



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



“Today’s Students are Tomorrow’s Workforce.”

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is committed to being a driving force behind economic and social development in Connecticut through offering educational opportunities which prepare today’s students to be tomorrow’s workforce.

College and Career Readiness (CCR) at the secondary school level is becoming more critical in the world of education. Both current and potential employers across the state are searching for a talented, prepared workforce to fill crucial jobs that will fuel Connecticut’s economy. The CCR programs developed and expanded upon by CSDE provide both education and training opportunities so that students and their families have a host of post-secondary options available upon graduation from direct employment in area businesses to advance standing in higher education, and in some instances *both*, where students can enter the workforce with college credit, and finish their higher education goals while employed.

The CSDE continues to help encourage and implement dual enrollment programs throughout Connecticut High Schools, in collaboration with our partners in Higher Education with the goal of our learners graduating with transferable college credits with an eye toward not only advanced standing at our many colleges and universities, but also a means of reducing student debt through cost avoidance.

In addition, 2019-2020 was the first year where Connecticut school districts were able to receive student-level FAFSA completion data through the nationally known FAFSA Completion Project. This provided real-time data of accurate school and district completion data. Using this data, targeted strategies are being formulated for the next FAFSA cycle to increase completion in particularly low-completing districts/schools. This is particularly important as FAFSA completion is one of the strongest indicators of postsecondary access and success.

Over the last 7 months, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has dedicated significant resources to study successful workforce-pipeline models across the state in an effort to define best practices, determine what methodologies work most efficiently, identify opportunities for collaboration, quantify available resources and gauge interest in different parts of the State who wish to build new partnership programs. Through a series of site visits, CSDE leaders have facilitated partnerships between secondary schools, higher education and the business community to build models of excellence across Connecticut, tailored to the regional needs of secondary, higher education, and business stakeholders.

On these initiatives, CSDE is working closely with other state agencies such as the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development, as well as workforce investment boards, chambers of commerce, trade alliances, and non-profit organizations to ensure that our students are learning key skills and focusing on areas of study that will be in demand in the short and long term.

Every young learner should have the opportunity to graduate high school with business guaranteed job training skills, professional credentials leading to State of Connecticut licensure, or transferable college credits. CSDE is committed to delivering those options to our students to help ensure a better future for our young people, and for Connecticut’s economy and social fabric.