



# News Release

For Immediate Release  
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## **State Department of Education Abdicates Responsibility Jeopardizes Student Safety and Learning**

The education community in Stamford and across Connecticut is alarmed and deeply disappointed by the State Department of Education's (SDE) ruling dismissing and declining to fully investigate [serious complaints](#) against the Stamford school superintendent. This decision highlights a blatant disregard for the safety of students, the integrity of public education, and the SDE's statutory obligation to uphold accountability and ethical conduct among school administrators.

"By choosing to disregard the clear and disturbing facts and evidence of misconduct by Superintendent Dr. Tamu Lucero, as presented by the Stamford Education Association (SEA), the SDE's reckless decision signals a dangerous and unacceptable failure to uphold the Professional Code of Conduct for Administrators—standards that are meant to ensure accountability and integrity among those in positions of authority," said SEA President John Corcoran.

Due to the seriousness of the unethical actions taken by the superintendent and grave concerns for the well-being of students and educators and for the integrity of the public education system itself, the entire SEA Executive Board was in agreement, and voted unanimously to bring this complaint forward to the SDE.

"We are deeply troubled that the SDE appears to have accepted every statement made by Stamford Board Chairman Michael Hyman as fact while disregarding the Stamford Education Association's well-documented complaint and evidence, without conducting any independent investigation or requiring supporting evidence," said CEA General Counsel Adrienne DeLucca.

"Relying solely on one individual's account rather than conducting a thorough and impartial investigation is irresponsible, undermines due process, and erodes confidence in the SDE's impartiality and integrity."

Equally alarming regarding the ongoing high school scheduling dispute is the SDE attorney's acceptance of Hyman's statement that "the Board negotiated the impact of these changes pursuant to Connecticut's labor laws."

“Hyman knew very well that the scheduling issue is still in dispute, but despite that fact, the SDE accepted his statement and deemed this matter settled, suggesting the SEA has ‘no recourse’ to the Department of Labor, which is wholly inaccurate and highly prejudicial. While the Department may choose to deny jurisdiction, such comments reveal bias and a disregard for the facts,” added DeLucca.

The SDE’s decision completely sidesteps some of the most egregious allegations the SEA requested it investigate—particularly those concerning unsafe working and learning conditions and a deeply troubling incident involving a student who was falsely accused by an assistant principal of attempted assault, despite video evidence proving otherwise. The assistant principal’s actions, which led to unnecessary police involvement, appear to constitute a violation of Connecticut General Statute §53a-180c, which criminalizes false reports of incidents.

“By ignoring these serious issues, the SDE has failed in its responsibility to ensure safe, fair, and ethical school environments,” said CEA President Kate Dias. “This decision not only undermines confidence in the Department’s oversight but also sets a dangerous precedent—one that lowers the bar for professional conduct and weakens protections for students and educators in every school district across Connecticut.”

Dias stressed, “Our students, families, and educators deserve better from those entrusted to uphold the highest standards in our schools. With this ruling, the SDE has not only failed the Stamford education community but every public school community in our state.”

[View the letter from the SEA to the SDE outlining the complaints.](#)

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The Connecticut Education Association is Connecticut’s largest teachers’ union, representing active, retired, and aspiring educators across the state. For further information contact Nancy Andrews at 860-725-6317, [nancya@cea.org](mailto:nancya@cea.org).