



SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, January 29, 2024 6:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Glastonbury Town Hall

2155 Main Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Information Session for Public Comment
4. LINKS Facility Needs
5. Adjournment
 - A. Please note: It is possible that the Board of Education may go into Executive Session

How to Participate in Board of Education Meeting Public Comments

At this time, there are two options for participating in public comment during Board of Education meetings.:

1) In-Person Comment.

The Board sets aside thirty (30) minutes for public comments. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker and a person may speak only once. Each speaker must start by stating their name and address. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the room. In-person meetings are held in the Town Hall Town Council Chambers, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, unless otherwise noted on the [Board of Education Meeting webpage](#) and the Board Meeting agenda.

2) Written Comment.

Use the form below to submit a written comment before 12 noon on the meeting day. Written comments are attached to the BOE Meeting Agenda.

[Public Comments for Glastonbury Board of Education Meeting](#)



Glastonbury Board of Education

628 Hebron Avenue, P.O. Box 191, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Tel: 860-652-7951, www.glastonburyus.org

There were no public comments submitted via the online Google Form for the January 29, 2024 Glastonbury Board of Education Special Meeting.

The link to the "Public Comments for BOE Meeting" Form is posted on the [BOE Meeting page](#). Public comments submitted via the Google Form will be attached to the [Board Agenda](#) after 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

GLASTONBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

Title of Report: LINKS Parent Survey Data

Board Meeting Date: January 29, 2024

Action:

Report: X

Information:

Discussion:

With the Eastbury building at capacity, the Board of Education is considering the addition of modular classrooms to accommodate the number of secondary students (Gr. 7-12) enrolled in the LINKS program.

A formal survey was sent to families of LINKS students on January 23, 2024 requesting feedback related to the possible addition of modular classrooms to the Eastbury campus. The survey invitation included a background information sheet with sample modular photos.

There are 61 students in the K-12 LINKS program. We received 50 responses in total; 25 responses were from parents of students in grades 7-12. Two reminder notifications were sent in an effort to capture as many responses as possible.

- When asked if they believe their child will receive an appropriate education if placed in a modular classroom at Eastbury, 56% of the respondents strongly agree/agree; 20% have a neutral opinion; and 24% strongly disagree/disagree.
- 47% of the respondents indicated “no concerns” when asked if they have any concerns about modular classrooms.
- Of the possible modular concerns listed on the survey, respondents indicated concern at the rates noted below:
 - Location: 24%
 - Comfort: 29%
 - Physical Appearance: 8%
- The following “other concerns” were named by respondents:
 - Sensory challenges due to sound and/or space
 - Connection to main building; perceived isolation
 - Access to restrooms
 - Access to related services (e.g. OT, PT, alternative spaces for breaks)
 - Connectivity to the 'main areas'
 - Modularity are a short-term solution; need a long term plan
 - Staffing to meet the increased student enrollment

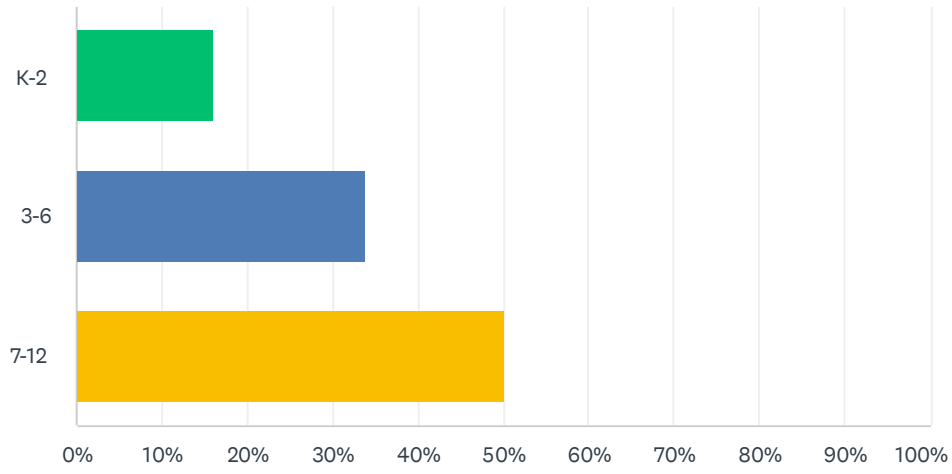
The complete survey, accompanying background information sheet, and survey results are attached for review and consideration.

Submitted By: Kate Lund

Reviewed By: Alan Bookman

Q1 Current grade(s) of your LINKS child(ren). Select all that apply.

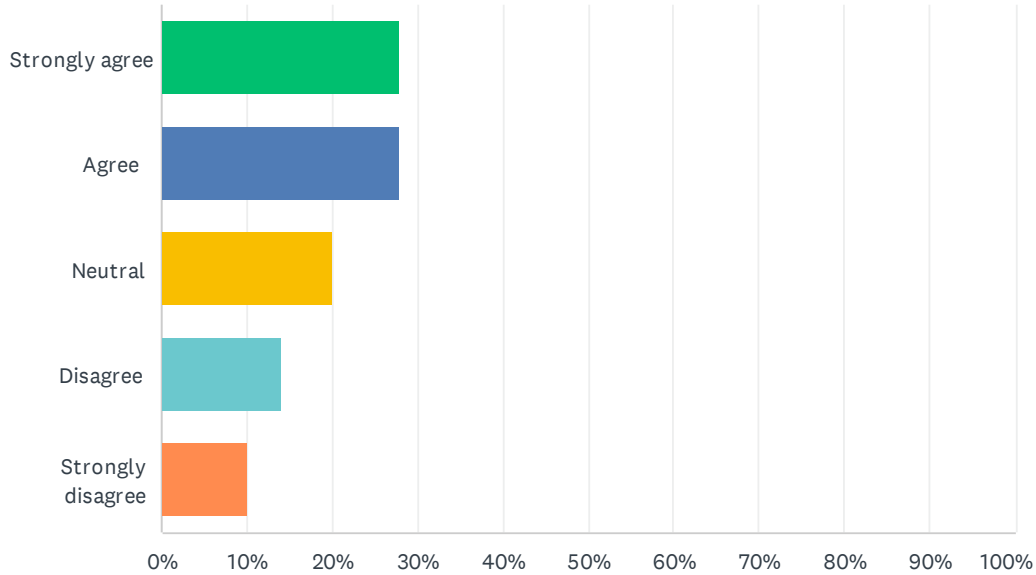
Answered: 50 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
K-2	16.00% 8
3-6	34.00% 17
7-12	50.00% 25
Total Respondents: 50	

Q2 After reviewing the LINKS Facility Needs background information, please indicate your agreement with this statement: My child will receive an appropriate education if placed in a modular classroom at Eastbury.

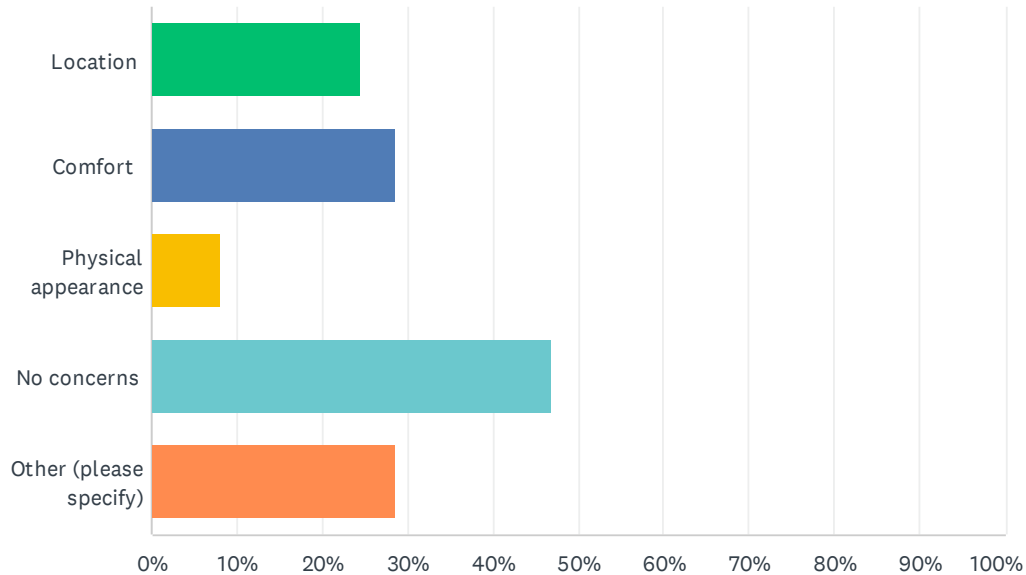
Answered: 50 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	28.00%	14
Agree	28.00%	14
Neutral	20.00%	10
Disagree	14.00%	7
Strongly disagree	10.00%	5
TOTAL		50

Q3 Please indicate if you have any of the following concerns about modular classrooms.

Answered: 49 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Location	24.49%	12
Comfort	28.57%	14
Physical appearance	8.16%	4
No concerns	46.94%	23
Other (please specify)	28.57%	14
Total Respondents: 49		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Modular classrooms are terrible and usually small and inconvenient. Not a huge fan.	1/25/2024 6:56 PM
2	Safety	1/25/2024 4:23 PM
3	I am concerned that the quality of education for my child is less than what they would be getting at Smith. I worry my child is not getting properly prepared for high school or college.	1/25/2024 9:57 AM
4	We have lived in another town that used modulares. Those should not be used for more than a few years while a permanent solution is being built. They are not a long term solution and not a place to put your most vulnerable health wise students. The rest of the building needs upgrading to support more students like the kitchen and restrooms. I personally feel that the space used for the ELC should be used for our LINKS students. The board is presenting a solution that has the appearance of a way to generate revenue by taking in other town's residents.	1/25/2024 9:18 AM
5	Our child has sensory issues. A confined cla	1/24/2024 5:14 PM
6	There are currently Staffing issues at Eastbury for the number of students there. By adding	1/24/2024 3:59 PM

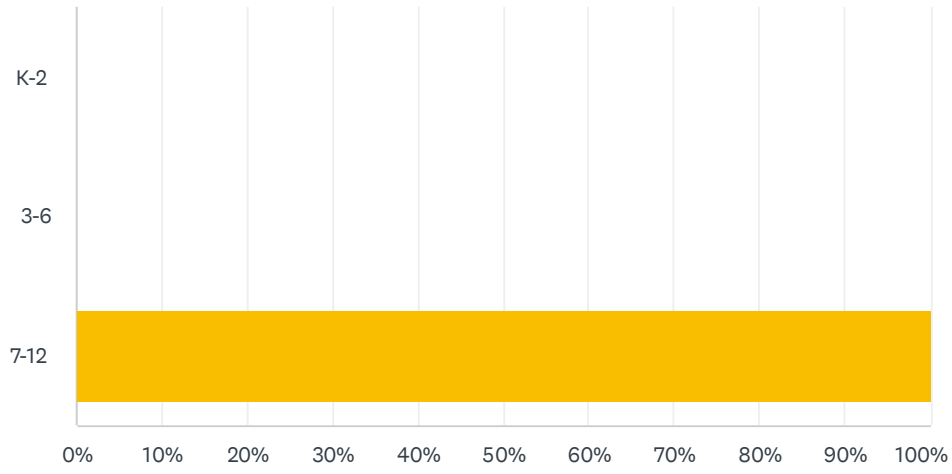
LINKS Facility Parent/Guardian Survey 2024

Modulars, how many added Staff will be added. A Full-time BCBA, PT, OT and SLP are desperate needed today!!! By adding more students and not the appropriate amount of Staff the Special Education students suffer.

7	Sound and space due to sensory challenges	1/24/2024 3:24 PM
8	connectivity to the 'main areas'. I grew up using modular classrooms in middle and high school. they always felt a bit isolating. As an older student they work, but I would not recommend for younger students with greater than average needs.	1/24/2024 8:42 AM
9	I just feel like my son learns better and a smaller class	1/23/2024 6:57 PM
10	If we are investing in modular classrooms anyway - why would they not be placed at GHS? That seems like the best way to invest our funds while supporting reintegration of our students into mainstream classrooms. My understanding was that our kids are only isolated GHS didn't have enough coherent space for the necessary programming. Why would I want to pay more money to keep my child on a self-contained campus where the biggest obstacle to mainstreaming is the hike between Eastbury and GHS?	1/23/2024 5:35 PM
11	Further isolation	1/23/2024 5:16 PM
12	Safety	1/23/2024 4:27 PM
13	restrooms inside the modular classrooms should be considered	1/23/2024 4:22 PM
14	Access to movement breaks, OT, PT, and rooms that separate unsafe behaviors in	1/23/2024 2:21 PM

Q1 Current grade(s) of your LINKS child(ren). Select all that apply.

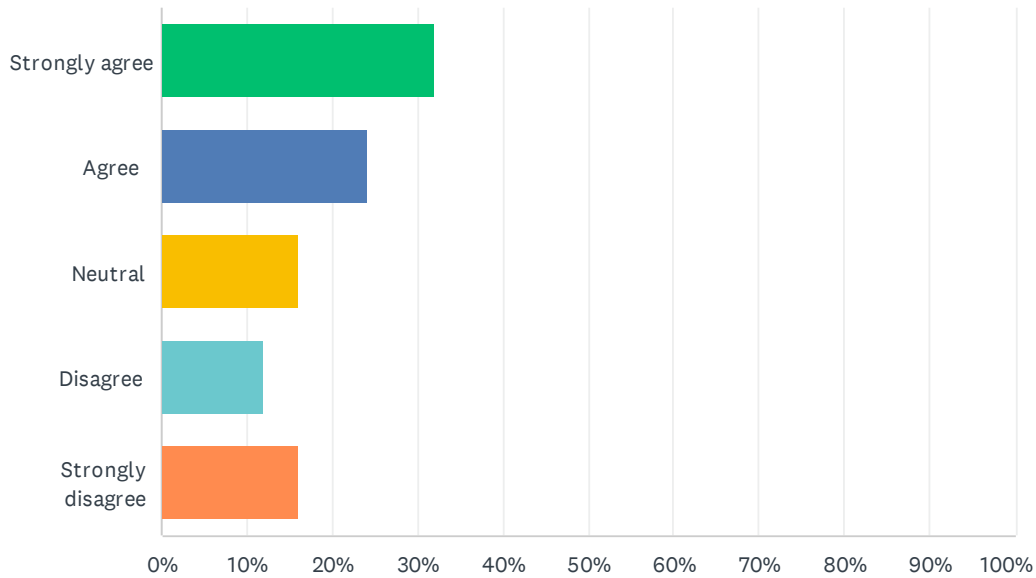
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
K-2	0.00% 0
3-6	0.00% 0
7-12	100.00% 25
Total Respondents: 25	

Q2 After reviewing the LINKS Facility Needs background information, please indicate your agreement with this statement: My child will receive an appropriate education if placed in a modular classroom at Eastbury.

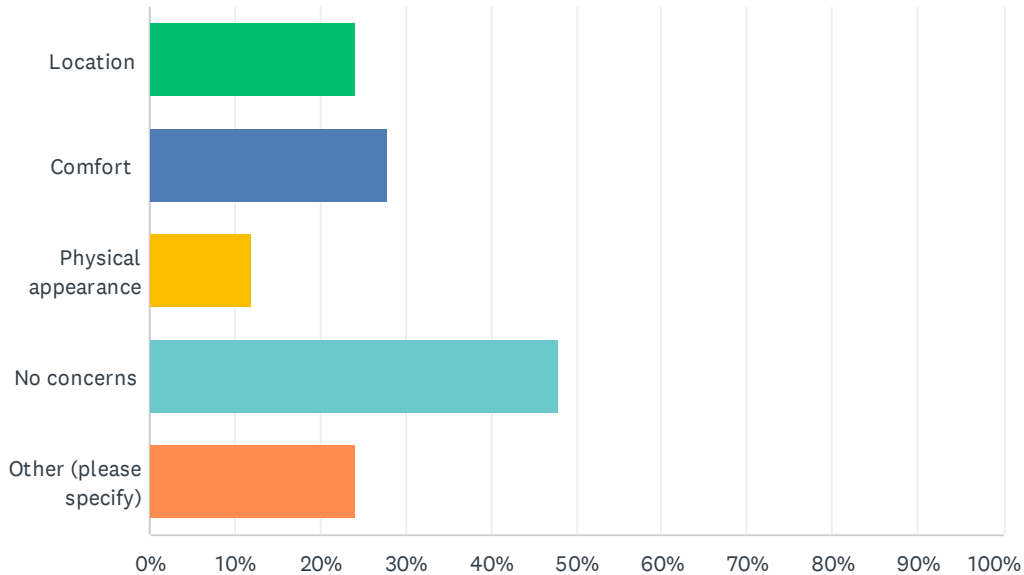
Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	32.00%	8
Agree	24.00%	6
Neutral	16.00%	4
Disagree	12.00%	3
Strongly disagree	16.00%	4
TOTAL		25

Q3 Please indicate if you have any of the following concerns about modular classrooms.

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Location	24.00% 6
Comfort	28.00% 7
Physical appearance	12.00% 3
No concerns	48.00% 12
Other (please specify)	24.00% 6
Total Respondents: 25	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Modular classrooms are terrible and usually small and inconvenient. Not a huge fan.	1/25/2024 6:56 PM
2	I am concerned that the quality of education for my child is less than what they would be getting at Smith. I worry my child is not getting properly prepared for high school or college.	1/25/2024 9:57 AM
3	We have lived in another town that used modulares. Those should not be used for more than a few years while a permanent solution is being built. They are not a long term solution and not a place to put your most vulnerable health wise students. The rest of the building needs upgrading to support more students like the kitchen and restrooms. I personally feel that the space used for the ELC should be used for our LINKS students. The board is presenting a solution that has the appearance of a way to generate revenue by taking in other town's residents.	1/25/2024 9:18 AM
4	There are currently Staffing issues at Eastbury for the number of students there. By adding Modulares, how many added Staff will be added. A Full-time BCBA, PT, OT and SLP are desperate needed today!!! By adding more students and not the appropriate amount of Staff the Special Education students suffer.	1/24/2024 3:59 PM

LINKS Facility Parent/Guardian Survey 2024

5	<p>If we are investing in modular classrooms anyway - why would they not be placed at GHS? That seems like the best way to invest our funds while supporting reintegration of our students into mainstream classrooms. My understanding was that our kids are only isolated GHS didn't have enough coherent space for the necessary programming. Why would I want to pay more money to keep my child on a self-contained campus where the biggest obstacle to mainstreaming is the hike between Eastbury and GHS?</p>	1/23/2024 5:35 PM
6	Further isolation	1/23/2024 5:16 PM

LINKS Academy Modularity Background Information

January 23, 2024

Eastbury is home to several important district programs. These include the Integrated Preschool, LINKS Academy, Transition Academy, and the Early Learning Center.

Several programs are expected to grow next year and will need additional space. The Eastbury building, however, is currently at capacity. The Board of Education and school administrators have considered many alternative spaces and options to accommodate our growing programs. These options include relocating programs to other schools and leasing space in our community.

One option the Board is considering would be expanding available space at Eastbury by leasing 4 modular classrooms. The classrooms would most likely house the secondary LINKS classrooms (grades 7-12). The modular building would be attached to the back entrance of the Eastbury building. We would work with architects to design an attractive, safe, climate-controlled modern building. Please see photo examples at the end of this document.

The Eastbury modular option has several benefits:

- The elementary and intensive LINKS programs could expand by four classrooms.
- Secondary LINKS classes would have a distinct classroom core, with some physical separation from the elementary, ELC, and intensive programs.
- Administrators and nursing services would still be available on-site.

As parents/guardians of LINKS students, we are interested in your feedback regarding this modular classroom option. As noted, it is most likely that the modular classrooms would be used by secondary classes. However, some of your children could “age” into them over time. Therefore we are surveying all LINKS Academy parents/guardians. **Please respond to the survey by Thursday, January 25th at 3:00 pm.**

The Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting next **Monday, January 29 at 6 pm** to discuss the issue. They will review the results of this survey at that time.

Sample Modular Photos

These are examples of existing modular classrooms. If approved, the Board of Education would work with administrators to design an attractive, cost-effective building for the LINKS Academy program.





LINKS Facility Parent/Guardian Survey 2024

Please review the LINKS Academy Modularity background information document before completing this survey. Your responses are anonymous. You've been provided a randomly generated unique link to the survey. No personally identifiable information is collected.

Please respond by January 25, at 3 pm. Thank you for participating.

1. Current grade(s) of your LINKS child(ren). Select all that apply.

K-2

3-6

7-12

2. After reviewing the LINKS Facility Needs background information, please indicate your agreement with this statement:

My child will receive an appropriate education if placed in a modular classroom at Eastbury.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

3. Please indicate if you have any of the following concerns about modular classrooms.

Location

Comfort

Physical appearance

No concerns

Other (please specify)

EARLY LEARNING CENTER INFORMATION

Who is at the ELC?

- 67 children (74% staff, 26% community)
 - 50 are children of GPS staff
 - 17 community
 - 16 community member children are either “legacy” from when we opened and/or siblings of legacy children

	# Staff	% Staff	Staff location
Infant	7/8	86%	3 GHS, 2 Smith, 1 Gideon, 1, Naubuc
Toddler	22/26	84%	10 GHS, 1 Smith, 1 Gideon, 1 Naubuc, 1 Nayaug, 1 Buttonball, 2 Hopewell, 4 Eastbury, 1 Hebron Ave.
Preschool	12/16	75%	5 GHS, 1 Smith, 1 Gideon, 2 Naubuc, 1 Nayaug, 2 Eastbury
Pre-K	9/18	50%	2 GHS, 1 Smith, 1 Gideon, 2 Naubuc 1 Nayaug, 2 Eastbury

List of GPS Staff at ELC (42 total)

**(35 teachers, 2 administrators, 2 nurses, 2 paraprofessionals, 1 ELC)
(8 teachers and 1 nurse have multiple children at the ELC)**

GHS Psychologist (2 teachers)
 GHS Special Education
 GHS Agriscience
 GHS Math (2 teachers)
 GHS STEAM
 GHS History/Social Sciences
 GHS Chinese
 GHS Chemistry
 GHS Health/Physical Education
 GHS English
 GHS Guidance (2 teachers)

SMS Family and Consumer Science (2 teachers)
 SMS Special Education
 SMS Math

Gideon Welles French
 Gideon Welles Spanish
 Gideon Welles Nurse

LINKS at Eastbury Special Education (5 teachers)
LINKS at Eastbury School Psychologist
LINKS at Eastbury Full-time Paraprofessional (2 paraprofessionals)
Eastbury ELC assistant coordinator

Elementary Classroom teachers (4 teachers)
Elementary Library Media (2 teachers)
Elementary PACE teacher
Elementary Special Education (2 teachers)
Elementary Nurse

Elementary Assistant Principal/Special Ed. Supervisor
Curriculum Director

Additional information

1. Recruitment and retention of staff
 - Ex. An area daycare closed with 24 hours notice last spring, we were able to retain a HS teacher because we were able to provide daycare for their child. The teacher indicated they would not have been able to finish the school year otherwise.
 - Many recently hired teachers/administrators have enrolled children and some teachers cited ELC as the reason for returning from maternity/child-rearing leave.
2. Long term substitute recruitment and retention
 - Ex. Able to recruit and extend a long-term substitute who was home with a young child because the ELC was able to accommodate their young child while she subbed for us. This ensured a certified teacher was in the classroom for the year and saved over \$15K compared to other options.
3. CTE Education and Training Curriculum
 - 3 courses are articulated specifically with ELC experiences
 - Understanding Young children (Smith)
 - Early Childhood Development (GHS)
 - Early Childhood Education (GHS)
 - Approximately 25 hours of on-site learning experiences for GHS students per semester.
 - After the first semester of integrating learning experiences at the ELC, GHS student requests for these courses at GHS nearly tripled for 2023-24.
4. There are seven school districts that have reached out to us for information and advice how to create an ELC for their teachers and staff. (West Hartford, Enfield, Wethersfield, Bloomfield, Manchester, Ellington, Hartford)