

Gary Mala, Executive Director of EASTCONN

Longtime educator Gary S. Mala joined EASTCONN as its new Executive Director in September 2017. Prior to becoming the agency's third Executive Director, Gary was Superintendent of Avon Public Schools, a position he'd held since 2011. He previously served as Superintendent of Schools for Region 17, and before that was the Superintendent of Schools for Southwick-Tolland Regional School District in Massachusetts.

During his 35-year career in education, Gary has seen the profession through many different lenses, having also served in other demanding, high-profile roles, such as high school principal, elementary principal and pupil services director. He has taught regular and special education at the elementary school level and special education at the high school level.

He completed doctoral-level work at both the University of Hartford and Nova Southeastern University, and earned his Superintendent Certification and Sixth Year Diploma in Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). He holds a combined master's degree from SCSU in Special Education and Educational Leadership and has bachelor's degrees in both Elementary and Special Education from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Gary was recently awarded the Presidential Award from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) and he is currently an adjunct professor in the Educational Leadership Department at Quinnipiac University, specializing in graduate-level school finance.

Gary has a strong record of advocating at the state and national levels on behalf of schools and communities. Appointed by U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty (5th District) to serve on the statewide STEM Advisory Council, Gary chairs the Council's Education Subcommittee.

Contact Gary at gmala@eastconn.org, or call 860-455-1509.