



Superintendent of Schools Certification (093)

Program Overview

The Executive Leadership program at Central Connecticut State University is for educational leaders seeking Superintendent of Schools Certification (093).

Designed for aspiring superintendents and central office leaders, the program immerses candidates in the *real work* of leading a school district. Students explore the complex responsibilities of the superintendent and central office team — navigating governance, student performance, budget, labor relations, facilities, school security, and community expectations — all while leading for equity and keeping students first.

A defining feature of the program is direct access to influential educational and civic leaders from across Connecticut. In-person classes feature candid conversations with thought leaders such as the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Director of CAPSS, legislators, board attorneys, superintendent search consultants, early-career superintendents, school construction experts, demographers, school safety/law enforcement professionals, and members of boards of education. These sessions offer students rare insight into decision-making at the highest levels of public education.

Students also complete a year-long, internship with a practicing superintendent, providing hands-on experience and personalized guidance that bridges theory and practice.

Courses are taken in a cohort model, fostering strong professional relationships, collaboration, and a statewide network of colleagues that often extends well beyond the program. Students complete 15 semester hours as required by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Course Progression

July

EDL 681 District Leadership I (3 credits)

This course is designed to develop an understanding of the governance and leadership functions shared by Boards of Education and Central Office personnel. Attention will focus on the legal obligations of Boards of Education, issues related to governance of schools, the delineation of functions between Boards of Education and Central Office administrators, and the evolving nature of leadership at the superintendent level. **July 2026 Dates: July 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16**

Fall

EDL 682 District Leadership II (3 credits)

This course is designed to develop an understanding of the role of employee relations and the support functions maintained by Boards of Education. Areas of focus will include contract negotiations, bargaining unit relationships, and the hiring, retention, and termination of staff. Operational topics will include finance, facilities, transportation, technology, food services, and school construction.

EDL 695 Internship: The Superintendency I (3 credits)

This course is part one of a year-long internship. Students will be matched with an experienced superintendent outside their current school district. The student will shadow this superintendent mentor, observing the various skillsets required of the superintendency within a wide range of settings.

Spring

EDL 683 District Leadership III (3 credits)

This course is designed to develop an understanding of the role of the central office with respect to the delivery of educational services to students, including the use of student data, curricula, culturally responsive learning environments, student rights, extra-curricular activities, disciplinary issues, special education, and alternative education.

EDL 696 Internship: The Superintendency II (3 credits)

This course is part two of the year-long internship.
(See description above.)

Department of Educational Leadership and Instructional Technology

Department Contacts

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Program Qualifications

Central Connecticut State University welcomes advanced level applicants from a broad range of abilities, interests and backgrounds to graduate studies. In order to qualify as an Educational Leadership Program applicant, you must have the following:

- A strong academic record, including a master's degree and 30 semester hours of related graduate credits beyond the master's level
- An established record of successful service in a leadership position that requires the Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certification (092) for at least three years
- Participation in a program interview

For department administrative support, please contact:

Stacy Tallberg

Administrative Assistant
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(860) 832-2130

Admissions/Application Process: Materials must be received by April 15

1 Go to the Graduate Admissions section of the CCSU website and complete the online application: ccsu.edu/apply

2 Submit the following materials to the Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Office:

- Application, application fee, and official transcripts (except CCSU)
- Copy of 092 certificate
- Contact information for two professional references
- A personal statement (not to exceed two pages) that describes your past and current leadership experiences, reflects your philosophy of effective educational leadership, and identifies future career goals

3 Attend a virtual admissions interview with CCSU staff. Interviews will be held in March and April. Applicants will be contacted by Dr. Kate Carter to schedule an interview appointment.