

■ OVERVIEW

CREC believes that every student can and shall learn at high levels if given access to every available educational resource. Following this principle, CREC works closely with boards of education in the capital region to improve the quality of public education for all learners. CREC has developed a wide array of cost-effective and high-quality programs and services to meet the educational needs of children and adults.

CREC began in 1966 as a grassroots organization of local school districts working together to solve common problems. It is one of six Regional Educational Service Centers that permit local boards of education to establish a “public educational authority” for greater cooperation in the delivery of programs and services. These agencies are used to deliver services in about 45 states.

Since 2007, in order to assist the state in meeting participation benchmarks under the Sheff Settlement Agreement, CREC has responded to the Connecticut State Department of Education’s request to increase enrollment in CREC Magnet Schools and has exceeded those benchmarks ever since.

CREC offers students a diverse learning environment and a curriculum designed to spark a lasting appreciation for the creation of new knowledge. These features include: specific themes that allow students to identify, refine, and develop their talents and interests; career exploration programs to prepare students for higher education and the workforce; and real-world experiences to create meaningful opportunities to apply what they have learned.

CREC is supported by local, state, federal, and private funds. Each CREC program is discreetly funded with a budget that completely supports its operation and contributes a proportionate share to CREC’s overall management and development.

CREC also promotes cooperation and collaboration with local school districts and other organizations committed to the improved quality of public education in the capitol region.

CREC provides:

- Professional development workshops for educators
- High-quality educational programs for students in preschool through grade 12 at 16 interdistrict magnet schools
- Adult education classes, including GED and ELL classes
- Preschool and care programs for infants and their families
- Specialized educational programs and facilities for students with hearing impairments, special needs, and a variety of other physical and behavioral challenges
- Customized educational programming for schools and school districts
- Curriculum and assessment development and training
- Construction management, operations, and facilities services
- Cooperative purchasing and other business services
- Innovative partnership programs that help adults develop job-ready skills
- On-site technology services for schools and towns
- Transportation services