



For Immediate Release:

February 7, 2013

Contact: Kelly Donnelly 860.713.6525

DISTRICTS GRANTED FLEXIBILITY FOR EDUCATOR EVALUATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Hartford, CT—The State Board of Education unanimously adopted recommendations yesterday to grant local school districts greater flexibility in the statewide implementation of the educator evaluation and support system for the 2013-14 school year. These recommendations reflect the consensus reached by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), a group of Connecticut’s major education practitioner organizations. This flexibility provides districts with the option to use the 2013-14 school year as a “bridge year,” where all components of the new evaluation and support system would be implemented in some schools or with some educators. Districts would then build to full implementation, involving all administrators and educators, in the following year.

The State Board of Education also unanimously affirmed PEAC’s second consensus recommendation that, given this new flexibility for 2013-14, the evaluation and support timetable not be delayed through legislation.

State Board of Education Chairman Allan Taylor stated: “We recognize that the long-term success of the educator evaluation and support system requires a reasonable level of flexibility. The Board applauds the members of PEAC for their commitment to substantial implementation of the full evaluation model in every district during the next school year and to full implementation in 2014-15.”

Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor said: “This flexible approach will enable districts to start on a more manageable scale and build to full implementation. We are grateful to superintendents, principals, and teachers for their honest feedback. And we thank PEAC and the State Board of Education for their thoughtful consideration. All stakeholders involved in this process share the common goal of ensuring the success of the educator evaluation and support system—a critical element of our effort to enhance and support teaching and learning statewide.”

The State will provide to districts both technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of the system.

While districts will have a considerable degree of design flexibility, any alternative plan must represent a minimum of one-third of the district's certified staff, including administrators, and include “whole model,” meaning all teacher and administrator evaluation components, as defined in the Connecticut Guidelines for

Educator Evaluation. All other certified staff would continue to be evaluated under the district's pre-existing model during the bridge year.

The existing and continuing default is that each district will implement the whole model, districtwide.

All districts must submit their evaluation and support plans to the State Department of Education for review and approval by April 15. Districts seeking to utilize new flexibilities are also required to conduct a "committee process" to recommend the district's flexibility approach. Such a committee must include representatives of local bargaining units and representatives designated by the superintendent.

The preferred alternative approach is whole model, at least one-third of schools in the district, and all certified staff within those schools. Another alternative is whole model and classroom teachers and administrators within 50 percent of the schools in district. Other locally developed options may also be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

PEAC convened on Monday, February 4, to review feedback from the 10 pilots/consortia of districts implementing the System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) and to discuss options for statewide rollout in 2013-14.

PEAC membership consists of the Commissioner of Education and representatives from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), Connecticut Federation of School Administrators (CFSA), regional educational service centers (RESCs), Connecticut Education Association (CEA), American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut (AFT-CT), and other educational practitioners.

###

Kelly Donnelly
Director of Communications and Community Partnerships
Connecticut Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 312
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Phone: 860-713-6525
Email: Kelly.Donnelly@ct.gov