SPRING RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester	13 <u>SPRING RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester	14 <u>SPRING RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester	15 <u>SPRING RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester	16 <u>SPRING RECESS - Schools Closed:</u> Barkhamsted, Bethel, Brookfield, CCA, Colebrook, Danbury, EdAdvance Special Education Schools, Hartland, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, Plymouth, Region 1 Schools, Region 7, Region 10, Region 12, Region 14, Region 15, Region 20, Sherman, The Gilbert School, Thomaston, Torrington, Watertown, Winchester
19	20	21 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD)	22	23
26	27 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Danbury - (PD)	28 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 15 - (PD)	29 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Plymouth - (PD)	30

Special Education & Related Services



K-12 Academic/Intensive Support Outplacement Schools

EdAdvance serves K-12 students who need highly individualized services that are not available within their district public school setting. Our small student-to-staff ratio allows us to provide prompt academic and behavioral interventions which are customized to each student's unique strengths and needs to optimize learning.

Post-secondary Transition Program

The University Pathways Program (UPP) at Post University and Central Connecticut State University is a comprehensive transition program for 17-22 year-olds with diverse learning needs who have completed high school credits but would benefit from additional special education support and postsecondary opportunities. Through structured campus-based activities, classroom instruction, and hands-on experiences, UPP provides tailored support to develop essential life, academic, and job skills, enabling students to achieve their personal goals and transition successfully to adulthood.

Expelled Student Educational Programs

Our school programs in Torrington (grades 6-12) and in Danbury (grades 9-12) provide

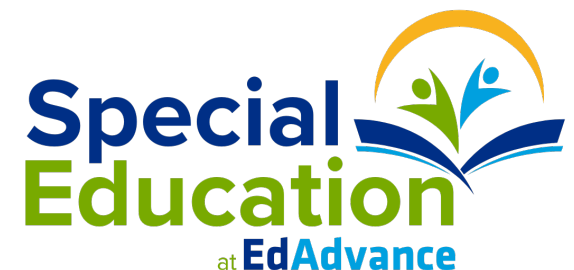
academic and counseling services for students who have been expelled from their public school district for all or a portion of a school year.

Short-term Diagnostic Placement

Each school accepts students who can receive their education in the small, structured setting for up to 45 school days, while further analyses of the student's academic and behavioral needs are completed toward designing an appropriate educational program.

Professional Development

EdAdvance offers high-quality, targeted professional development designed to support special education and related services staff. Topics include Least Restrictive Environment (LRE); Co-Teaching; Trauma-Informed Practices; Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS); Individualized Education Program (IEP) Quality Training; Charting the LifeCourse; Social/Emotional Learning and Behavior Interventions; Transition Planning; Customized Employment; Paraprofessional Development, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and much more.



May 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) Region 20 - (Teacher Work Day)	6 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD)	7 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted - (PD) Hartland - (PD) Region 10 - (PD)
10	11	12	13 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Milford - (PD) Torrington - (PLC) Watertown - (PD)	14 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Norfolk - (PD)
17	18 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Sherman - (PD)	19 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Brookfield - (PLC) Newtown - (PD) Region 14 - (PD)	20 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (PD)	21
24	25	26	27 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Plymouth - (PD)	28 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Bethel - (PD) Colebrook - (PD) New Fairfield - (PD) Region 7 Region 14 - (PD) <u>School Closed:</u> Danbury - (PD) Region 1 Schools - (PD)
31 <u>MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED):</u> All Schools & EdAdvance Closed				

Transportation Services



Our Transportation Services department provides compassionate and reliable transportation for special needs students. With a fleet of 100 GPS-equipped vehicles and a team of highly trained drivers and aides, we are committed to meeting the unique needs of the children we serve. Our staff members have extensive experience and a deep understanding of working with special needs children. They prioritize professionalism, courtesy, and empathy in every interaction, ensuring a comfortable and supportive environment for students during transit. We proudly serve school districts across northwest Connecticut, focusing on our Regional Transportation Collaborative members and students enrolled at STEPS, Partnership Learning Academy, and BEAM Elementary School.

Currently we transport students to 55 out of district placements and programs throughout Connecticut, ensuring safe, dependable, and cost-effective transportation solutions. If you require transportation services, we are here to assist you.

Please call the Transportation Services Department at 860-361-9647 or email us at lorussom@edadvance.org and let us help you meet your specialized transportation needs with care and expertise.



June 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 14 - (PD) The Gilbert School - (Final Exams)	3 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Final Exams)	4 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Plymouth Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Final Exams) <u>Last Day of School:</u> New Milford - (Early Dismissal)
7 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Hartland Plymouth Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) The Gilbert School - (Final Exams) <u>Teacher Work Day (No Students):</u> New Milford Region 15	8 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Barkhamsted Hartland Region 1 - (Exams HS Only) Region 10 Region 12 <u>Last Day of School:</u> EdAdvance Special Education Schools - (Early Dismissal) Norfolk - (Early Dismissal) Plymouth - (Early Dismissal) Region 7 - (Early Dismissal) The Gilbert School - (Early Dismissal) Thomaston - (Early Dismissal) Torrington - (Early Dismissal) Winchester - (Early Dismissal)	9 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> New Fairfield Region 1 - (PD) <u>Last Day of School:</u> Barkhamsted - (Early Dismissal) Brookfield - (Early Dismissal) Colebrook - (Early Dismissal) Hartland - (Early Dismissal) New Hartford - (Early Dismissal) Region 10 - (Early Dismissal) Region 12 - (Early Dismissal) Region 14 - (Early Dismissal) <u>Teacher Work Day (No Students):</u> Winchester	10 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Sherman - (PD) Watertown <u>Last Day of School:</u> New Fairfield - (Early Dismissal) Region 1 - (Early Dismissal) <u>Teacher PD (No Students):</u> New Hartford	11 <u>Early Dismissal:</u> Watertown <u>Last Day of School:</u> Bethel - (Early Dismissal) CCA Newtown Region 20 - (Early Dismissal)
14 <u>Last Day of School:</u> Watertown - (Early Dismissal)	15 <u>Last Day of School:</u> Danbury - (Early Dismissal) Region 15 - (Early Dismissal)	16 <u>Post Closing:</u> Danbury - (All Staff Report) <u>Teacher Work Day (No Students):</u> Region 15	17	18 <u>Last Day of School:</u> Sherman - (Early Dismissal)
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

—Youth and Adult Developmental Services



All programs provide person-centered strengths-based support for individuals with DDS funding. We believe that everyone has the potential to grow, pursue their dreams, and live a good life.

Residential Programs

In Home Supports: This program includes two facets: the Behavior Services Program (individuals ages 8–22) and the Supported Living Program (individuals ages 22+). Both offer personalized support to help participants reach their goals and achieve independence. By strengthening daily living skills and engaging in community experiences, individuals build meaningful relationships and live the lives they envision.

Behavior Supports Program (BEH): Our ABA-trained behaviorists collaborate with families to develop individualized positive behavior plans that reduce target behaviors and foster independence. Services include comprehensive assessments, data tool creation, parent training, and ongoing progress monitoring.

Day Services

Supported Employment (Individual): We provide person-centered support to help individuals find and keep meaningful employment. Services include career exploration, skill development, resume and interview prep, job placement, and on-the-job training. We also offer business support and fiscal oversight for microbusinesses.

Day Support Options (DSO) & Entrepreneurship Extension: This Monday-Friday program for adults with developmental disabilities focuses on independence and quality of life through community inclusion, life skills, and the arts. Participants can also choose the entrepreneurship track, receiving hands-on support to develop microbusinesses while building real-world workforce skills like marketing and customer service.



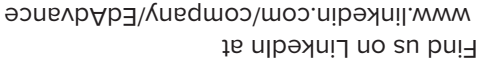
July 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30



Educate • Collaborate • Innovate

Member Districts

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9470.

Steps Middle & High School
at The Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching Regional Learning Center
215 Hogan Drive
Torrington, CT 06790
Phone: (860) 618-7411