



## Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology March 2024 Digital Equity Program Updates

### Digital Equity

- Planning Phase (\$736K) to develop the State Digital Equity Plan that addresses barriers to technology availability, adoption, and use. Approval of this plan will mark the conclusion of the Planning Grant and its associated activities.
- The draft plan was completed and submitted to the federal government (NTIA) for a pre-curing review on November 30, 2023
- Public Comment:
  - The public comment period was December 22, 2023, through January 22, 2024
  - Activities included email campaigns, press releases, press conferences, virtual and in-person events
  - In-person and virtual events were held to capture suggestions for improvement to the draft digital equity plan
  - More than 400 public comments were submitted and considered for the revised draft plan
- The revised draft plan was submitted to NTIA on February 13, 2024
- Pending changes, the final plan will be submitted on March 27, 2024
- The next phase of the Digital Equity Project is the Capacity Grant. Notice of funding opportunity should be released on or before March 30th, 2024.
- A five-year funding award (\$~17M) is expected in fall 2024.
- Action Item:

The Digital Equity team is currently working to support the BEAD challenge process. If you know of an organization that might want to participate, please share it. For more information: [BEAD Program \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/education/programs/bead)