

## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jane Bluestein

Dr. Bluestein has worked with thousands of educators, counselors, healthcare professionals, parents, childcare workers and other community members world-wide on efforts to enhance learning through school climate improvement. She speaks and consults internationally specializing in programs and



resources geared to providing practical and meaningful information, training and hope in areas related to school climate improvement, relationship building, effective instruction and guidance and personal development. Jane is an award-winning author of countless books, among them *Creating Emotionally Safe Schools* and *The Win-Win Classroom: A Fresh and Positive Look at Classroom Management*. Jane is a former inner-city classroom teacher, crisis-intervention counselor, teacher training program coordinator and volunteer with high-risk teens. She currently heads Instructional Support Services, Inc., a consulting and resource firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Registration

Please register online at  
<http://www.sdecali.net/>

Conference Fee is \$50.00  
Data Showcase conference fee is waived for all staff members from the following districts:  
Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Waterbury, and Windham.



## Directions

Take I-91 North or South to Exit 21.  
Turn left off the Exit.  
The Crowne Plaza is on the left.

For conference questions please call Barbara O'Connor at the CT Association of Schools  
203.250.1111.

## Committee Members

### CT State Department of Education

Susan Kennedy  
Meghan Martins  
Michelle Rosado  
Anna Cutaia-Leonard  
Rosanne Daigneault  
Jo Ann Freiberg  
Carolyn Hazard  
Kenneth Imperato  
Robert Pitocco  
Christine Ruman

### CT Association of Schools

Regina Birdsell

### EASTCONN

Jim Huggins  
Heidi Van Flatern

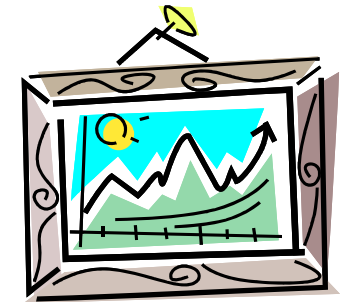
### SERC

Rochelle Abraitis  
Virginia Babcock  
KC Nelson-Oliveria  
Barbara Slone

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CT School Data Showcase

To recognize, share, and replicate our best practices!

May 13 & 14, 2008  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Cromwell, CT



Culture & Climate  
Day 1 - May 13, 2008

(Day 2 - Leadership & Change  
on separate brochure)

Sponsored by  
CSDE, CA&S, and  
CT RESC/SERC Alliance



## Breakout Sessions

### The Treasure Hunt

*Dr. Mike Wasta, External Consultant, CSDE and former Superintendent, Bristol Public Schools*

Participants will take time to examine data walls and record their observations. Dr. Wasta will lead a focused discussion around participants' observations of the data walls focusing on leadership and teaching practices which were the most effective and which data sources were the most useful for schools.

### Creating a Positive School Climate: The Old Saybrook Middle School Experience

*Michael J. Rafferty, Principal, Old Saybrook Middle School and students from grades 4 - 8*

Old Saybrook Middle School has received a number of national and State awards acknowledging the work and status of its school climate. The session will provide an opportunity for educators to learn the process and practices that have been put into place and how climate related matters are handled. Students from OSMS, along with the principal and staff, will share their experiences in an interactive format. Learn from what is working and what can be done in other settings to achieve similar results.

### Using Data to Inform Parent Involvement Practice: Strategies at the School & District Levels

*Joe Cassella, Principal, Wesley Elementary School, Middletown; Steve Carboni, Ed.D., Chair of the District Quality Council, Assistant Principal, Fitch Middle School, Groton; Dave Bechtel, Ed.D., Senior Associate, Holt, Wexler and Farnam, New Haven; Judy Carson, Consultant for School-Family-Community Partnerships, CT State Department of Education*

Although parent involvement is often cited as a key strategy for school improvement and student achievement, work in this area is not regularly linked to data. This workshop will feature innovative projects at the school and district levels that were specifically focused on student achievement and guided by data. Sample tools for planning and evaluating parent involvement activities linked to student achievement will be provided.

### Achieving The Impossible? Can Changes in Climate and Culture result in higher student achievement?

*Dave Maloney, former Assistant Principal, Branford High School and Dr. Beth Smith, Assistant Principal, Newington High School*

Results drive instruction, curriculum, and assessment in the rapidly changing world of high tech high schools. Can we get measurable results from climate and culture changes in a comprehensive high school? Come to this session and find out how one Connecticut high school did just that.

## Breakout Sessions

### "My Brain Doesn't Work Like That!" Success with Non-Traditional Learners

*Dr. Jane Bluestein, Pres., Instructional Support Services, Inc.*

Trying to force kids into a picture of learning or attending that is unnatural for them can create stress for them, result in behaviors that create stress for us, and ultimately interfere with our goals for their learning and achievement. Here are dozens of practical strategies for accommodating a variety of learner preferences, plus ways to teach children how to take responsibility for their own learning needs—without creating problems for anyone else.

### Data: Making It Work

*Kingsbury School, Waterbury*

This session will tell the story of how Kingsbury Elementary School in Waterbury turned "Data Driven Decision Making" from a buzz-word into reality. Participants will learn about practical and specific strategies and structures that the school staff has collaboratively established including formative assessments, interactive data walls, and data-focused team meetings to increase student achievement.

### CALI Technical Assistance

The Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI) is the foundation for the CSDE's school and district improvement efforts. If you are interested in learning more about what CALI is and has to offer to schools and districts, please attend this session to speak with CSDE and RESC/SERC consultants about training and technical assistance opportunities regarding using Data-Driven Decision Making/Data Teams, Making Standards Work, Effective Teaching Strategies and Common Formative Assessments.

### Changing School Culture to Increase Student Achievement

*Dr. Damaris Rau, Principal, Hamilton Avenue School, Greenwich*

*Dr. Deborah Cline, Assistant Principal*

The Administrative team at the Hamilton Avenue School will describe how they changed the culture of this low performing school to raise student achievement. The change in culture, through various strategies, resulted in significant increases in student achievement and a positive school morale among parents and staff.

### Using Response to Intervention (RTI) As a Tool For School Improvement

*Andrew Skarzynski, Associate Principal,*

*Two Rivers Magnet MS*

Two Rivers Magnet Middle School has been using the RTI pyramid as a model for school improvement. This session will provide an overview on the systemic use of interventions both academically and behaviorally at Two Rivers, including the role of data in the decision making process.

## Breakout Sessions

### Assessing School Climate: An Essential Part of "Data Driven Decision Making"

*Jo Ann Freiberg, Ph.D., Associate Education Consultant, Bureau of District and School Improvement, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Vivian Batterson, EASTCONN, School Psychologist/Staff Developer*

This workshop will provide educators with a variety of instruments and the knowledge necessary to return to their schools and assess the quality of their school climate. Components of school climate include physical, emotional, social and intellectual safety as well as the levels of peer cruelty in existence in school. Attendees will be able to gain the information allowing them to create specific action plans for school climate improvement based on the data gathered subsequent to the session. Practical strategies will be provided to assist administrators in data gathering, action planning and implementing for change.

### Connecting the Data Dots until a Child's Face Emerges

*Dr. Michael M. Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer  
Tim Barber, Assistant Principal, Jumoke Academy, Hartford  
Laura Hofsess, Senior Faculty, Language Arts and Mathematics.*

Jumoke Academy/Honors Academy over the past five years has reversed poor academic performance from 60 percent of its students performing basic and below on the CMT to over 70 percent of its students achieving proficient or above on the 2007 CMT. Jumoke has built a school culture that not only recognizes the importance of academic data but also the equal importance of data that draws a picture of the "life circumstances of our children". Tim Barber and Laura Hofsess will talk about the process of moving low achievers to high achievers. Dr. Sharpe will discuss how connecting the social and educational data draws a face of a child who is able, willing and ready to learn.

### Creating a Positive and Inclusive School Environment

*Robert Pitocco, Retired Principal, Rocky Hill High School;  
CT State Department of Education*

*Donna Hayward, Principal, Rocky Hill High School*

How an examination and assessment of a variety of data points assisted one school's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all students. Sources of data included student surveys and discussion groups, participation rates in co-curricular and athletic activities, faculty perceptions and discussion groups, parent perceptions and input, and suspension and other disciplinary consequences.

## Agenda

**7:45 ~ 8:30 am**  
Come Early! Register,  
Visit Data Walls & Vendors!

**8:30 ~ 9:00 am**  
Welcome  
Dr. Mark McQuillan  
CT Commissioner of Education

**9:00 ~ 10:15 am**  
Keynote  
Dr. Jane Bluestein

**10:15 ~ 10:45 am**  
Data Walls, Vendors &  
Refreshments

**10:45 am ~ 12:00 pm**  
Breakout Session 1

**12:00 ~ 1:00 pm**  
Luncheon & Vendors

**1:15 ~ 2:15 pm**  
Breakout Session 2

**2:30 ~ 3:30 pm**  
Breakout Session 3

### Special Evening Session Tuesday ~ May 13<sup>th</sup>

This evening session is geared for teachers & paraprofessionals and is offered at **NO CHARGE**. This session runs from **4pm-6pm** and includes dinner. This session is limited to the **first 300** registrants.

### What Teachers and Paraprofessionals Can do to Create positive school climate and support high academic achievement.

Dr. Bluestein's presentation will provide concrete, practical strategies that will help create positive learning environments. High academic achievement and healthy social development happens in classrooms that are physically, emotionally and intellectually safe for all.

After Dr. Bluestein's presentation, a panel of educators including paraprofessionals and teachers will discuss issues around teacher and paraprofessional relationships and share strategies for creating positive relationships that support student achievement.