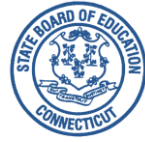




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer *IEP*

DATE: November 9, 2020

SUBJECT: CSDE Priority Standards for Essential Learning Handbook for SY21

The Connecticut State Department of Education Academic Office with the collaboration of Connecticut educators is excited to share four resources to support the ongoing efforts to create equitable classroom environments that accelerate learning. Equity based classrooms reduce barriers and gives everyone the specific tools that they need to be successful. These tools include:

- [CSDE Priority Standards for Essential Learning Handbook](#)
- [CSDE Priority Standards – High School Mathematics Searchable Webpage](#)
- [CSDE Priority Standards – K-8 Mathematics Searchable Webpage](#)
- [CSDE Priority Standards – K-8 English Language Arts Searchable Webpage](#)

The CSDE Priority Standards for Essential Learning Handbook provides all Connecticut Educators with a guide for determining which standards to combine, limit, incorporate, emphasize and reduce for the 2020-2021 school year. As a companion to this handbook, we are providing three webpages of the prioritized Connecticut Core Standards as a searchable database for intentional, high impact planning and alignment to Smarter Balanced assessment targets. Combined, these tools assist our ability to differentiate, personalize, scaffold, model and not water down the learning opportunities. These tools can provide educators with the right resources to make the necessary instructional moves required to meet all learners where they are with focused learning and embedded assessment practices on *current* grade-level standards. This approach responds to the basic need of teaching students where they are and promises to accelerate student learning and avoid the loss of valuable time identifying what unfinished learning is present.

As we continue to value the unique needs and background of our learners, we can embrace and build upon each as a way to understand our students to make learning relevant while maintaining high standards for all. This practice followed by sharing what we know about their strengths and needs, communicating that they are now ready for new learning regardless of their starting point helps students become advocates for their own learning.

To support our implementation, there will be open CSDE Coaching Hours made available beginning November 17, 2020 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. with follow up CSDE POP Up PD. Additionally details will follow.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi at 860-713-6852 or via e-mail at Irene.Parisi@ct.gov.

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