State Student Advisory Council
Goal: To prevent the summer slide by continuing learning over the summer through hands-on experiences and eliminating the negative connotation of summer school.
Identifying the Problem
Identifying the Problem
Why is the current system broken?
Educators’ Perspectives
Educators’ Perspectives
Educators’ Perspectives
How to Increase Interest

- Independent Study
- Hands-on Experience
- Getting Rid of the Classroom Setting
- Field Trips
- Incentivizing Students and Teachers

How to Increase Access

- Database (CAS Website)
- Communication with Guidance Departments
- Connecting with Public Universities in Connecticut
- YMCA Community Programs
- Boys and Girls Club
- Gear Up
- Summer Spark

Two-Part Solution
Exemplary Programs
Is Summer in the best interest of Education?

Benefits of a 12 Month Calendar

- Same 180 Days of Academic Instruction
- A larger amount of smaller breaks → One for each season and holiday
- 3 to 4 weeks off at a time = better skills retention
- Eliminates summer programs families cannot afford → lowers summer slide impact!
- Teacher and Student stress lessened

Future– 9 Month vs 12 Month Calendar
Education Committee

Goal: To increase student interest in pursuing a career in education by changing the public perception of teaching.
Survey of CT High School Students
Aspects of Teaching That Appeal to Students

- Ability to shape the lives of young people and the next generation
- Strong demand for new teachers
- Job security
- Every year brings new students, new personalities, and new ideas
- High Level of Autonomy
  - While required classes have mandated curricula that teachers are expected to follow, it is the teacher who decides what will happen in the classroom each day.
  - Teachers teach their curriculum in very different ways.
  - Not many jobs provide an individual with so much room to be creative and autonomous each day.
- To be the ONE CARING ADULT in a child's life
We asked CT students to denote, on a scale from 1-10, the importance of
Students’ Negative Perspectives on Teaching
Countering the Perspective
Steps to creating a viral video
Future Steps
Program

Goal:

To help make breakfast more obtainable for students across Connecticut.

CT Breakfast
The School Breakfast Program: a General Overview

The Problem:
Connecticut is one of the lowest ranking states in terms of participation in the school breakfast program initiative.

What it is:
The School Breakfast program is a system set up to help provide breakfast for students who don't have the chance to eat in the morning.

Our Goal: To help make breakfast more obtainable to students across Connecticut.
Hunger affects 1 in 5 children in Connecticut. In 2015, CT ranked 47th with 80.6% schools participation. Nationally 91.3% of public schools participate.
Breakfast is the Most Important Meal of the Day.
Students who eat school breakfast on average attend 1.5 more days per year, score 17.5% higher on standardized math tests, and have a 20% higher high school graduation rate.
Healthy students are better on all levels of academic achievement:

- Academic performance,
- Education behavior
- Cognitive skills and attitudes.
What can we do to encourage participation?
New York state saw an increase of over 37,000 students—with more than 20,000 additional students participating in New York City in the 2016-17 school year, compared to the prior school year. This is due to the New York City Department of Education's multi-year roll out of a districtwide breakfast after the bell program.
Survey Data Cont.
Legislation Creates
Legislative Success
Other Options
The School Breakfast Program is profitable. Greater participation and consistent participation means the program receives more money in reimbursement rates from the state and federal level.
FRAC Benchmark goal: 70 F&RP students participating in the SBP for every 100 F&RP student participating in the NSLP.

CT needs 31,551 more F&RP students to participate to achieve this goal.

With standard reimbursement rates this offers CT an additional $8,845,330.
SSACE Projects
Examples:

- Friends of Rachel Club
  - Positive, Respectful School Environment

- Harvest Pack Project
  - Packaged > 55,000 meals → families in Haiti

- 7th Grade Day of Compassion
  - Inspire gratitude and kindness (17 RAKs)

- Sage Park Leaders
  - Kindness Ninjas

Challenge to
Connecticut students see the world, see its problems, and see the need for change.

CT SEES Initiative and Toolkit
Connecticut Schools

Following tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

“In recent weeks, students across these United States have been clear in their resolve and mission: No More…

... we implore the State of Connecticut High Schools to pursue a national initiative and interstate cooperation in the following areas:

Engage with the voices of concerned citizens, especially students,

Ensure absolute school safety for every district,

Enforce existing gun laws,

Expand the implementation of background checks,

Examine the role and prevalence of mental health in violence, and

Encourage a renewed culture of unity through the indomitable American spirit.”

Open Letter to all
Statewide Town