

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

RESC Special Education Funding Working Group
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

I. Call to Order

Co-chairperson Kathy Demsey called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Introductions

Present: Kathy Demsey, Co-chair, Commissioner of Education Designee
Paula Colen, Executive Director, EASTCONN
Mary Glassman, Manager of Office for Regional Efficiencies, CREC
Michael Regan, Director of Special Education, CES
Meg Walsh, Director of Pupil Personnel, Southington Public Schools
Leah Grenier, OPM Designee
Eileen Howley, Executive Director, LEARN
Deborah Richards, Director of Student Services, CREC
Laura Stefon, Legislative Liaison, SDE
Dani Thibodeau, Executive Director, Ed Connection

No additional appointments have been made.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended. Minutes and agenda are now posted on the SDE website at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/RESCSpEdFundingWG>. In the future, draft minutes will be sent out with the agenda a week prior to the next meeting.

IV. Discussion of Data Elements

Kathy shared a copy of the data elements relative to special education costs that are collected by the SDE via the ED001 and ED001R. Though this data will be helpful, the group discussed additional data from the RESCS that would also be beneficial.

It was discussed and agreed that RESCs will provide 2014-15 fiscal data relating to the following:

- Special Education Tuitions;
- Related services including PT, OT, Speech, Behavioral supports, audiology, assistive technology, specific student evaluations, and special education services to students enrolled in RESC magnet schools;
- Systems evaluation including program evaluation or district audits;
- Professional Development/capacity building in special education and related services;
- Birth to Three Services;
- 18-21 year programs;
- Special education transportation; and
- Number of children/students served.

RESCs are asked to bring multiple copies of this information to the March 11 meeting.

In addition, the following data pertaining to RESCs will be compiled and compared:

- The group discussed additional revenue sources including state IDEA set aside money and Medicaid reimbursement funds. There was a question regarding what happens to the funding that is not returned to districts;
- Breakdown of funding to RESCs – percent tuition, federal/state grant, state contracts, donations (pie chart to be provided by the RESCs);
- Breakdown of funding source to RESCs for special education services – tuition, grants, state contracts, insurance billing (to be provided by the RESCs);
- Percent of RESC funding that is dedicated to special education services (to be provided by the RESCs); and
- Breakdown of funding to districts for special education – state, federal (IDEA), local tax dollars (to be provided by SDE).

Additional discussion focused on unpredictable expenses (external drivers) which include DCF or other state agency placements; DDS residential placements for older students; parental decision making; the mobility of students; and 3-year-old transitions.

V. Update on Legislated Survey

The district survey on special education has been drafted and will go out in the next 2 weeks with responses due by the end of March. All agreed this would be very helpful to the work of this committee.

VI. Schedule of meetings

The next meeting will be held on:

March 11, 2016
2:00- 3:30 PM
CREC
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06016
EDO Conference Room (3rd Floor)

April 20, 2016
9:00 – 10:30 AM
CREC
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06016
Council Room (1st Floor)

May 11, 2016 **
12:00 – 1:30 PM (**Note change in time)
CREC
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06016
Conference Room 101 (1st Floor)

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.