

Connecticut Center for School Change

System Success = Student Success

**“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -**

Emily Dickinson

Dear Colleagues,

As educators across Connecticut face the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Center is reaching out to offer support at a time when you are likely facing a myriad of unanswered questions and unsolved dilemmas. As the quote by Emily Dickinson suggests, we are deeply hopeful—we have great faith in your individual dedication and skills and in the power of community to work through this situation.

Please know that we stand ready to work with you to adapt our services. To that end, we offer you some resources that may be useful as you reflect on and reshape your leadership (and that of others in your district) at this time.

- [Adaptive Leadership in a Time of Crisis](#) - Ronald Heifetz, Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, offers us language and a framework for thinking about our work as leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic. This resource is intended to provide you ways of thinking, talking, and leading during crises.
- [Leading Through Change](#) - This resource, grounded in the work on transitions by William Bridges, is intended to provide you with ways of thinking about responding to change, especially sudden change, and suggestions for skills to practice in leading through change.
- [Leveraging Challenge to Build Culture](#) – This resource includes a checklist of suggestions to help you navigate the COVID-19 challenge and strengthen your existing culture by focusing on clear communication, care of all stakeholders, and collaborative problem-solving approaches.

- [Best Practices in Online and Distance Learning](#) – This resource is a research review of evidence-based practices in online and distance learning for educators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, in order to understand and better meet your evolving needs, we invite your feedback through a [short survey](#) to help us design supports tailored to the times.

Feel free to call, email, or text any of us on the staff.

As Dickinson says, “Hope” matters - now more than ever. We wish you good health in the days to come.

Sincerely,

Richard Lemons

Jerry Belair

Laura Boutilier

Betty Feser

Robert Henry

Eileen Howley

Roberta Kurlantzick

Kerry Lord

Patrice Nelson

Betty Osga

John Ramos

Isobel Stevenson

Robert Villanova