

The Collaborative for Educational Services (CES)

About CES

At the Collaborative for Educational Services, we believe that everyone is a learner, and that with the right support every learner can find success. We are committed to reaching and educating all young people, and we are experienced in working with educators to help students learn and succeed.

Since 1974, CES has been working with schools, families, children, youth and adult learners throughout communities in the Pioneer Valley and throughout the Commonwealth to create and improve educational opportunities both in and out of the classroom. We partner with local school districts and schools to help them assess their instructional programs and create new ways to improve instruction, student learning and achievement. We train teachers who are seeking licensure in order to gain entry into the teaching field as well as teachers, administrators and educational leaders who want to increase their skills and opportunities by gaining an additional license or developing their skills and expertise.

We have particular expertise in:

- Assisting schools and educators in providing high quality education for students from diverse backgrounds and who are English language learners
- Providing high-quality education services for students with special needs
- Bringing high quality professional development and licensure programs to all educators
- Working with communities to build their capacity to support learners of all ages through high quality early childhood education and care, after school programs, and academic and vocational opportunities for adolescents and young adults
- Working with young people in institutional settings through our state-wide programs with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and Special Education in Institutional Settings (SEIS)
- Working in partnership with the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Early Education and Care to implement state and Federal Laws and Regulations

Closely attuned and responsive to the ever-changing state and Federal mandates and the educational needs of children, their families, educators, schools, and community, the Collaborative works to address gaps in programs and services with high quality, research-based, and collaborative solutions to ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential. We believe that the emotional and social development needs of children and youth must be addressed if they are to succeed in school, and consequently, in life.

The Collaborative directs major initiatives in Early Childhood, Special Education, After School Programs, Professional Development, Educator Licensure, Adult Education, and the education of vulnerable youth.



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Governing Structure

The Collaborative for Educational Services is a public, non-profit educational service agency. In Massachusetts, educational service agencies, called educational collaboratives, are allowed by statute (MGL Ch 40 section 43). Local school committees may join together to form a collaborative to provide programs and services. An educational collaborative is governed by a Board of Governors, with one representative appointed by each member school committee. The Board has three standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Program and Services Committee.

In addition to the Board of Governors, the Collaborative for Educational Services has several advisory committees: Superintendents serve on a Steering Committee, one in Franklin County and one in Hampshire County to advise the Executive Director and the Board of Governors; Special Education Directors serve on an advisory committee to the Special Education Department; and Curriculum and Technology Directors advise the Director of Professional Development and the Director of Technology on programmatic needs and services. Business Managers also meet on a regular basis with the CFO of the Collaborative.

Membership

Membership in the Collaborative for Educational Services is open to any public school district in the state. Currently, school districts in both Hampshire and Franklin Counties have elected to join the Collaborative. To become a member, a school committee must vote to request membership in the Collaborative. The Board of Governors then must vote to accept the new member district. If the Board votes to accept the member district, the school committees of the current founding members of the Collaborative must vote to accept the new member. The Articles of Agreement that describe the governance structure and mission of the collaborative are then amended to include the new member, and submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval. Once the amended Articles are approved, the new member school committee selects a representative to the Board of Governors.