

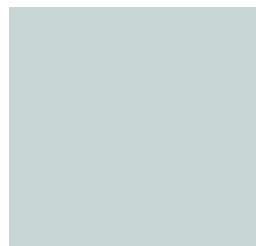
A Call to Action:

A Vision for Realizing the Potential of Connecticut



CREC's mission is to work with Capitol region boards of education to improve the quality of public education for all learners. To achieve its mission, CREC will:

- Promote cooperation and collaboration with local school districts and other organizations that are committed to the improved quality of public education
- Provide cost-effective services to member districts and other clients
- Listen and respond to client needs for the improved quality of public education
- Provide leadership in the region through the quality of its services and its ability to identify and share the quality services offered by its member districts and other organizations committed to public education
- Audit reviews



Financial indications show that schools will operate in a state of continual transformation for the foreseeable future. Connecticut's current economic woes coupled with increasingly tight budgets in our cities and towns will require innovative ways to increase efficiencies, to continue to deliver quality services, and to ensure an excellent education for all students. The CREC Office for Regional Efficiencies is committed to helping districts and municipalities meet challenges through the creation of a shared services center. The center will help schools and towns achieve regional efficiencies and establish ways to become more limber and more prepared to do what it takes to successfully lead the charge in a rapidly changing and often tumultuous funding environment.

Contact Mary Glassman, Manager of CREC's Office for Regional Efficiencies at 860-240-6619 or at mglassman@crec.org to discuss how we can be of assistance.



What Can CREC Do to Help?

CREC's Shared Services Center (CREC-SSC) will enable schools to focus on what they do best—education. CREC-SSC will enable school administrators to focus on education and will help district administrators eliminate the headaches associated with the management of non-educational services, such as transportation, facilities management, food services, and information technology.

- Transportation Program helps schools save money. The transportation program optimizes bus routes throughout the region by using advanced route logistics technology and negotiating better contracts with selected transportation vendors.
- Facilities Management Services Program lowers the cost of operations and improves operational efficiencies. CREC-SSC leverages its expertise in the provision and delivery of facilities management and optimizes the way these services are performed and delivered. It will also take advantage of real time systems to monitor building operations and make use of a network of preferred vendors and just-in-time parts ordering systems to realize cost savings.
- Cooperative Food Services Program delivers a cost-effective solution to school districts and creates economies of scale through the purchase and distribution of food for the region. By using a demand-driven order management system, there will be less spoilage and a reduction in each school's cafeteria footprint. This reduces food costs and frees up valuable square footage that can be put to better use.
- Information Technology Services Program provides state-of-the-art systems through a suite of centrally-located systems that school districts use and access through the cloud. This ensures that all school systems are connected to take advantage of regional shared savings. Systems that both manage school functions and deliver education content will be provided via a partnership with CREC-SSC and the Nutmeg Network, which enables regional interconnection for these systems.

Facts at a Glance

1. Average annual school expense is approximately \$64 million in the Capitol region
2. Connecticut public school enrollment has decreased with a rate around 1 percent, while the Capitol region's enrollment has decreased at a rate around 1.5 percent. The Capitol region's non-educational costs have been going up at a steady clip.
3. Capitol region schools spend about \$130 million on transportation at an average rate of \$885 per pupil. The national average for transportation costs is at \$500 per pupil. In regard to transportation costs, there is a 77 percent gap between capitol region schools and the national average.
4. Capitol region schools spend roughly \$226 million on operations and maintenance at a per student cost of \$1,540. The national average for operations and maintenance costs is approximately \$1,100 per pupil. There is a 40 percent gap between Connecticut and the national average for the costs of facilities operations.
5. Food services are generally averaging about 2.5 percent of a total school expense, or \$1.6 million on average per district.
6. Technology services run about \$63 million for the capitol region. It is, typically, about 2.6 percent of a total school's expense, or roughly \$1.7 million per district.

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