



RESOLUTION CONCERNING ONGOING SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 6, 2022

WHEREAS, Connecticut schools, colleges, adult education programs, and libraries have faced enormous challenges in providing learners with equitable access to a high-quality education during the last two years of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, such institutions have rapidly adopted and invested in technology (devices, connectivity, software, and professional development) to make learning opportunities available to students; and

WHEREAS, institutions face concerns regarding the rising costs of providing the equipment, connectivity, learning software, and professional development necessary for learning, as pandemic-related funding ends; and

WHEREAS, "digital equity" means a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for participation in society, democracy, and the economy of the state; and "digital literacy" means the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology is empowered by the General Assembly to serve as the principal educational technology policy advisor for state government ([CGS § 61a](#)), toward the vision "that every learner in Connecticut benefits from the full potential of technology to support personalized and impactful teaching, learning, research, and advancement"; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has as its responsibility to develop, oversee, and direct the attainment of statewide technology goals for learning and may request any office, department, board, commission, or other agency of the state to provide assistance in attaining these objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission sets forth the following shared objectives to be realized in partnership with state agencies, local schools and colleges, libraries, and the broader educational community to continue supporting the use of technology in education:



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Leadership Commitment

- Provide leadership and a voice for continuing the move from a fully analog world to one seamlessly integrating traditional education with digital learning.

Essential Conditions for Digital Learning

- Ensure adequate funding to supply necessary technology equipment (devices and networking equipment) to ensure that every student and teacher has access to a connected device for both in-school and remote instruction
- Provide for each student or teacher to access high-speed Internet for teaching and learning outside of school
- Continue to champion support for the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) capital needs in order to keep schools, universities, libraries, and other CEN member institutions safely connected to learning resources
- Support efforts to ensure that all institutions have broadband access that expands to meet the needs of its learners and the means to protect the digital resources and data that those institutions steward

Digital Equity

- Ensure that current statute pertaining to K – 12 and adult learners provides both the assurance and funding to support the attainment of digital literacy skills
- Provide adequate leadership and funding (federal, state, local, and private) to support digital learning resources and programs at the state level to appreciate efficiencies and equity of access across all learning institutions

Educator Supports

- Provide the policy and resources to ensure that educators receive the time and supports to improve practices in online and blended instruction, bolstering their own digital literacy and basic computer science understanding
- Ensure digital learning competencies exist as a component of educator evaluation frameworks and assessments
- Support the use of open education resources through the Commission's Go Open CT site, providing equitable access to high-quality instructional materials for teachers and professors across the state



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The Commission will champion these objectives and welcomes all education stakeholders to assume specific and shared responsibility for achieving them through enlightened and coordinated legislation and policy that reflect the current reality and future trends of digital learning. Dedicated state and local funding as well as the creative use of time and human resources will help ensure that all students and teachers can take full advantage of technology for learning and advancement.