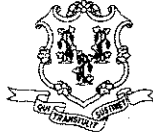


Connecticut General Assembly

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

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September 15, 2010

TO: Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes

FROM: Judith Lohman, Assistant Director, Office of Legislative Research

RE: CREC Administrative Costs

This memo compares Capitol Region Education Council's (CREC) FY 09 administrative costs with those of four other regional education service centers (RESCs) and 111 school districts offering grades PK-12.

Background

CREC is the largest of the six RESCs in the state. It has 35 member boards of education representing school districts in the greater Hartford region. Like other RESCs, CREC operates interdistrict magnet schools and special education facilities; provides transportation for the state's Open Choice interdistrict school attendance program; and furnishes such other services for member school districts as minority teacher recruitment, school employee fingerprinting, teacher professional development, cooperative purchasing, and special education and early childhood education services (see attached brochure).

In FY 09, CREC's total budget exceeded \$150 million and it had over 1,600 employees. Charts showing CREC's FY 09 revenue sources and organization are attached.

RESC Administrative Expenses

According to its comprehensive financial report for FY 09, CREC spent \$5,353,917 on administration out of total governmental activities expenses of \$132,339,687, an administrative expense ratio of 4.0%. This is the lowest of the five RESCs that included administrative expense figures in their annual reports. The table below shows the percentages for each RESC. Unless otherwise noted, the percentages are for FY 09.

Regional Education Service Center	Administrative Expense Ratio
CREC (Hartford Region)	4.0%
CES (Bridgeport Region)	5.0%
ACES (New Haven Region)	7.9%
Education Connection (Litchfield-Danbury)	8.9%
LEARN (New London region)	9.5% *
EASTCONN (Windham region)	Not available

* LEARN's most recent published annual report is for FY 08.

School District Administrative Expenses

The State Department of Education (SDE) publishes an annual list of school district expenditures by function. One of the expenditure functions is General Administration, which SDE defines as "expenditures for activities of the board [of education] and the superintendent's office and the fiscal activities of the school district, including the school business office."

A comparison CREC's administrative expense ratio for FY 09 with the percentages spent on general administration by 111 school districts offering grades PK to 12, shows that CREC has lower administrative costs as a percentage of its total budget than 69 of those districts. The table below ranks PK-12 school districts from highest to lowest according to their general administration expense ratios for FY 09.

School District General Administration Expenses, FY 09

Rank	District	Percentage for General Administration (FY 09)
1	East Haven	22.56
2	Brookfield	11.24
3	Griswold	9.66
4	Thompson	9.11
5	Bloomfield	8.03
6	North Stonington	7.54
7	North Haven	7.53
8	Watertown	7.17
9	Canton	7.06
10	Suffield	6.86
11	East Windsor	6.80
12	Wallingford	6.71
13	Hartford	6.58
14	East Hartford	6.49
15	Bolton	6.48
16	Thomaston	6.47

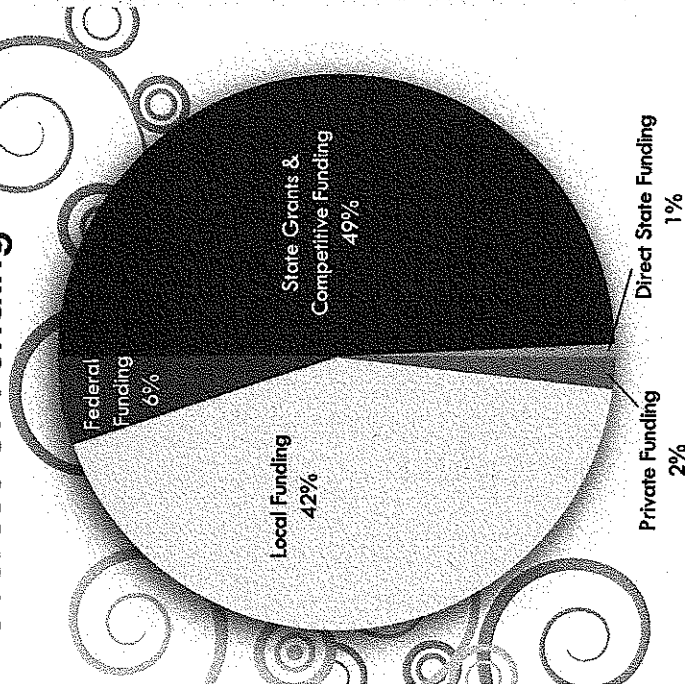
Rank	District	Percentage for General Administration (FY 09)
17	Putnam	6.37
18	Trumbull	6.24
19	Derby	6.08
20	Region 16	5.95
21	Meriden	5.94
22	Enfield	5.89
23	Stamford	5.85
24	New Haven	5.84
25	Killingly	5.74
26	Ansonia	5.68
27	Wilton	5.62
28	New London	5.55
29	South Windsor	5.49
30	Westbrook	5.38
31	Stafford	5.36
32	Manchester	5.32
33	Waterbury	5.29
34	Guilford	5.23
35	Bethel	5.16
36	Naugatuck	5.15
37	Plainville	5.15
38	East Hampton	5.14
39	Plainfield	5.02
40	Seymour	5.00
41	East Granby	4.99
42	New Canaan	4.98
43	Waterford	4.91
44	Newington	4.90
45	Berlin	4.78
46	Southington	4.78
47	Hamden	4.71
48	Region 17	4.68
49	Windham	4.60
50	Norwalk	4.58
51	Darien	4.52
52	East Haddam	4.42
53	North Branford	4.38
54	New Milford	4.36
55	New Britain	4.32
56	Region 13	4.31
57	Newtown	4.29
58	Region 6	4.29
59	East Lyme	4.27
60	Windsor Locks	4.21
61	Tolland	4.19

<i>Rank</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Percentage for General Administration (FY 09)</i>
62	Cromwell	4.17
63	Windsor	4.17
64	Old Saybrook	4.15
65	Portland	4.14
66	Groton	4.12
67	Danbury	4.11
68	Region 12	4.11
69	Fairfield	4.07
	CREC	4.04
70	Litchfield	4.03
71	Cheshire	3.83
72	Region 18	3.80
73	New Fairfield	3.79
74	Somers	3.76
75	Colchester	3.75
76	Wethersfield	3.75
77	Region 14	3.74
78	Bridgeport	3.71
79	Glastonbury	3.65
80	Granby	3.60
81	Shelton	3.60
82	West Hartford	3.60
83	Wolcott	3.55
84	Region 15	3.55
85	Stratford	3.52
86	Bristol	3.50
87	Ledyard	3.50
88	Rocky Hill	3.47
89	Montville	3.46
90	Lebanon	3.45
91	Weston	3.43
92	Avon	3.39
93	Coventry	3.39
94	Simsbury	3.36
95	Vernon	3.35
96	Region 10	3.35
97	Plymouth	3.31
98	Torrington	3.30
99	Clinton	3.26
100	Branford	3.20
101	Westport	3.17
102	Ellington	3.03
103	Farmington	3.02
104	Middletown	2.96
105	Monroe	2.96

<i>Rank</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Percentage for General Administration (FY 09)</i>
106	Madison	2.77
107	Greenwich	2.66
108	West Haven	2.56
109	Stonington	2.54
110	Milford	2.09
111	Ridgefield	2.00
	State Average	4.84

Source: State Department of Education

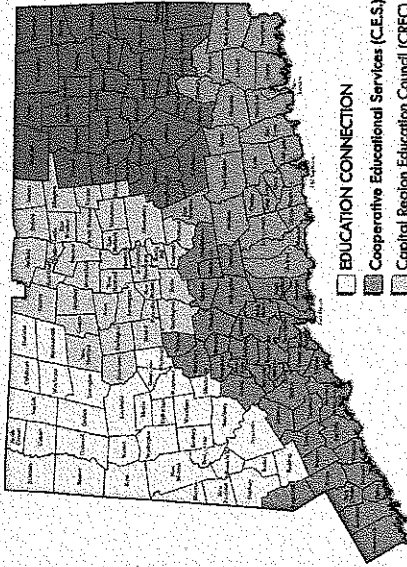
Sources of Funding*



RESCs are financially supported by the member districts they serve, as well as through federal, state and private grants. Local funding includes fee-for-service contracts to member districts. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) supports RESCs through competitive grants and contracts for statewide initiatives. Private funding sources include grants from private foundations, as well as special contracts with individuals, agencies, and businesses and outside of Connecticut. Direct state funding, which is the smallest percentage of RESC funding source categories, is unrestricted, noncompetitive funding provided by the state for general operations.

* 2008-09 Budget Analysis

RESC Alliance Regional Map



- EDUCATION CONNECTION
- Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
- Capital Region Education Council (CREC)
- Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)
- Eastconn
- LEARN

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Executive Director
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860.567.0863
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EASTCONN
Virtual Learning Centers of LLC
Paula M. Cohen
Executive Director
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COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
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aces
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RESC Alliance

Connecticut's Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers



Acting as One
www.resc Alliance.org

WHAT ARE REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS?

Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) are not-for-profit, fee-for-service, public education agencies. RESCs offer cost-efficient, cooperative efforts for Connecticut's public school districts. RESCs have saved districts billions of dollars for the past 40 years and have assisted schools to expand services beyond what they could accomplish alone. Each RESC is locally governed by member boards of education.

- Cost-effective in delivering programs and services to school districts in their region
- Committed to helping local school districts improve teaching and learning
- Responsive to local needs and interdistrict opportunities
- Flexible in creating, adopting and/or eliminating programs

HELPING CONNECTICUT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

RESCs cater to the needs of their school districts. Whether instructional or operational, RESCs provide assistance in a number of ways. The following are examples of the many programs, services and support in which RESCs support school districts.

- Alternative Education
- Board Training
- Child Care
- Choice Programs
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Curriculum Development
- Early Childhood Services
- Head Start/Even Start
- Interdistrict Programs
- Job Training
- Literacy Adults & PreK - 12
- Magnet Schools
- Media Centers
- Strategic Planning
- Technology Support
- Technology Training
- Professional Development
- Program Assessment
- School Construction
- Special Education
- Statewide Data Collection
- Minority Recruitment
- Priority School Assistance
- Transportation

Bringing Grant Dollars to Districts

In 2008-09, RESCs secured over \$14 million dollars in federal grants for education programs in Connecticut school districts. One such grant, the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant funds professional development that equips teachers with primary, local and national resources to make the story of American's past come alive in the classroom. RESCs apply for and distribute teaching American history grant for their district's teachers.

In 2008-09, RESCs received a \$2 million grant from the Teaching American History program, and through workshops and seminars to teachers, reached an estimated 85,000 Connecticut students in grades K-12.



Comprehensive Teacher Training

IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING

RESCs work with local schools in a variety of ways to improve student learning. Professional development, coaching and technical assistance are critical strategies for improving instruction and the student learning. It is designed to provide RESCs offer regional workshops as well as on-site, customized training for a wide range of educators, from bus drivers to teachers to superintendents.

In 2008-09, RESCs trained more than 19,500 educators in more than 2,500 different workshops.

CONNECTICUT ACCOUNTABILITY LEARNING INITIATIVE

RESCs joined with the Connecticut State Department of Education and Learning, LLC to train all identified schools in data-driven decision-making, curriculum development, effective teaching strategies, and common formative assessment.

RESCs are currently expanding CAI through the development and delivery of training in Effective Teaching Strategies and Scientific Research-based Interventions.

In 2008-09, RESCs provided more than 1,100 days of CAI training to educators in schools throughout the state.

MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT

The Minority Teacher Recruitment Program (MTR) is a diverse teaching and administrative staff that more closely represents the diversity of the student population. Program activities focus on recruitment activities, retention programs and pre-collegiate program to encourage students to consider teaching as a career.

In the past four years, more than 400 minority teachers were employed by RESC school districts.



ENHANCING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The Alliance operates an initiative aimed at providing statewide professional development to support the effective integration of technology across the curriculum in Connecticut's public schools. RESCs work in collaboration with both the Connecticut Department of Education as well as local school districts to design programs that best meet local needs.

In 2008-09, RESCs provided 497 days of 2222 professional development to Connecticut educators.



Cost Savings to Districts

transportation services

The RESC Alliance provides transportation of students and adults to and from facilities around the state at a contracted service to local school districts and agencies.

RESC transportation services are responsible for over 6,500 education students and adult consumers each day, utilizing fleets of 620 school vehicles.

cooperative purchasing

The Alliance provides a collaborative cooperative purchasing initiative to counter rising costs of products and services used by schools and municipalities. Cooperative purchasing allows districts to purchase goods and services at the lowest prices available.

RESC cooperative purchasing services save more than 230 Connecticut schools and districts an estimated \$2 million dollars annually.

special education

RESC special education and support services are both home and school-based. Established to assist local school districts in their quest to provide quality educational programs for their students with special needs, RESCs offer highly specialized school programs at a significantly lower cost than several alternative and private school programs and services in the region.

RESC special education schools and program services serve an estimated 4,200 Connecticut special needs students.



Three additional Office of Legislative Research reports relating to interdistrict (regional) educational programs that may be helpful are located on the OLR website:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr>

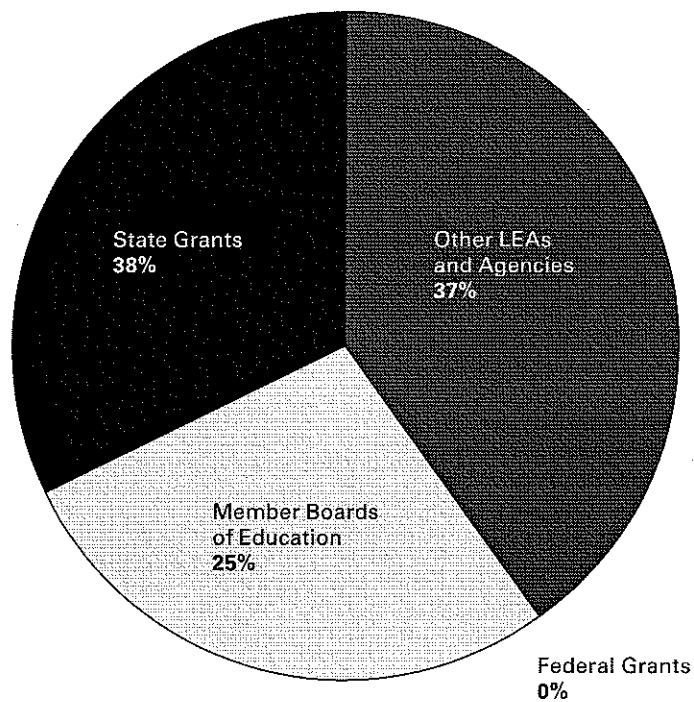
The numbers are:

2006-R-0616

2007-R-0222

2010-R-0056

CREC
Revenue by Source 2008-2009



	REVENUE
State Grants	\$ 57,224,861
Member Board of Education	36,930,427
Other LEAs and Agencies	54,659,893
Federal Grants	655,450
TOTAL	\$ 149,470,631

* Other LEAs and Agencies include sales outside CREC districts, sales to individuals, contracts to state agencies and other sales.

CREZ

Organizational Chart 2008 - 2009

