



Media Advisory for Events on **July 30, 2020**

Educators to Hold “School Safety First” Car Caravan Rallies Across the State

Actions in 25 communities coordinated by unions representing teachers, school supports staff to call for prioritizing student health, assuring equitable funding in state re-entry plans

From Stamford to Stonington, Hamden to Hartford, and more than two dozen towns in between, teachers, education personnel, students, parents, and advocates are participating in “School Safety First” car caravans. The purpose of the coordinated day of action is to amplify demands for safety and health precautions and full, equitable funding when school buildings reopen this fall.

WHEN: Thursday, July 30 beginning at **2:00 p.m.**

WHAT: “School Safety First” car caravan rallies.

WHERE: Hartford, Bethel, Bridgeport, Brookfield, Danbury, East Hartford, East Lyme, Greenwich, Haddam, Hamden, Ledyard, Naugatuck, New Haven, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Seymour, Simsbury, Stamford, Stonington, Stratford, Vernon, Willimantic, Wolcott, and Woodbridge.

The Connecticut Education Association (CEA) and AFT Connecticut organized the car caravans to amplify the voices of educators and school support personnel. They remain concerned about attempt to return to the classroom without the proper health and safety protocols in place while COVID-19 is still not fully under control.

The vast majority of car caravan rallies will begin at 2 p.m., with speeches before the procession of cars begin moving through local communities. The largest protest will take place in Hartford, beginning at a parking lot on Trout Brook Road in West Hartford. The caravan will travel to Governor Ned Lamont’s residence on Prospect Street in the capital city’s West End.

The Hartford action and several others will be live-streamed on CEA’s Facebook page at facebook.com/CTEdAssoc.

In other communities, the caravans will travel through local neighborhoods to draw attention to educators’ safety concerns about state officials’ plans to reopen without adequate funding to keep everyone safe.

Starting locations for all 25 actions:

Hartford - Parking lot at Asylum and Trout Brook in West Hartford

Bethel - Bethel High School, 300 Whittlesey Drive

Bridgeport - Bridgeport Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard
Brookfield - Brookfield High School, 45 Long Meadow Hill Road
Danbury - Danbury High School, 43 Clapboard Ridge Road
East Hartford - East Hartford High School, 869 Forbes Street
East Lyme - East Lyme High School, 30 Chesterfield Road
Greenwich - Commuter Parking Lot at I-95 Exit 3, Horse Neck Lane
Haddam - Commuter Parking Lot at Route 9 Exit 8, Beaver Meadow Road
Hamden - Hamden Middle School, 2623 Dixwell Avenue
Ledyard - Ledyard High School, 24 Gallup Hill Road
Naugatuck - Naugatuck High School, 543 Rubber Avenue
New Haven - Hill Career High School, 40 Legion Avenue
Norwalk - Brien McMahon High School, 300 Highland Avenue (NOTE 3:00 p.m. start time)
Norwich - Norwich Free Academy, Senior parking lot, Reynolds Road near Bradlaw Building
Putnam - St. Marie Greenhalgh Sports Complex, 33 Wicker Street
Seymour - Seymour High School, 2 Botsford Road
Simsbury - Simsbury High School, 34 Farms Village Road
Stamford - Scalzi Park, 100 Bridge Street
Stonington - Stonington High School, 176 S Broad Street, Pawcatuck
Stratford - Bunnell High School, 1 Bulldog Boulevard
Vernon - Rockville High School, 70 Loveland Hill Road
Willimantic - Jillson Square, 2 Jackson Street (NOTE 5:00 p.m. start time)
Wolcott - Wolcott High School, 457 Bound Line Road
Woodbridge - Beecher Road School, 40 Beecher Road

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The Connecticut Education Association is Connecticut's largest teachers' union, representing active, retired, and aspiring educators across the state.

AFT Connecticut represents approximately 30,000 professionals across the state, including PreK-12 teachers, paraeducators and education support personnel in 32 local and regional school districts.

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