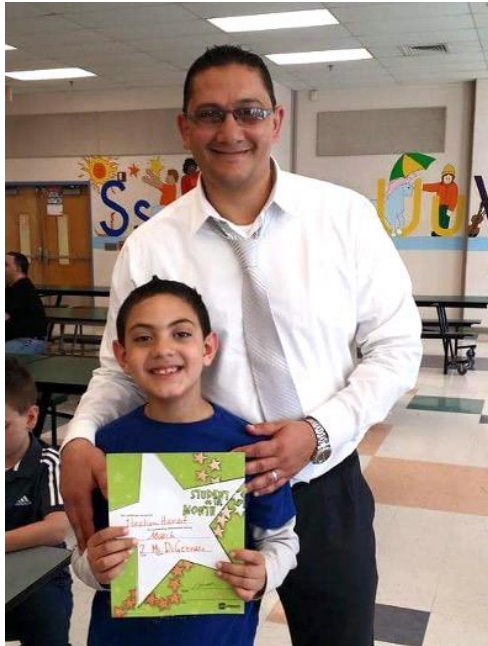


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 4, Spring 2023



teach · love · inspire
CONNECTICUT
FATHERHOOD
INITIATIVE



Spring Edition

This Issue's focus:

Education
Increase Children's Literacy Skills
CT Learning Hub
School Choice
Contact Us

Welcome to the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative Quarterly Newsletter!

Message from Our Network

Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker

Connecticut State Department of Education

Nowhere is the role of fathers more evident and important for their child's future than involvement in their child's education. From homework help, to encouraging extracurricular and enrichment activities, to supporting their emotional well-being, it all starts with fathers engaging with their child's school and the teachers and staff that are partners in their child's success. There is strong evidence that family engagement in a child's education leads to gains in social and emotional development, improved academic outcomes, and success in life. The CSDE values the authentic voices of fathers and encourages all fathers to be active participants in their child's education – from birth through high school and beyond!

for more information about SDE programs and services visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE>

Fathers Can Help Increase Children's Literacy Skills

Fathers play an important role in shaping their children's literacy skill development. Literacy skills include reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

One of the most important ways in which fathers can support children's literacy development is by reading to them from a young age. Children who are regularly read to have a larger vocabulary and perform better on reading and language tests.

Reading to children also helps develop their imagination and creativity.

Another important way to support children's literacy development is by having access to books and other reading materials. Fathers can do this by creating a home library, visiting the public library, and encouraging children to read for pleasure.

In addition to these strategies, fathers can support their children's literacy development by sharing personal stories with their children (i.e., on the day they were born), encouraging children to ask questions, and providing educational opportunities.

Fathers actively involved in their children's school can help, too. This includes helping with homework, attending parent-teacher conferences, and

participating in school activities. In this way, fathers can provide support and guidance to help their children with literacy development.

By reading to children, providing access to reading materials, encouraging conversations, and engaging in their children's education, fathers can support literacy development and assist their children on the path to lifelong success in college, career, and civic engagement.

Here are a few interesting resources for families about supporting children's literacy development:

- [Governor's Summer Reading Challenge \(ct.gov\)](http://ct.gov)
- [Connecticut Reads 2022 — A Message to Parents and Students](#)
- [For Parents | Reading Rockets](#)
- [Fostering the habit of independent reading - Reading Partners | Reading Partners;](#)
- [Parents' Guides to Student Success - Family Resources | National PTA;](#)
- [Developing Your Child's Reading Skills \(English Version\)](#)
- [Desarrollando Las Habilidades de Lectura de su Hijo \(Spanish Version\)](#)

Connecticut Adult Education Services

Did you Know? Fathers can enhance their own education! Any father 17 years of age or older, who is a resident of Connecticut, does not have a high school diploma, and is not enrolled in a public high school program, can access adult education classes free of charge.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) is instruction designed for adults who need the basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills necessary to function effectively as workers, fathers, and citizens. Persons completing ABE are prepared to benefit from secondary (high school) level instruction.

High School Diploma: Connecticut has three distinct pathways for fathers to attain a high school diploma:

- Adult High School Credit Diploma (AHSCD) is a prescribed plan, process, and structure for earning a required number of academic and elective credits.
- General Educational Development (GED®) is a four-part exam that includes a writing sample, and attainment of academic skills and concepts normally acquired through completion of a high school program.
- National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is designed for adults who have gained skills through life experiences and have demonstrated competence in a particular job, talent, or academic area. The NEDP is an online portfolio assessment program with no classroom instruction.

Americanization/Citizenship Instruction is designed for foreign-born adults who wish to become United States citizens. Fathers completing this program are prepared to pursue citizenship through the prescribed process of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction is designed for adults who have limited proficiency in the English language or whose native language is not English. ESL programs assist individuals in improving English skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in order to find or maintain employment, attain citizenship, become more involved with their children's education, and make greater use of community resources.

Additional information can be found on the Connecticut Department of Education website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Services/Adult-Education>

CT Learning Hub:

Anytime, Anywhere Resources to Support Fathers and Families

At the core of the work of the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) is a commitment to equity. This is why the CT Learning Hub was created as a resource for all learners; adults and students.

The CT Learning Hub is a “one-stop shop” of resources collected by the CSDE for families, students, and teachers. The “Hub” has eight “Sub Hubs” from Academics to Social and Emotional Supports and Family Learning opportunities. Each Hub welcomes the visitor with a video explaining why these resources are critical and how they can be used.

The CSDE understands that throughout their lives, fathers have a big influence on their children’s learning and development.

We believe fathers are partners in learning. As we continue to reimagine Connecticut classrooms, we want to help fathers understand their critical role in their child’s educational careers and our hopes for teaching and learning.

The success of schools, families, and communities depends on one another. We all have a stake in children’s well-being.



Investing in mutually beneficial school-family-community partnerships will not only support students to achieve their full potential. It will also strengthen families and stabilize communities.

As a father, or as an advocate for fathers, you can find answers to your questions in one or more of the Sub Hubs.

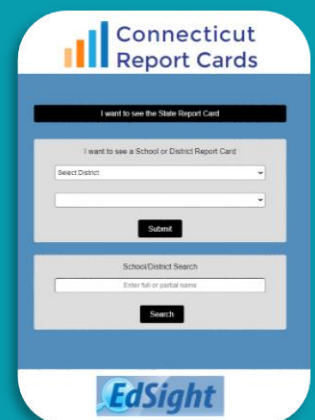
As we work together to re-imagine education for our children...anytime, anywhere, visit the [CT Learning Hub](#)

How’s My Child's School Doing?

Have you wondered

- How students in your child’s school are doing in reading, math, and science?
- If students in your child’s school are attending regularly?
- If the students in your district are graduating high school on time?
- And how all of this compares to the state as a whole?

To learn about these and other information about your school or district, check out the Connecticut Report Cards on the CSDE’s data portal EdSight.



CFI Partners

CT Departments of:

- Children and Families
- Correction
- Developmental Services
- Education
- Housing
- Labor
- Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Public Health
- Social Services
- Veterans Affairs

and

- Office of Early Childhood
- Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, Support Enforcement Services, and Family Support Magistrate Division
- Board of Pardons and Parole
- Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity
- CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- CT State Colleges and Universities
- United Way of CT
- Legal services, researchers, and numerous community-based, family, and youth-serving providers

We Want to Hear From You!!!
Let us know what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters!

Email us at: fatherhood@ct.gov

The Department of Social Services (DSS) programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, religious creed, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status (including civil union status), national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, physical disability, (including blindness), past or present history of mental disability, learning disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, workplace hazards to reproductive systems, veteran status, prior conviction of a crime or other factors which cannot lawfully be the basis for employment actions or licensing, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion or unless the provisions of sec. 46a-80(b) or 46a-81 (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected groups and status as a victim of domestic violence.

DSS has a TDD/TTY line for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired and have a TDD/TTY: 1-800-842-4524, or dial 7-1-1. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons. The DSS is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

PARENTS HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT WHERE THEIR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL

Fathers want the best education for their children to set them up for success and inspire lifelong learners. In Connecticut, fathers have educational options that are not available in many other states. These options include school choice opportunities that allow families to find the best school for their children.

Many Connecticut fathers may not be aware that they can send their child to a public school option other than their local public school at no cost. These free public school choice options provide the power to choose the school that fits their child's unique interests. School choice across Connecticut generally includes 4 program options:

- (1) Interdistrict magnet schools with specialized themes, like science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts, Montessori, early college, and more;
- (2) Open Choice, which allows students from urban centers to attend school in high performing suburban districts and suburban residents to attend select urban center schools with special programming;
- (3) Technical high schools, specializing in career and technical education to prepare students for college and careers; and
- (4) Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers, specializing in agriscience and technology.

Fathers can apply to school choice options in many regions of Connecticut – including the Hartford Region, New Haven, New London, Waterbury, Stamford, Bridgeport, and other areas of the state – at no cost to the family. School choice offers many benefits, including:

- ✓ access to quality, diverse school choice options designed to set students up for success;
- ✓ the opportunity to increase academic achievement while learning in culturally diverse and enriching school communities;
- ✓ Pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade learning opportunities focused on engaging students' interests and preparing students for college and careers;
- ✓ access to unique programming to fit students' interests and talents.

To learn more about school choice options in your region, visit [Public School Choice in Connecticut](#).