



Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 15, 2017
www.ct.gov/sde/backtoschool

2017–18 Academic Office Resources

The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office provides guidance and leadership regarding legislated educational mandates to help local education agencies (LEAs) prepare students to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. A few helpful resources are highlighted in this memo. Find additional resources posted on the CSDE Academic website (www.ct.gov/sde/AcademicOffice).

Resources

Connecticut Core Standards Website

This website (www.ctcorestandards.org) is devoted to providing Connecticut educators, families, and community members with valuable and accurate information as well as concrete supports, such as:

- model units and lessons and standards-aligned classroom materials;
- parent-, student-, and community-friendly materials; and
- resources for professional development and learning.

English Learners

The CSDE English learners webpage (www.ct.gov/sde/EnglishLearners) is continuously updated to provide resources, guidance documents, professional learning modules, and tools for districts and families. In the coming weeks, the Home Language Survey, the Home Language Survey Administration Script, and the Sample Exit Letter will be posted in the top six languages spoken in Connecticut. Other recent additions include *The Coaching and Self-Reflection Tool for Competency in Teaching English Learners* (www.ct.gov/sde/EnglishLearners/CoachingandSelfReflectionTool), which is aligned to the *Connecticut Common Core of Teaching Rubric for Effective Teaching 2016*, a presentation on general information about English learners (www.ct.gov/sde/EnglishLearners/GeneralInformation), and a presentation on dual language learners in early childhood settings (www.ct.gov/sde/EnglishLearners/DLL-EC). For more information, contact Megan Alubicki Flick at megan.alubicki@ct.gov.

Mastery-Based Learning Resource Center

The CSDE has launched a website (<http://www.ct.gov/sde/mbl>) designed to support school districts implementing Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) as well as families and community partners who want to learn more about MBL. Connecticut offers MBL as one option that districts may use in awarding credit for graduation or promotion. Through a variety of articles, videos, and links, this site outlines issues that districts may face when planning to transition to an MBL environment. Additional resources around community engagement, policy, and practice are included for districts who have already begun their implementation journey. For more information, contact Suzanne Loud at suzanne.loud@ct.gov.

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Mathematics: Instructional Materials Evaluation Toolkit

The CSDE hosted Instructional Materials Evaluation Toolkit (IMET) training at each regional educational service center (RESC) in 2017. This half-day training was designed to give a high-level overview of a tool for evaluating a comprehensive textbook or textbook series for alignment to the shifts and major features of the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS). IMET can be used to inform decisions about purchasing, evaluate previously purchased materials to identify necessary modification, and build understanding of what aligned materials look like. The final training was videotaped and has been posted with all related materials at http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=3794. For more information, contact Jennifer Michalek at jennifer.michalek@ct.gov.

Science: NGSS Implementation Resources

NGSS Storylines (www.nextgenstorylines.org/): The Next Generation Science Storylines project is dedicated to providing tools that support teachers in developing, adapting, and teaching with strongly aligned NGSS materials in classrooms around the country. Other resources can be found on the CSDE science webpage (<http://www.ct.gov/sde/science>). For more information, contact Ron Michaels at ronald.michaels@ct.gov.