

ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

June 2018



The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office provides guidance and leadership on educational initiatives to assist schools and districts in preparing students to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. *Helpful updates, resources and professional learning are highlighted in this newsletter.*

FREE K-3 Reading Professional Learning Opportunity!

The CSDE is offering a free professional learning series for special education teachers and their K-3 general education partners to support the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills and comprehensive reading instruction. The content is aligned to the teacher reading survey objectives, and designed specifically to support both K-3 special education teachers and K-3 general education teachers who serve students with disabilities.

Participants will develop the ability to identify a student's skills gap in the area of phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, and comprehension and be able to address that gap in a timely manner to ensure each student is progressing as a reader. General and special education teachers will practice whole class and small group direct instruction in reading foundational skills. Teachers will learn the components of comprehensive literacy instruction, and immediately integrate new content into lesson planning for upcoming instruction.

Please note: a school-based team must consist of:

- one K-3 school-based literacy leader;
- two K-3 special education teachers; and
- two K-3 general education teachers.

The K-3 literacy leader is defined as a school-based individual with a formal literacy leadership role responsible for supporting K-3 teachers.

To register teams for the 2018-19 school year, go to: <http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/Cohort-3-2018-READCONN-Team-Registration-Site>.

If you have any questions, contact Joanne White, Education Consultant, at 860-713-6751 or e-mail at Joanne.White@ct.gov.

What's Inside:

Page 1: ReadConn Professional Learning Opportunity

Page 2: NGSS Professional Learning Opportunities and Student Summer Learning Opportunities

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- [NGSS District Transition Planning Workshop](#)
For vertical teams (i.e., 1 asst. supt., 2 principals, 1 science coordinator, 2 science coaches) to begin or enhance the district multi-year science plan. Grant funding is available.
- [PLANS - Principals Learn About, Network, and Support 3-Dimensional Science Learning](#)
Designed for Administrators/Evaluators. Opportunities planned for July 18-19 and August 21-22.

STUDENT SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The 2018 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge: Libraries Rock!

The **2018 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge** was launched on May 8, 2018, at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. At this event, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Commissioner of Education Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, and Director of Library Development Dawn La Valle stressed the importance of reading during the summer and recognized the top-performing schools from the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge.

Schools with the highest percentage of participating enrollment and the highest number of books read by participating students will be recognized for their efforts.

Student journals, district reporting forms and all other materials are available [online](#). If you have any questions, contact Joanne White, Education Consultant, at 860-713-6751 or e-mail at Joanne.White@ct.gov.

The 2018 Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge: Solving the Mystery of Math!

The **Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge** is designed to assist students in retaining math learning during the summer. Schools with the highest percentage of participating enrollment will be recognized for their efforts.

Students in grades 1 through 8 will be able to take advantage of the Summer Math Challenge, sponsored by Metametics. This is a FREE math skills maintenance program based on grade-level standards that help prepare students for college and careers.

Students in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to practice their math skills using the Official SAT Practice from College Board and Khan Academy. Students can link their College Board accounts or determine their current skill level using the diagnostic quizzes provided to get personalized practice recommendations.

Similar to the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, all information and printable materials (e.g., math log, registration information, and information for parents and students) for the Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge can be found on the [State Department of Education Website](#). If you have questions, contact Jennifer Michalek, Education Consultant, at 860-713-6557 or Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov.