

Department of Children & Families

# Raise the Grade Implementation

Public Act 13-234

## Update to the State Advisory Council

Stephen Tracy

Superintendent of Schools

April 7, 2014



# Mission

## Department of Children & Families

*All children and youth served by the Department will grow up healthy, safe and learning, and will experience success in and out of school.*

*The Department will advance the special talents of the children it serves and will make opportunities for them to give back to the community.*



# Mission

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# DCF Education Division

## Mission

To promote learning, school success and personal fulfillment for children and young people whose life experiences include trauma, family disruption and/or involvement with the juvenile justice system.



# Children Affected by Raise the Grade

- ⌘ Committed Abused/Neglected
- ⌘ Committed Delinquent
- ⌘ Commissioner of DCF is Statutory Parent
- ⌘ Subject to an Order of Temporary Custody
- ⌘ Subject to a 96 Hour Hold



# What We Owe These Students



# What We Owe These Students

- ∞ You are the leader of your own learning



# What We Owe These Students

- ∞ You are the leader of your own learning
- ∞ Literacy





# What We Owe These Students

- ∞ You are the leader of your own learning
- ∞ Literacy
- ∞ Planning for your future



# What We Owe These Students

- ∞ You are the leader of your own learning
- ∞ Literacy
- ∞ Planning for your future
- ∞ Common Core Standards



# The Challenge



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- ∞ 24% of children in foster care were chronically absent in 2012-13
- ∞ 28% of children in foster care were suspended from school in 2012-13.



# 1. Pilot Programs

Section 123: *Establish Pilot Programs in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven to increase the academic achievement of children and youth in the custody of DCF and CSSD.*

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## Progress to Date:

- ∞ Coordinators hired in all 3 cities
- ∞ Student Listening Sessions conducted
- ∞ Liaisons established with school district leadership
- ∞ Gather & Review Records



# 1. Pilot Programs

Next:

- ∞ Identify students in need of improvement
- ∞ Work with schools, DCF & CSSD to craft interventions aimed at:
  - ∞ Achievement
  - ∞ Attendance
  - ∞ Positive Behavior



## 2. Track Academic Progress

Section 124 (a): *DCF and SDE to annually track academic progress of each child and youth in state custody, pre-K through grade 12; CSSD to report on the academic progress of youth in its custody.*

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### Progress to Date:

- ∞ Data sharing arrangement initiated between DCF and SDE providing CMT/CAPT information on each child in DCF care.
- ∞ Arrangement will now be extended to include attendance and discipline data.
- ∞ Commissioners' letter re: Uninterrupted Scholars Act



# 3. Case Planning

Section 124 (b): *A description of academic progress must be included in the case plan and in reports to the Juvenile Court for each child in DCF custody. Each youth in a secure facility run by CSSD shall have a case plan describing the youth's educational needs, grade level performance, and services being provided.*

# 3. Case Planning

## Progress to Date:

- ❧ A new protocol for the acquisition of education records and provision of analysis to Social Worker within 30 school days of a child's placement.
- ❧ Social Workers and Education Consultants to update Case Plan with respect to academic performance in advance of Juvenile Court appearance.

# 3. Case Planning

## Progress to Date (continued):

- ❧ A new protocol for development of the education section of all DCF Case Plans approved by DCF senior management.
- ❧ DCF Education Consultants to confer with Social Workers on each Case Plan prior to its semi-annual review, addressing the child's educational history, stability, achievement, attendance and disciplinary record.

# 4. Facilities Planning

Section 124 (d): *Develop plans to ensure that all facilities and school programs run or contracted for by the DCF or CSSD are able to meet the academic and related service needs of enrolled children and youth.*

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## Progress to Date:

- ❧ Format developed, including information on student needs, programs and services currently in place, additional programs & services that may be required to more fully meet needs, and estimate of costs related to new initiatives.
- ❧ Report due to Achievement Gap Task Force 7/1/14.



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