ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

February 2018

CSDE
CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office provides guidance and leadership on educational initiatives to assist schools and districts in preparing students to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. *Helpful updates, resources and professional learning are highlighted in this newsletter.*

New Perkins Performance Accountability Measure

The CSDE has established a new Perkins accountability measure, effective the 2017-18 school year, to assess career and technical skill proficiencies. Instead of using the Annual Career and Technical Education Assessment (i.e., NOCTI), Connecticut will now assess technical skills through successful completion of two (2) Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in one of the pathways in Connecticut's CTE program areas.

Purposes for Change to the Measure

- *True and accurate reflection.* Ensures all CTE students meeting the definition of concentrator and/or completer are reported.

- *Multiple measurements of student growth.* Connecticut teachers will formatively evaluate students' learning progress in real time allowing for more performance-based, project-based measures.

- *Alignment with Accountability System.* Integrates with Indicator 5 of the Next Generation Accountability System, including participation in at least two courses in one of the pathways in Connecticut's program areas.

- *Reduce testing burden.* Reduces the testing burden on students, particularly in grades 11 and 12.

For additional information contact Suzanne Loud at Suzanne.Loud@ct.gov or Harold Mackin at Harold.Mackin@ct.gov. An informational webinar for CTE practitioners and administrators will be offered in March 2018.

The CSDE Needs Your Input!

In Connecticut, our academic standards describe what we believe every student should know and be able to do by the time they exit the K-12 education system. Collectively, state standards define what Connecticut believes to be a well-rounded education. Connecticut is considering adopting the CSTA Computer Science Standards for K-12 Education (2017). As part of the adoption process the CSDE would like your input regarding these standards. Please take a moment to review the standards and complete the survey by February 23, 2018.

Academic Office News

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Social Studies

The CSDE is sponsoring several upcoming webinars for Connecticut social studies educators. All webinars will be "presented live", and will be archived on the [CSDE YouTube Channel](#).

- **Wednesday, February 21, 2018, from 3:30-4:30: Red, White and Blue Schools Program**. This webinar is designed for schools currently participating in the 2017-18 Red, White and Blue schools program. Teachers will share their experiences and discuss some of their challenges.
- **Four-part webinar series: Understanding History through Memory, Commemoration, and Nostalgia.** This series will analyze ways that societies remember historical events, and how this is often different than the actual history of those events. How do we commemorate the past, and what does this commemoration mean? This series is designed for high school and middle school history teachers. The schedule for this series will be:
  * February 22, 2018, from 3:30-4:30: Analyzing the Civil War and its Aftermath
  * March 15, 2018, from 3:30-4:30: Analyzing the Impact of World War I
  * April 5, 2018, 3:30-4:30: Analyzing Vietnam and its Aftermath
  * May 3, 2018, 3:30-4:30: 9/11 and its Aftermath

For additional information and to register for any of the webinars, contact Stephen Armstrong at Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov.

Connecticut Core Standards Online Learning Modules: The CSDE, in collaboration with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG), is pleased to continue offering anytime, anywhere access to professional learning content focusing on the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS). Current modules available include Focus on Content Standards (K-5 and 6-12), Focus on Practice Standards (K-5 and 6-12), Focus on Instructional Shifts in ELA, Focus on ELA and Literacy Instruction, Supporting Connecticut Core Standards Success for ALL Students, CCS Mathematics Success for Students with Disabilities (ELA and Math), and CCS Mathematics Success for English Learners (ELA and Math). To register for these free online modules, visit [Connecticut Core Standards](#).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

Computer Science

CS4CT Summit: The Connecticut Chapter of the Computer Science Teachers Association (CTCSTA), with support from the CSDE, is proud to announce the CS4CT Summit being held on March 16, 2018, at the Cromwell Radisson. This event is intended to improve K-12 Computer Science Education within the classroom, school or district. Participants will learn how K-12 Computer Science Education is being advanced with the state and nation. To register, visit CTCSTA.

UTeach CS Principle Course: Uteach is expanding access to their College Board endorsed UTeach CS Principles course. They will be training 48 Connecticut teachers through comprehensive online and in-person sessions during the summer of 2018. A $500 stipend is available and teachers will receive the comprehensive AP Computer Science Principles curriculum and teacher support materials, year-long implementation support services, and an online national community of practice. A recording of an informational webinar is available for additional details.

NGSS

Next Generation Science- CT Short Course: Eleven self-paced modules offering up to 60 hours of structured professional learning.
Transitioning to NGSS: A Video Collection: A collection of videos showing Connecticut educators teaching three-dimensional NGSS lessons in several classroom settings.
Curriculum Unit Development Institute (CUDI): This five-day workshop is offered through the Connecticut RESC system and will equip participants with the skills and tools needed to develop three-dimensional units.
PLANS - Principals Learn About, Network, and Support 3-Dimensional Science Learning: An awareness professional learning designed for Administrators/Evaluators and occurs in 1.5 days.
Why NGSS?: A two-day NGSS Awareness professional learning experience.

NGSS RESOURCES

- NEW! Connecticut NGSS Parent Toolkit is a short document that will guide parents to better understand the shifts in science education demanded by the NGSS. It includes many useful links to resources that will help parents identify the various components of an exemplary science program.
- NEW! Connecticut NGSS Toolkit for Local School Boards is a brief document that will guide school board members to better understand the shifts in science education demanded by the NGSS. It includes many useful links to resources that will help school boards identify the myriad components of an exemplary science program.
- Free online Access to JASON Programs for Public School Educators and Students in Connecticut through 2018. JASON provides curriculum and learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for K-12 students and professional learning for teachers.
- Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is a nonprofit educational program designed to develop and enhance problem solving and critical thinking skills in children through the process of invention. For more information, visit CIC.
- *Next Generation Science Website* NOW Newsletter is a monthly newsletter devoted to the NGSS.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS : A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

Professional Learning Sessions

Teaching Oral Language Development and Foundational Reading Skills to ELs (elementary)
CREC: Friday, March 16, 2018
ACES: Friday, April 6, 2018
LEARN: Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Processes and Procedures for Identifying ELs (EL-all levels)
LEARN: Monday, March 19, 2018
ACES: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Digging into the Core: Respectful Tasks and Texts for Secondary English Learners (secondary)
ACES: Tuesday, April 3, 2018
CREC: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Effective Pedagogy for ELs: Theory vs. Practice (EL-all levels)
LEARN: Thursday, April 5, 2018
CREC: Friday, April 6, 2018

Designing Accessible Learning Experiences for English Learners in Secondary Content Classrooms (secondary)
CREC: Wednesday, May 16, 2018
ACES: Friday, May 25, 2018

Scaffolding to Support Elementary ELs (elementary)
LEARN: Friday, May 18, 2018

Community of Practice Meetings

All meetings run from 9a.m-11 a.m.
ACES: 4/12, 5/22, 6/6
CREC: 3/27, 5/31, 6/12
CES: TBD

The CSDE, in collaboration with ACES and the RESC Alliance, is excited to announce a new, robust professional learning series entitled, "Pathways to Success for English Learners."

Six, full-day **professional learning sessions** (8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.) are specifically designed to focus on EL processes, procedures and pedagogy. A companion **online module** for each session will be posted for on-demand access and self-study. Target audiences are noted in the session information provided in the blue column. For all elementary and secondary sessions, districts are encouraged to send teams of 2-4 people that may include a classroom teacher, instructional coach, TESOL/bilingual teacher and an administrator.

To extend this professional learning, a range of **community of practice meetings** will be offered for K-12 TESOL/bilingual educators, teachers of ELs, instructional coaches, coordinators and administrators. Participants will collaborate around problems of practice in the field of TESOL and bilingual education. Participants are encouraged to attend the professional learning sessions, but this is not required for participation in the community of practice meetings.

There is NO cost for these sessions but registration is required.

Register at www.aces.org/workshops

For questions, please contact John Gustafson at jgustafson@aces.org or Megan Alubicki Flick at megan.alubicki@ct.gov.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS

<u>Red, White, and Blue Schools Program</u>: The CSDE and the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut is co-sponsoring the <u>Red, White and Blue Schools</u> program. This program is designed to recognize schools who do an exemplary job of teaching civic education. The theme for the 2017-18 school year is *Engagement at the Local Level*. For additional information contact Stephen Armstrong, at <u>Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov</u>.

<u>Remembering Our Heroes - Teaching about Veterans</u>: The CSDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, has established a <u>recognition program</u> for schools that do an exemplary job of teaching about veterans and their contributions to American society. This program encourages schools to work closely with local veterans' organizations to teach about the contributions of veterans throughout the school year. It is designed for elementary school, middle school, and high school students and teachers. For additional information contact Stephen Armstrong at <u>Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov</u>.

<u>Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)</u>: PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional mathematics, computer science, or science teachers currently teaching grades K-6. Nominations for the 2017-18 year opening soon and teachers may also apply directly at <u>www.paemst.org.</u>

<u>GirlsGoCyberStart</u>: The State of Connecticut is participating in an innovative, new cybersecurity training partnership with the SANS Institute that will increase access to young women in high school with the opportunity to explore their interests in cyber studies and learn basic cybersecurity skills in an effort to inspire the next generation of cybersecurity professionals while identifying talented youth. The initiative, known as GirlsGoCyberStart, was initiated by SANS following the recent launch of their CyberStart program, which enabled 3,500 students in seven states to discover and demonstrate their aptitude for cybersecurity. Young women in high school in Connecticut will be competing with students in 15 other states and American Somoa. Registration will begin on January 29, 2018 and ends on February 16, 2018. The first 10,000 young women in high schools in these states who have registered may play the game online from February 20, 2018 through February 25, 2018. An introductory Web site with answers to other questions potential participants may have, a fuller description of the game, and a sample challenge is now available online at <u>GirlsGoCyberStart.com</u>.

<u>2018 Law Day Art Contest</u>: Each year the American Bar Association (ABA) hosts an art contest for students in grades 9-12 in the United States. Students may compete as individuals or in groups. The ABA is now accepting submissions of artwork for the <u>2018 Law Day Art Contest</u> until March 31, 2018. The theme for Law Day 2018 is "Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom." To learn more about this year's theme and how to submit artwork, go to the <u>ABA Web site</u>.