

EXAMINE THE FACTS

A CLOSER LOOK AT NED LAMONT

Ned Lamont scored 100 on CEA’s questionnaire and made the CEA Honor Roll based on his support of public education and the rights of teachers. He has pledged to

- Restore equity to education cost share (ECS) funding
- Fortify the teacher pension fund
- Protect teachers’ rights to collectively bargain
- Ensure that alternative systems of education do not receive more state funds at the expense of traditional public schools
- Seek better, more equitable ways of funding special education services

In his first debate against Bob Stefanowski, on September 12, Lamont also said he supports an initiative backed by CEA to secure the Teachers’ Retirement Fund: placing the Connecticut Lottery into the fund to reduce the state’s unfunded liability and provide a stable source of significant income.

“I believe that access to high-quality public education must be a right for all, not just the privileged few,” says Lamont on his website. “I have visited educational institutions all over the state, hearing from driven students and passionate educators, and I am proud of the hard work that Connecticut has done to improve our educational system over the past few decades. Our teachers and educators are incredibly hard-working, and I thank them for their dedication to the well-being of our children and adult-learners alike.”

He adds, “In the past 20 years, the education cost sharing formula has been fully funded only twice, and legislators in Hartford continually tweak the formula to gain political favor instead of thinking about the needs of our children, the



needs of our schools, or the needs of our state. Education is the best investment we can make in our future, and funding it should not be a political question.”

On his website, Lamont lays out specific recommendations for improving Connecticut education. For example, he is in favor of

- Reducing class sizes
- Increasing counselor-to-student ratios
- Incorporating more social workers into Connecticut’s schools
- Expanding early education

Accomplishing those goals, of course, requires funding, and Lamont has promised to maintain current ECS funding levels; deliver a budget that’s on time so that schools can anticipate resources, capacity, and staff size and avoid the guessing game of last year’s budget fiasco; and work with teachers unions and local boards of education to ensure that funding remains in the classroom, not with non-teaching administrators.

On the issue of teachers’ rights and freedom, contrary to Stefanowski—who

revealed in the Supreme Court’s decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*—Lamont issued the following statement: “Today’s ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME* undermines the ability of unions to represent workers, their families, and their communities. Once again, this underscores the fact that elections have consequences.” Lamont pledged that he would “ensure that workers have the right to organize through collective bargaining and achieve a decent standard of living,” adding, “I have always believed that unions play a critical role in building up and protecting the middle class in Connecticut and across the country. Unions provide economic stability for families and give them the opportunity to have a quality life for themselves and their children by ensuring workers earn a living wage and can do so in a fair and

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just workplace. Unions also protect equal opportunities for women and people of color who have been systematically disadvantaged due to discrimination and prejudice.”