

EASTCONN

ACT

**ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER
PERFORMING ARTS MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL**

PROGRAM OF STUDIES



ACTING



CREATIVE WRITING



DANCE



**INTEGRATED
ARTS & MANAGEMENT**



MEDIA ARTS



MUSIC



TECHNICAL THEATER

CREATE LEARN BE YOU

**ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER, 896 MAIN STREET, WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
860-465-5636 • EASTCONN.ORG/ACT**

Welcome to ACT!

COME CREATE WITH US

Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) is a full-day high school program designed for students who want to learn through the performing arts. ACT students have a full load of courses in the performing arts and academic areas. All courses are designed to help students make cross-curricular connections between content areas.

What I enjoy most as principal of this school is watching the growth that occurs in our students from freshman year to senior year. Our students leave ACT ready for college or the workforce. They are taught responsibility, accountability and commitment; three characteristics essential to success after high school.

ACT is a place where students can shine. Students at this school are free to create, perform and reach their true potential as students and artists. Our community allows students the chance to express themselves freely and to meet and befriend others from all different backgrounds. Above all, ACT students are welcoming, committed and live by ACT's core value of RESPECT: Respect Yourself, Respect the Work, Respect the Community.

This school is a special place with dedicated students and we would love you to be a part of our family.

Sarah Mallory
ACT Principal



Table of Contents

Faculty and Staff.....	3
Core Values and Beliefs	4
Portrait of a Graduate	5
Curriculum.....	6
Graduation Requirements	7-8
Pathways	9-17
Notes	18



School Information

ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER

896 MAIN STREET, WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

860-465-5636 • Fax: 860-465-8115

EASTCONN.ORG/ACT



Faculty & Staff

ACT has caring, committed staff members who are dedicated to each and every student. Contact information and bios can be found on our website: www.eastconn.org/act-about-us/staff

COME CREATE WITH US!



Core Values & Beliefs

The students, teachers, parents, and community members of ACT collaborate to promote an education in arts and academics that inspires intellectual exploration, creative expression, and personal motivation in students. Through intensive, rigorous educational experiences in our caring and safe environment, our students learn to understand deeply the imperative that is our philosophical foundation: Respect Yourself, Respect the Work and Respect the Community.

RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT THE WORK
RESPECT THE COMMUNITY



The ACT Community believes that:

- Arts education enhances academic learning
- Academic learning strengthens artistic endeavors
- Real-world application of learning embeds knowledge
- Effective teaching and learning involves effective collaboration
- Diversity is a strength that must be actively embraced in learning



The ACT Community is committed to:

- Educating the whole person - intellectually, creatively, physically, emotionally
- Respecting individual differences, talents, and life experiences
- Preparing students for productive lives as artists and as citizens
- Elevating personal and artistic standards through education
- Making connections among arts, academics, and life



The ACT Community provides:

- A respectful, safe environment in which students explore their creativity
- Opportunities for new areas of learning and personal expression
- A professional perspective and preparation for life in the arts and in the world
- Purposeful, effective integration of arts and academic curricula
- Unique, authentic learning experiences and assessments



EASTCONN's Portrait of a Graduate reflects our community's collective vision of student success. This vision is our declaration of – and blueprint for – what it means for our students to be college, career and life-ready. EASTCONN's Portrait of a Graduate frames a new vision for learning within all EASTCONN schools, where students follow a personal path to mastering the knowledge, skills and habits they will need to succeed in the future.



Curriculum

The ACT curriculum prepares students for success in the 21st century, as they develop their skills as critical thinkers, collaborators, creators and effective communicators. Through the integration of artistic and academic learning in a personalized, competency-based learning environment, students develop their ability to problem solve, be flexible and adapt.



ARTS Students come to ACT because they share an interest in the performing arts. Creating, performing and responding to works of art gives students a greater understanding and an aesthetic appreciation of the arts, and opportunities for real-world applications of their learning. ACT offers 7 pathways from which students can choose: Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music and Technical Theater. These pathways give students a chance to focus on an area of interest with purpose and intent. Please see the Performing Arts section on page 10 for more information on each pathway.



ACADEMICS ACT's academic courses, which are based on the Connecticut State Department of Education's Curriculum Frameworks and Connecticut Content Standards, thoroughly integrate concepts from the performing arts. Small class sizes and differentiated instruction allow students' individual learning needs to be addressed, while hands-on learning experiences and performance-based assessments measure student growth in arts and academic subjects. ACT's academic subject areas include core requirements and electives in math, science, social studies, English, world language and physical education and health. In their senior year, students complete a Senior Capstone Project. The purpose of this project is to engage each student in a personalized learning experience and demonstration, representing the culmination of their learning at ACT.



COLLEGE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES In addition to courses offered at ACT, an agreement with Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) enables students to earn college credits at no cost by attending university classes.

Graduation Requirements

I. CREDITS & COURSES

Requirements for graduation are consistent with Connecticut requirements.

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION	
ARTS (18 CREDITS)	
Pathway Specific	8 credits
Pathway Electives	5 credits
Other Electives	5 credits
HUMANITIES (9 CREDITS)	
English	4 credits
Social Studies (Including Civics)	3 credits
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH (9 CREDITS)	
Math	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Electives in Technology	2 credits
OTHER (8.50 CREDITS)	
Foreign Language	2 credits
Physical Education (P.E.)	1 credit
Health	1 credit
Community Service (No fewer than 50 hours)	.5 credit
Advisory	3 credits
Senior Capstone Project	1 credit
TOTAL	44.5 CREDITS

Graduation Requirements



II. SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT

The focus of the Arts at the Capitol Theater Senior Capstone: Legacy Project is to engage each student in a personalized learning experience. The project allows students the opportunity to apply and to demonstrate interdisciplinary skills and knowledge while investigating a specialized area of interest, supported by an adult mentor. Each student will have the assistance of a faculty advisor to guide the student through this project, as well as an adult mentor who has specific knowledge of the area the student has chosen to explore.

Goal: Create a Senior Capstone Project that will have a lasting impact on the community (school, town, state, global)

Questions to ask yourself:

- What is the problem/topic you want to address?
- Why does it matter?
- What are you going to do about it?
- What lasting contribution will it make?

Performing Arts Pathways

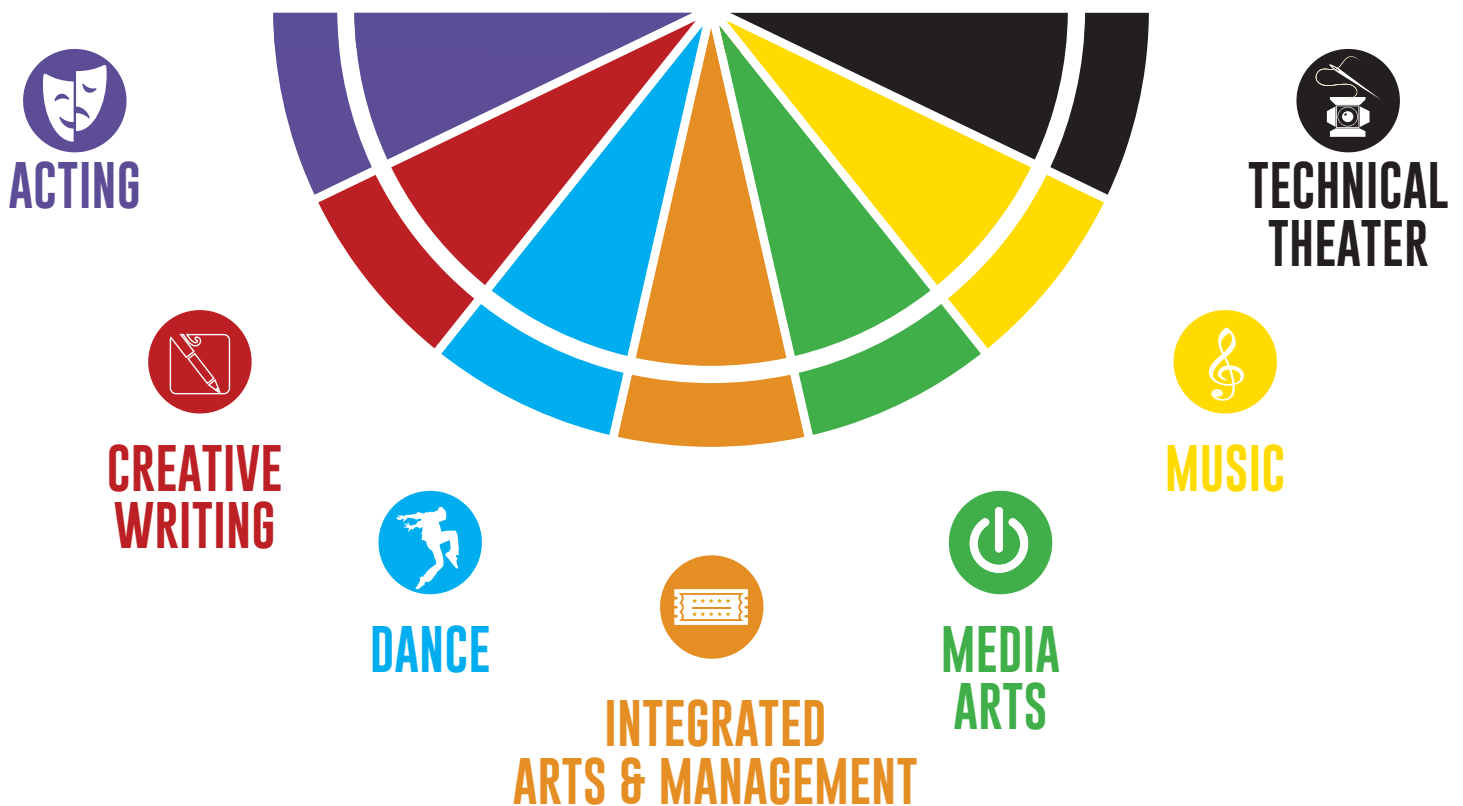
7 PATHWAYS at ACT

ACT offers 7 pathways from which students can choose: Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music, and Technical Theater.

These pathways give students a chance to focus on an area of interest with purpose and intent.

Each pathway has its own required program courses in addition to the required academic courses for graduation.

The grids on the following pages outline each pathway and its suggested course sequence.



COME CREATE WITH US!

Your Journey Starts Here

ACT offers an integrated approach to instruction, infusing standards-based academic courses with a variety of arts disciplines, and providing differentiated instruction to address individual learning needs.

Students in grades 9-12 study with certified academic teachers and professional artists in our small, arts-focused learning community. Each grade is limited to about 35 students, making this an intimate, focused, artistic learning environment.

ACT's extended-day schedule is Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m, Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

A semester-based schedule allows students to take up to 12 different classes per year, increasing the number of credits students can graduate with and allowing more time for intensive study in the arts.

Areas of artistic study include Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music, and Technical Theater. ACT students have access to a pre-college academic boost, thanks to a partnership with Eastern Connecticut State University allows qualified upperclassmen to attend college classes and earn free college credits while attending ACT.



ACTING



**CREATIVE
WRITING**



DANCE



**INTEGRATED
ARTS & MANAGEMENT**



**MEDIA
ARTS**



MUSIC



**TECHNICAL
THEATER**

COME CREATE WITH US!

Acting Pathway (13 Credits)



Students study voice and diction to develop International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) diction and articulation for performance. Basic acting theory and technique are introduced, as well as researching and performing scenes from a variety of periods and theatrical styles. Stage makeup, History of Theater, Musical Theater Prep, Improvisation, A Capella and Jazz are other areas for students to explore. Performance opportunities include a musical, a play, and music night for advanced students as well as various other opportunities for students to perform short scenes, monologues, and musical selections throughout the year.

REQUIRED FOR ALL ACTING PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)

Year 1	2 credits	Acting I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Acting II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Acting III	All 3rd and 4th year students
Year 3/4	2-4 credits	Show Performance-Play and/or Musical (Acting only elective)	Audition-based courses focusing on production process and performance. Prerequisites: Acting I & Acting II

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR ACTING PATHWAY)

ACTING ELECTIVES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Stage Makeup	History of Theater	Musical Theater Prep	Introduction to Acting	A Capella	Jazz Dance
Hands-on, laboratory environment with a variety of makeup materials in numerous applications	General overview, survey approach to the major stylistic periods of theatrical production	Survey course that introduces students to the famous and great composers, songs and show of the musical theater repertoire	Basic acting skills and techniques are explored. Open to all majors.	Music elective for Acting pathway. See Music pathway for description.	Dance elective for Acting pathway. See Dance pathway for description.

Creative Writing Pathway (13 Credits)



Students practice writing across a wide range of literary genres including poetry, fiction, drama, creative nonfiction, and SLAM. Students develop the critical skills to analyze and evaluate literature as writers, and workshop with their peers. Writers support theater, dance, and video performances for writing for stage and screen. Students present their work through Coffee House performances, poetry readings, writing contests, and publications.

REQUIRED FOR ALL CREATIVE WRITING PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)

Year 2	2 credits	Creative Writing I A basic overview of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and screenwriting	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 3/4	2 credits	Creative Writing II A deeper overview of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and screenwriting building upon skills from CWI	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Creative Writing III A more advanced overview of writing genres with more opportunity for personalized learning	All 3rd year students; optional for 4th year students

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR CREATIVE WRITING PATHWAY)

CREATIVE WRITING ELECTIVES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Poetry I	Poetry II	Fiction I	Fiction II	Nonfiction I	Nonfiction II	Inspired Creative Writing	Poetry for Performance	Writing for Stage and Screen
Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing Workshop style class where students read exemplar texts, discuss them, write their own pieces, workshop (the writing process) for performance/publication	Writing in all genres with a focus on creativity, art, music, collaboration	Focus on the performance aspect of poetry, specifically slam poetry	Gain a broad understanding of the different aspects of writing both stage plays and film. Work focuses on refining the craft and exploring our own responsibilities as writers and storytellers.

Dance Pathway (13 Credits)



Students study multiple styles of dance including: Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop, Tap, Latin and Contemporary. Emphasis is placed on choreographic principles throughout several classes that allow students to create and perform their own choreography. Dance students work collaboratively with other departments to become aware of how lighting, sets, and costumes enhance dance. Multiple performance opportunities are available, including community functions like Third Thursday, Student Dance Company Showcase, and DanceFest.

REQUIRED FOR ALL DANCE PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)

Year 1	2 credits	Dance I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Dance II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Dance III	All 3rd and 4th year students
Year 3/4	1 credit 1 credit	Company Rep Student Dance Company	Audition based courses focusing on production process and performance. Prerequisites: Dance I & Dance II, and Dance Composition

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR DANCE PATHWAY)

DANCE ELECTIVES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Jazz	Dance	Hip Hop I/II	Latin Dance	Tap	Ballet	Modern	Dance and Anatomy
Focus on developing Broadway, contemporary, and lyrical jazz styles	Explore the elements of choreography and improvisation, through group choreography projects	Discover and refine hip-hop technique, skills and styles	Learn the principles and techniques to perform authentic Latin dances	Learn the basic skills associated with tap dancing	Practice Ballet technique, terminology, etiquette and body conditioning	Learn fundamentals of technique, principles of alignment, rhythmic phrasing, and fall and recovery techniques	Discover the anatomical components of each body system specifically in terms of dance and movement

Integrated Arts & Management (13 Credits)



Students create and explore art that exists outside of a single genre and learn how to integrate creativity with real world management skills. This track engages students in this work by exploring the creative process in general, engaging in critical analysis, working with a cross-cultural lens, and collaborating on community projects. Integrated Arts and Management helps students develop skills in generative follow-through, creative problem solving, critical thinking, global understanding, and inter and intrapersonal communication. These skills can be applied to future careers such as Art Direction, Production Management, and Curation, along with careers in Community Organizing, Outreach Programs, and Small Business/Non-Profit Management.

REQUIRED FOR ALL INTEGRATED ARTS & MANAGEMENT PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)			
Year 1	2 credits	Integrated Arts & Management I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Integrated Arts & Management II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Integrated Arts & Management III	All 3rd and 4th year students

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR INTEGRATED ARTS & MANAGEMENT PATHWAY)					
<i>INTERGRATED ARTS & MANAGEMENT OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS</i>					
History of Theater	Conceptual Arts Development	Performance Poetry	Writing for Stage and Screen	Arts Management	Stage Management
General overview, survey approach to the major stylistic periods of theatrical production	Introduce students to hitstory, significance, and application of the Conceptual Arts movement and experiment with the creation of interdisciplinary conceptual arts pieces	Develop the voice as a poet and performer while also developing a critical eye for analysis of work. Focus on creating work that connects with and engages an audience	Gain a broad understanding of the different aspects of writing both stage plays and film. Work focuses on refining the craft and exploring our own responsibilities as writers and storytellers	Studying individual skills like scheduling, organization, communication, and marketing, while also looking at current active organizations and their management process	Explore the fundamental duties and responsibilities of the theatrical stage manager

Media Arts (13 Credits)



Students utilize state of the art cameras and editing software to produce, film, and edit their own videos. Media Arts students have the opportunity to create commercials, PSA's and documentaries for local businesses and community members and present all of their hard work at least twice a year during VideoFest (open to the public). In addition, Media Arts students study audio production, Photoshop, animation, video game design, and music editing/creation through GarageBand.

REQUIRED FOR ALL MEDIA ARTS PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)

Year 1	2 credits	Media Arts I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Media Arts II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Media Arts III	All 3rd and 4th year students; optional for 4th year students

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR MEDIA ARTS PATHWAY)

MEDIA ARTS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Animation	GarageBand	Game Design	Historical Documentary	Photoshop	Community Video Production	Drawing	Lighting
Create animated features and shorts by using a combination of software, digital pictures, clay and drawings	Create music by using field instrument loops or unique beats. Writing lyrics and recording voice over tracks is also explored	Introduction to basic gaming and coding software. Students create video games such as first person view and maze games	Research and Audio/ Visual skills are combined to produce long format documentaries on a variety of historical subjects	Learn to use several tools for selecting, moving, duplicating, and resizing images. Explore ways to use layers and apply specific effects and filters to modify images	Represent ACT and assist Windham area business succeed in their marketing plans by producing marketing and video advertisements. Pre reqs: MAI and MAII	Introduction to materials and processes designer's use in drawing. Students will learn basic drafting and rendering	Learn how to work as electricians to hang lights and learn some basic properties of light design

MUSIC (13 Credits)



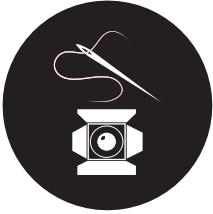
Students gain a deep understanding of music theory, sight singing, and composition by exploring music from a variety of time periods and genres. Confidence in performance skills is gained through continuous feedback from peers and faculty.

Performance opportunities include the annual Prism Concert, salons and competitions.

REQUIRED FOR ALL MUSIC PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)			
Year 1	2 credits	Music I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Music II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Music III	All 3rd and 4th year students

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR MUSIC PATHWAY)						
<i>MUSIC ELECTIVES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS</i>						
A Capella	Keyboarding I/II	Guitar	Beginning Singing	Music Theater Prep	Music History Survey	Band
Learn a variety of vocal music from various genres and perform without accompaniment	Learn the major scales and root position chords on the keyboard. Students will learn solo etudes for performance and to improve their piano technique and music reading skills	Explore the basics of playing guitar including reading music, playing chords, and performing basic songs	Learn how to read, perform, and analyze vocal repertoire while improving vocal technique and strengthening confidence and stage presence	Introduction students to the famous and great composers, songs and shows of the musical theater repertoire	Listening survey of the music written from Renaissance Era to the present	Exploration of instrumental music based on student interest and talents

Technical Theater (13 Credits)



Students study the 'behind-the-scenes' work necessary for successful, effective theater in classes that include Set Design and Construction, Lighting Design, Science Painting, Stage Management, Costume Design, Costume Construction, Costume Art and History of Costume. Professional technology is used in our fully equipped scene shop, costume shop, and theater. Technical Theater students are directly involved with every production at ACT, whether it's running lights, building sets, stage managing, design and construction costumes or making props. Students are able to collaborate with all other arts areas to enhance the quality of performances.

REQUIRED FOR ALL TECHNICAL THEATER PATHWAY STUDENTS (8 credits)

Year 1	2 credits	Technical Theater I	ALL new students to the major pathway
Year 2	2 credits	Technical Theater II	Second year students
Year 3/4	2 credits	Technical Theater III	All 3rd and 4th year students

ELECTIVES - 1 CREDIT EACH (5 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR TECHNICAL THEATER PATHWAY)

TECHNICAL THEATER ELECTIVES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Costume Design	Costume Construction	Scenic Design	Scenic Construction	Lighting Design
Study shapes of different garments and their evolution throughout costume history with opportunities to design and make garments	Learn basics of hand sewing, machine sewing, and using commercial patterns for the purpose of making theatrical costumes	Areas of exploration include: design concepts, script analysis, design conceptualization, solving mechanical challenges of designs, theatre architecture, modeling, and basic drafting	Learn carpentry and tool skills and how to build while looking at difficult problems with a creative eye	Learn how to work as electricians while hanging lights, identifying themes and moods, and designing lighting for dances/performances

Lighting	Properties Design	Stage Management	Visual Creativity	Art History
Learn how to work as electricians to hang lights and learn some basic properties of light design	Principles of prop design will be explored through hand props, set props and set dressing; to create the "world" of a theatrical or screen production	Explore the fundamental duties and responsibilities of the theatrical stage manager	Introduction to the elements of visual art through art journaling, illustration, and a variety of two dimensional projects	Explore ways art has evolved over time

Notes:



ACT
ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER
PERFORMING ARTS MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

CREATE LEARN BE YOU

ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER, 896 MAIN STREET, WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
860-465-5636 • EASTCONN.ORG/ACT

EASTCONN, a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center, administers Arts at the Capitol Theater. Created in 1980 under Connecticut Statute 10-66a, EASTCONN exists to provide high-quality educational and related services to 36 member Boards of Education and the 33 communities they serve in northeastern Connecticut. We are governed by a Board of Directors, who are members of locally elected Boards of Education.

For more information about EASTCONN and its programs and services,
please contact EASTCONN's Communications Department at 860-455-0707.