Education and Humans Services Board Notes
February 10th, 2026
Presented by the Ed and HS Team

The Early Childhood Education Program (ECE)
The Early Care and Education (ECE) program, NAEYC-accredited+ (the National Association for the Education of Young Children), serves up to 210 children six weeks though five years old, five days a week, year-round. There are four sites with 18 classrooms. This high-quality program instructs children and assesses their development to improve child outcomes. ECE supports family engagement through committee involvement and workshops throughout the year.

The Early Care and Education (ECE) program, NAEYC-Accredited Plus (the National Association for the Education of Young Children), serves up to 210 children six weeks though five years old, five days a week, year-round. There are four sites with 18 classrooms. This high-quality program instructs children and assesses their development to improve child outcomes. ECE supports family involvement through committee involvement and workshops throughout the year.

Program Update: The children learned about *Water, Clothing,* and *Winter*. *Mad Science* came to the preschool classrooms where the children were able to experience dry ice and snow. Middle students from Greenwich Country Day School visited our preschool classrooms to read a book and complete a craft about peace and kindness. The children were each gifted a book from GCDS to bring home. Greenwich Health Department's nurse Lori Liss came to the preschool classrooms for *Passport to Good Health*, during which she discussed doctor visits. All regular activities continued including site visits with our Mental Health Consultant, staff coaching, *Music with Mr. Nick*, and *Music and Movement*. We have available spaces for children in our preschool classrooms.
January Overall Enrollment: 180/207

Warburg Infant & Toddler Center:
January Enrollment: 54/53; Attendance: 82%
Program Update: Classrooms completed a unit on *Containers* and learned about many ways they can be used. Eleven students received Birth-to-Three services, one student received in-home New York's Early Intervention services, and one student received private services.

Gateway Preschool:
January Enrollment: 54/56; Attendance: 90%
Meal Counts: Breakfast: 800; Lunch: 903; Snack: 747; Total Meals: 2,450

Program Update: Eight preschool children attended GPS in the mornings to receive IEP services, three students received their IEP services on site, and two toddlers received Birth-to-Three services. GPS observed three students, two whose parents referred them, and one who will age out of Birth-to-Three services.

Grauer Preschool:
January Enrollment: 43/55; Attendance: 87%
Meal Counts: Breakfast: 466; Lunch: 577; Snack: 571; Total Meals: 1,614

Program Update: The Koala Bears class read the book, *The Rainbow Fish* and turned their dramatic play area into an aquarium. Five children received services in the mornings from GPS.

Armstrong Court Preschool:
January Enrollment: 29/43; Attendance: 85%
Meal Counts: Breakfast: 189; Lunch:396; Snack:407; Total Meals: 992
Program Update: The Kids' Corner class experimented with items in a sink and float activity. Four children received services in the mornings from GPS. Two students are in the process of evaluation with GPS.

Family First in Education (FF)
Family First in Education utilizes a two-generational approach focused on parent engagement and structured after school programming. By understanding both parent and student needs, the program holistically impacts overall family wellness, academic growth in reading/math and social/emotional development.

Program Update:
We are excited to welcome our new Program Support Specialist, Elizabeth Cid, to the team! Elizabeth holds a degree in Human Development and Family Sciences from the University of Connecticut-Storrs and brings extensive experience working within Greenwich Public Schools. Having grown up in Greenwich and attended New Lebanon Elementary -- one of the schools we currently serve -- connection to the community runs deep. It's wonderful to see her come full circle and now serve the community that helped shape her.

Events:
Last month, volunteers from the Junior League of Greenwich facilitated a fun and creative art activity with our students at Hamilton Avenue School. The students explored the works of French artist Henri Matisse and created their own construction paper artwork inspired by his unique style. The Junior League of Greenwich will return in late February and March to continue this project at our other sites.

Also, last month, we hosted our annual Winter Wellness Fair, where families participated in a lively scavenger hunt and engaged in wellness-focused activities. Highlights included creating sensory lava lamps, a boxing class demonstration, and a playful parents versus children snowball fight using soft plushy snowballs to wrap up the day.

Collaboration:
This month, volunteers from the Young Men's Service League, Brunswick School, Greenwich High School, and Reading Champions have played an essential role in our program. With their support, we identified students who would benefit from one-on-one academic assistance, delivered

through a mentoring or peer-based approach. This strategy has proven to be highly successful and has made a positive impact on the students we serve.

Literacy Volunteers (LV)

Literacy Volunteers at Family Centers (LVFC) uses the services of trained volunteers to provide free, quality English language education to adults, equipping them with the skills needed to achieve personal and occupational goals. LVFC is committed to educating families, developing a more skilled workforce, and providing educational opportunities to the county's most vulnerable populations, those living in or at elevated risk for poverty with low literacy. LVFC delivers weekly classes at four locations throughout Greenwich and Stamford and through online platforms for synchronous, remote learning.

Event:



Literacy Volunteers celebrated Family Literacy Day 2026 by engaging families in a shared reading of *Just Shine* by Sonia Sotomayor. Through guided discussion, families explored themes of self-confidence, resilience, and the importance of being one's best self. Participants reflected on the individuals in their lives who support and inspire them and collaborated on activities that highlighted the power of everyday kindness and connection. The event reinforced the role of family literacy in strengthening relationships, fostering reflective dialogue, and building a shared culture of learning.







Program Update:

We are pleased to announce that a Literacy Volunteers student was selected by the Connecticut Association for Adult & Continuing Education (CAACE) as one of five Adult Learner Scholarship Award recipients statewide for 2026! In recognition of her dedication and commitment to advancing her education, she will receive a $750.00 CAACE Adult Learner Scholarship. In addition,

she will be honored, along with the other four recipients in the state, at the 45th Annual CAACE Conference Awards Luncheon, where she will receive her award and be invited to share a few brief remarks about her adult education journey.

Client story:

One of our CDA students, who is employed at Family Centers ECE program, not only earned his CDA Credential, he and his wife also welcomed their new son the very next day!
What a week it was for the family and for Family Centers!



Pathways to Employment Growth (PEG)

PEG assists participants interested in entering or up-skilling in the healthcare field to obtain certification or licensure via Continuing Education programs with CSCU and other accredited institutions, as well as career readiness and employment assistance.

Client Highlight:

A recent high school graduate initially joined the program seeking assistance with a job search. She was seeking employment that would support her through her collegiate pursuits in the healthcare field. With support from the program, she quickly gained a cashier position close to campus. The client determined that she needed a more consistent and higher paying job to fund her degree, leading her to register for a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) course along with her credit classes.

She was able to manage her busy schedule (juggling credit courses, her continuing education course, clinicals, work, and family life) and successfully obtained her CNA license. Having already been engaged in the program's pre-employment activities (e.g. resume writing, interview skills practice, and job search optimization), the client was able to quickly obtain a role as a CNA in a local senior living facility. Through her self-advocacy, she was able to negotiate a work schedule that did not conflict with school. Her new role is helping her to pay for her credit courses, and she was also helped by receiving $1,500 in stipends that she earned in the program for completing her licensure and reaching 90 days of employment.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS)

FSS provides residents of Charter Oak Communities individualized support including vocational counseling, goal planning, educational assistance, financial literacy, and family referrals aimed at helping participants become economically independent.

Program Update:
The Family Self Sufficiency program started 2026 with a case load of 43 clients, all of which have goals of employment, education, financial literacy, and more. Out of the 43 clients, only 6 are currently unemployed and receiving support in their job searches. 4 clients are pursuing higher education opportunities. A total of 29 clients have increased their income while participating in FSS and are earning money in their escrow accounts, with a total of $258,653.66. Additionally, there are 13 potential clients on the waitlist ready to replace upcoming graduates. It is another solid start to the year in helping clients to achieve personal and financial independence in the FSS program.

RITE Start
RITE Start provides career readiness for students attending the alternative high school programs at the Greenwich and Stamford public schools (Windrose and Anchor). Students participate in hands-on learning activities to identify, practice, and improve career competencies needed for today's market. Interested students are eligible to participate in short term work experiences to further practice skills, gain real life experience, and receive stipends for their efforts.

Program Update:
At our Stamford location, Anchor, there are currently three students participating in work experiences in the community. One student is assisting with family crafts and activities for the Literacy Volunteers program at Family Centers. A second student is at the Police Activities League (PAL) building in Stamford, assisting with the after-school program. The third student is working at Rapid Press, a printing and marketing company. Additionally, two more students will be starting their work experiences at Stamford Health in a few weeks. Each of these students are building their skills, expanding their networks, and gaining valuable experience to add to their resumes. Upon completion, they will each earned stipends for their hard work.