



CSDE, CAPSS, AFT CT and CEA Statement on Importance of Effective Communication and Collaboration for Best Outcomes

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your work providing opportunities for Connecticut's students to reengage in learning, whether in person or remotely.


As you may know, Education Week [recently ranked](#) our state third in the country on its PK-12 “Chance-for-Success” index, a distinction that would not be possible if not for the dedicated educators that serve our learners. This commitment to continuing to provide access to meaningful learning opportunities has been amplified as we face this pandemic together. It has provided challenges greater than we have ever faced. More importantly, it has provided opportunities for innovation, creative thinking, and problem solving.


We are united in our belief that effective communication and shared problem solving are the best approach when challenges arise. We know this because we meet together at least twice a week - bargaining unit presidents, superintendent representatives and State Department of Education leaders. While our discussions are not always easy, considering all perspectives leads to better solutions for our students, staff and families.

The most effective problem solving happens when we establish as norms collaboration and honest dialogue that is centered on student success. As a prerequisite to problem solving, we encourage you to hold regularly scheduled meetings with various stakeholders, including representatives of bargaining units. While universal agreement is never guaranteed, a culture of positive communication and trust will always lead to the best outcomes for our students, educators, schools and districts.

Sincerely,


Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education


Frances M. Rabinowitz
Executive Director, CAPSS


Jan Hochadel
President, AFT-CT


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President, CEA