



EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

MARCH 2-4 | MARCH 8-10

Join us for the Early Career Educator Conference (formerly New Teacher Conference). This conference is geared toward educators in their first six years of teaching, but all members are welcome to attend. The ten sessions offered cover a wide variety of topics that are relevant for either in-person or remote teaching.

- Register for this virtual conference at cea.org/event/2021ecec.
- The conference is free for members.
- If you have questions, contact Mary Behrens at 1-800-842-4316, 860-725-6320, or maryb@cea.org.



TUESDAY, MARCH 2

4:30 pm **Incorporating Inquiry: Using the Question Formulation Technique to Enhance Student Engagement**

Inquiry is at the heart of learning and is a fundamental element of the capacity to take action. With an emphasis on bolstering student engagement, participants in this session will learn about the value of embedding inquiry throughout their lesson plans and will become familiar with a unique approach to inquiry: the Question Formulation Technique. Regardless of your grade level, years of experience, or content area, by gaining a deeper understanding of inquiry, you will be better positioned to enrich students' learning experiences and expand the capacity of your colleagues to implement innovative and engaging instructional practices.

6:30 pm **Streamline Your Grading Time**

Learn various tools for streamlining your grading. This workshop will focus on how to use and make the most of electronic tools like EdPuzzle, Google Forms, and Google Rubrics as well as how to create a rubric for every need that uses a fair grading scale. Please come with some ideas for upcoming assignments/assessments that you'd like to work with.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

4:30 pm **Empowering Learners Through Self-Assessment and Reflective Practices**

How do educators provide an innovative learning environment that empowers students and encourages them to independently reflect and adapt their work throughout the year? How is this learning assessed and archived for future use in grades 6-12? Explore strategies for promoting student independence and ownership in learning and achievement. Strategies will include interactive notebooks, sketchnoting, digital portfolios, test corrections, and 3D models.

6:30 pm **Teachers and the Law**

CEA Member Legal Services will examine a wide range of legal issues impacting educators' profession, including DCF (teachers as mandated reports and as targets of an investigation), Weingarten meetings, Freedom of Information, social media, and tenure.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

4:30 pm **Ten Steps to Proficient**

This interactive session will begin with a brief overview of the statutory requirements regarding teacher evaluation in Connecticut and will break down the different components of the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, with a focus on the aspects most affecting teachers early in their careers. Also discussed will be the provisions of ESSA and an exploration of how these provisions might impact the future of educator evaluation in Connecticut. After the overview, the presentation will focus primarily on helping early career educators achieve a proficient or higher rating. This session will demonstrate how to prepare for a successful pre-conference, planning for a classroom observation, and setting student learning objectives that are rigorous but attainable. The session will be facilitated by a former school administrator and evaluator who will provide tips and "inside" secrets to help prepare early career educators for a successful evaluation.

6:30 pm **Dyslexia 101: What New Teachers Need to Know**

What is dyslexia? How does it impact students and what can we as educators do to help? Come learn more about what dyslexia really is—and isn't. We'll dispel myths and give you a greater understanding on the numerous laws passed in Connecticut in the last several years aiming to help students who struggle with reading and spelling.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

4:30 pm **Planning for the Future: Pension Issues for Early Career Teachers**

You may be years away from retirement, but it's never too early to start planning! This workshop will provide you with an overview of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System, with a particular emphasis on issues of interest to teachers in the early phase of their careers (i.e., less than ten years of service, although all CEA members are welcome). Come and gather the information you need to answer the following questions and more:

- How does the retirement system work?
- Can I get retirement credit for other work that I've done?
- What happens if I decide to work part-time or take a leave of absence?
- What are my options if I decide to leave teaching?
- How long do I have to work to collect a pension?
- I have heard that my Social Security benefits may be affected. Is that true?

6:30 pm **How to Make Data Matter**

Creating meaningful interventions in the general education classroom can feel like a Herculean task. How do you collect data, take attendance, and carry through a meaningful lesson? There are several data collection methods that will make your life easier and take only seconds to use once set up. A former special education teacher and art teacher shares diverse methods that made her classroom of 25 middle schoolers manageable, productive, and most importantly, fun.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

4:30 pm **If You Can Talk, You Can Breathe: Strategies for Helping Students Deal with Anxiety**

In this introductory session, participants will learn about the causes of anxiety, how it impacts students, the types of anxiety and how they manifest in student behaviors, and practical, research-proven methods for helping students cope when anxiousness surfaces in school as well as some strategies for students to self-regulate their anxiety at home.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

6:30 pm **Empowering Students as Activists for Social Justice**

Through this session, educators will learn ways of teaching students about activism. By the end of the session, participants will be able to plan a lesson/unit for their students related to activism. The session will be focused on literacy and how activism and social justice can be integrated into curriculum. Participants will receive ideas and be able to discuss various strategies, as well as receive a list of resources that will help them do this work in their own classrooms. At the end of the session, there will be time for an open dialogue where participants will be able to discuss things that they are already doing in their classrooms and things they plan to do, moving forward. This session will highlight how teachers can begin conversations with their students about injustices in order to empower them to fight for justice and equity.



REGISTER AT [CEA.ORG/EVENT/2021ECEC](https://cea.org/event/2021ECEC)