



# Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 15, 2017  
[www.ct.gov/sde/backtoschool](http://www.ct.gov/sde/backtoschool)

## Important Opportunities from the Turnaround Office

### Professional Learning – School Climate and Restorative Practices

In the 2017-18 school year, the Turnaround Office will once again offer an array of professional learning in school climate and restorative practices to schools and districts in Connecticut. There are two opportunities available for school climate. In addition to School Climate Basic Training, there is an extension of the learning through Advanced Training in which participants will dig deeper into school climate content. A professional learning opportunity focused on Restorative Practices will also be offered. Restorative Practices focus not on the rules broken and punitive consequences, but rather on the harms done and appropriate restorative consequences necessary to repair and support strong relationships. Throughout these highly interactive sessions, participants will learn strategies to foster and improve school climate.

Priority is given to Alliance Districts, but all schools are eligible if space is available. Offerings include, but are not limited to:

- School Climate Basic Training (two-day session)
- School Climate Advanced Training (three-day session)
- Restorative Practices Basic Training (two-day session)

A memorandum with more information will be sent to superintendents by September 1, 2017. For more information, please contact Jo Ann Freiberg, education consultant, Turnaround Office, at [joann.freiberg@ct.gov](mailto:joann.freiberg@ct.gov) or 860-713-6805.

### Choose Love Enrichment Program

JOIN THE  
MOVEMENT TO CHOOSE LOVE!



The Choose Love Enrichment Program is a free, comprehensive social and emotional learning (SEL) program that empowers educators and their students to choose love for themselves and others. The program teaches the Choose Love formula: Courage + Gratitude + Forgiveness + Compassion in Action = Choosing Love. Students learn to implement these empowering tools and skills to help navigate their feelings and the challenges of the world around

them. While we can't always choose what happens to us, we can choose how we respond. This program teaches children how to handle adversity, have courageous conversations, and to respond with love. By educating the whole child, students acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy and compassion, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Written by educators for educators, the Choose Love Enrichment Program includes powerful lessons for prekindergarten through 12th grade and is aligned with Common Core Standards, American School Counselor Association Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success, and SEL competencies.

To learn more and to download the program, please visit [www.jesselewischooselove.org](http://www.jesselewischooselove.org).