



NextGen Educators

A talent pool of emerging educators



Expediting much-needed resources to K-12 schools

Given the tremendous strain the pandemic has put on Connecticut's families and K-12 school systems, mobilizing additional resources to support our teachers and our students has become an even more critical priority.

Rising to these challenges, the Connecticut State Department of Education has partnered with Eastern Connecticut State University to launch a new initiative — **NextGen Educators**. This program is designed to bring highly motivated college students seeking education degrees into Connecticut's classrooms today.

Not only does this initiative address today's most pressing needs, it can serve as an innovative teacher pipeline for well-qualified educators — now and into the future.

Immediate access to new talent

Imagine being able to immediately bring fresh recruits into your classrooms — responsible college students committed to easing the pressures on your teachers *and* eager to contribute to your students' success. That's the influx of talent this program makes possible.

ECSU is leading the charge to recruit a selective pool of students from the ECSU School of Education and Professional Studies. Special emphasis will be placed on attracting teaching candidates from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented areas.

Critical support from the State

A key partner in this program, the Connecticut State Department of Education will fund the necessary background checks for these program participants — relieving the school systems of that expense. The State is also working with leading educational associations to connect each NextGen Educator to professional mentors from the field — enabling young educators to begin building their network while they're still in college.

A flexible approach to district needs

To ensure more consistent support for teachers and students alike, this program will assign a pair of NextGen Educators who will each provide two to three days of support per classroom.

NextGen Educators can use this time towards their clinical experiences, but cannot participate during student teaching. School districts, with ECSU, will agree upon an appropriate payment for their service. Each school district can also determine how best to utilize their NextGen educators. Just a few of the ways they can be helpful include:

- Leading small group instruction under supervision
- Assisting with developing lesson plans
- Facilitating the use of new technologies to support online learning
- Providing personalized support for students

While classroom teachers will provide valuable mentoring for their NextGen Educators, they won't be burdened with formal evaluation or administrative responsibilities.

A model of collaboration that benefits everyone involved

This program leverages the collective strengths of all the entities that already drive Connecticut's national recognition as one of the most highly rated K-12 educational systems in the country. In turn, this program delivers valuable short-term *and* longer-term benefits for everyone involved.

- **Our K-12 students** benefit from access to more personalized support — and new role models who are choosing teaching as a profession.
- **Our teachers** gain immediate relief from highly engaged, reliable resources — dedicated to assisting them in their classrooms.
- **Our school systems** have an opportunity to develop relationships with emerging talent early in their careers — priming their own pipelines for future teachers.
- **Our college students** will be better prepared to assume their future responsibilities — by

complementing their traditional studies with more experiential learning throughout their studies. Plus they'll be able to begin building their professional network earlier, so critical to their future success.

- **Our career educators** can share their expertise by mentoring our NextGen Educators. Not only does this allow mentors to give back to the profession they love, it ensures Connecticut's entire education ecosystem can benefit from the collective expertise of our experienced educators.

Special thanks to these organizations, who are providing invaluable mentors for our NextGen educators.



- **Our state** is developing innovative new pathways for attracting more students — particularly from more diverse and inclusive backgrounds — into the ranks of Connecticut's educators.

This is a win-win for all — another example of the power of Connecticut's collaborative approach to tackling challenges and creating opportunities.



Tap into this talent pipeline today

One of the best things about this program is that it's designed to be highly flexible — adapted as needed to meet the specific needs of each school system. Let's discuss how this initiative can work best for you.

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