

Alliance District Convening | May 7, 2015

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| Date and Time: | May 7, 2015 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. |
| Location: | Four Points by Sheraton Meriden 275 Research Pkwy, Meriden, CT 06450 Driving Directions to Four Points |
| Attendees: | Alliance District Superintendents and Leadership |

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Plenary Session (Charter Oak Ball Room)**

Commissioner Designate Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell and Ellen E. Cohn, Interim Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will welcome Alliance Districts to the spring 2015 convening. Hedy Nai-Lin Chang, Founder and Director of Attendance Works, will provide an interactive keynote on student attendance and chronic absenteeism.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Breakout Sessions I**

Participants will select from a variety of action-oriented workshops, including sessions aligned to each of our framework areas: talent, academics, culture and climate, and operations.

- **Effective Instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs) in the Common Core Era (Room: Arlington)**

Presenters: Monica Quinones, Director of English Language Learner Services (ELL), Office of Academics; Kim Lebrun, ELL District Coach; Mary-Beth Russo, ELL District Coach, Hartford Public Schools

Summary: In this session, participants will identify attributes of high-quality instruction and assessment designed for ELLs. Participants will also learn about the importance of preparing for instruction for ELLs, including deconstructing the Common Core State Standards to identify the language needed to demonstrate academic proficiency and the role language plays in instruction and assessment of ELLs.

- **Early Warning System (Room: Danbury)**

Presenters: Chuck Martie, Education Consultant; Diane Murphy, Education Consultant, CSDE Performance Office

Summary: Early warning systems (EWSs) alert schools prior to critical stages in a student's education, ensuring students who struggle can receive the support they need before it is too late. An EWS can predict whether students will be reading at grade level by the end of third grade, if middle school students are high school ready, and how ready students are for college and careers. Several states and school districts are currently using EWS models. Connecticut is pursuing grant funding to support the development of a statewide EWS. This presentation will provide an introduction to an EWS, present how other states are developing or using them, and highlight some effects on student performance. Following the presentation, we would like your input on which key indicators districts believe must be included in the state's EWS design to ensure the greatest utility by your schools and staff.

- **School Support for Students With Mental Illness (Room: Brunswick)**

Presenter: Scott Newgass, MSW, Education Consultant, CSDE Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness

Summary: This session will provide participants with information on the prevalence of common pediatric mental health conditions, their impact on learning, and some strategies to reduce the effects of these conditions on students and the school environment. Participants

will learn about cognitive, social, and behavioral symptoms associated with childhood mental health issues and how they may present in students' lives. The presentation will include recommendations for supporting teachers who work with students who are diagnosed with a mental illness and how districts can respond to parents and students when symptoms disrupt the classroom and school environment.

- **Professional Learning (Room: Charter Oak A)**

Presenters: Shannon Marimon, Division Director; Kimberly Audet, Education Consultant, CSDE Talent Office

Summary: This session will provide an overview of the CSDE's proposed definition of "professional learning" and standards for professional learning. Participants will learn how a stakeholder group worked together to develop and expand Connecticut's vision for professional learning. Join the CSDE as they share guidance for designing and transforming high-quality systems of professional learning in districts and schools to support educator growth and development.

11:25 a.m.-12:25 p.m.

Breakout Sessions II

- **Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism Session I (Room: Charter Oak A)**

Presenter: Hendy Nay-Lin Chang, Founder and Director Attendance Works

Summary: Participants will gain a greater understanding of how to analyze their attendance data and draw conclusions to inform student interventions. Alliance Districts will explore strategies based on their analysis of district data.

- **High School Tier II Interventions (Room: Danbury)**

Presenters: E. Marie McPadden, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum and Staff Development; and Charles Britton, Principal, Amity Regional High School

Summary: Region 5 Public Schools, including Amity Regional High School, will present their program of tiered interventions designed to provide students with remedial support in skills development and content knowledge in science and math. Presenters will share information about program development and design, electronic materials, and the use of assessments to support student growth.

- **Mental Health and Behavior: Positive and effective discipline practices (Room: Brunswick)**

Presenters: Jocelyn Mackey, Ph.D., Education Consultant, CSDE Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness; Nekita Hall, Social Worker, Bridgeport Public Schools

Summary: This session will address federal and state guidance regarding positive and effective discipline practices to support optimal student behavior and mental health. Related Connecticut data and the work of CSDE's Positive and Effective Discipline Workgroup will be included in the discussion. Additionally, Bridgeport's Program Manager for the Safe Schools and Healthy Students federal grant will share concrete examples of evidence-based practices employed to address students' behavioral, social, and emotional needs.

- **Teacher Leadership (Room: Arlington)**

Presenters: Anne McKernan, Education Consultant; Chris Todd, Education Consultant; and Chris Poulos, Education Consultant, CSDE Talent Office

Summary: Connecticut has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as one of two Learning Labs for teacher leadership throughout the country. Connecticut's teacher leadership initiative, the Connecticut Education Network, is a three-tiered system to engage practitioners in the work of the CSDE. The initiative seeks to provide educators with unique experiences for professional learning. Working with educators in the field has benefits for all

parties. This session will explain the initiative and seek additional input from Alliance Districts.

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Hot Lunch Buffet (Room: Charter Oak A)

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions III

- **Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism Session II (Room: Charter Oak A)**
Presenter: Hedy Nai-Lin Chang, Founder and Director, Attendance Works
Summary: Participants will receive an overview of the *Leading Attendance Toolkit* and then begin to develop plan professional development for their school leaders based on the toolkit. Participants will also determine what infrastructure exists within the school district to train principals, provide consistent guidance and expectations, monitor progress, provide ongoing support, and sustain success.

- **Early Literacy Approach-Utilizing Alliance Funding, State Mandates & Best Practices (Room: Danbury)**
Presenters: Presenters: Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette, Superintendent; Anne Marie Cullinan, Chief Academic Officer; Darren Schwartz, Instructional Leadership Director; Pam Baim, Instructional Leadership Director; Dena Moura, K-5 Literacy Supervisor; Chayna Nath, Elementary Literacy Facilitator; and Aimee Misset, Elementary Literacy Facilitator

How do you create alignment of high quality teaching, learning and professional development so that students in grades K-2 have vastly different opportunities for future reading success? Let us provide you with an in-depth look at how Waterbury Public Schools is leveraging our new student assessment system in the early grades to drive our SRBI system and one on one coaching cycles for teachers. We will also look at how the district has aligned our early literacy goals throughout the system of 20 elementary schools, from directors to teachers, and the professional development that has been provided for all.

- **New Guidance and High-Impact Strategies for Partnering with Families: The dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Room: Arlington)**
Presenters: Judy Carson, Education Consultant, CSDE Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness; and Patricia Avallone, Executive Coach and Consultant, School-Family-Community Partnerships
Summary: This session will feature the new *Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships* developed by Dr. Karen Mapp for the U.S. Department of Education. The framework addresses the challenges facing many districts and schools attempting to develop and maintain better partnerships and positive relationships with families. It provides a compass for creating goals and conditions necessary to chart a path toward effective family engagement. Participants will learn about school-based, high-impact strategies that develop partnerships with families, create and sustain cultures that welcome and promote family engagement, and connect family engagement initiatives to student learning and school improvement goals.

- **Afterschool Academic Enrichment (Room: Brunswick)**
Presenters: Mary Beth Williams, Science Lab Specialist Teacher; Susan Silva, Science Lab Specialist Teacher, Ansonia Public Schools
Summary: Ansonia Public Schools will describe their science and social studies afterschool enrichment programs. Participants will engage in a discussion regarding how their extended day programs engage students in activities that build upon what students learn during the school day to extend and apply their knowledge.