



Connecticut State Department of Education Professional Support Series for Districts

Please see below and join as we learn together and grow together.

March 30, 2020

District Financial Considerations (Live webinar)

A quick overview on the distribution of the balance of state grant funds through the close of the fiscal year, followed by discussion of the following topics: Should districts expect changes in state aid based on the shortened school year?; Will state grant funds have to be expended by the close of the fiscal year or will the state allow for carry forward of funds into Fiscal Year 2021?; and budget planning for the 2020–21 school year. This session will be interactive. Please bring your questions!



Presenter: Kathy Demsey, CFO, CSDE
Date: April 7; **Time:** 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6274796717391733771>

Guidance on Special Education (Live webinar)

Briefing on March 24, 2020 Continued Educational Opportunities and Special Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The CT State Department of Education will provide a brief overview of the March 24, 2020 guidance document. There will be an opportunity for participants to submit questions about the document that will be answered during the session. Questions that are not answered during the session may be submitted for future response and will inform future guidance.



Presenters: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner; Jessa Mirtle, CSDE Legal Director; Bryan Klimkiewicz, Division Director, Bureau of Special Education
Date: April 2; **Time:** 1–2 p.m.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7258581447767084812>

Guidance on English Learners (Live webinars)

High-Quality Distance Learning Resources for English Learners

In these unprecedented times, it is extremely important to continue to support our English learner (ELs) by providing high-quality resources for distance/virtual learning. For ELs, this means offering content area supports and providing resources to help them develop their English proficiency and support their native/home language. Join us as we highlight several high-quality resources for ELs that provide important strategies and scaffolds for content area learning and help them continue to develop their English language proficiency at home.



Presenters: Megan Alubicki-Flick, Education Consultant, CSDE; Gladys Labas, Director of Equity and Language, CSDE
Date: April 2; **Time:** 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8363822630635540236>

Best Practices for Serving English Learners

Over the past several years, the population of English learners (ELs) in Connecticut's public schools has continued to grow both within and across districts. Despite our small size geographically, Connecticut communities vary widely in their EL populations, ranging from zero to over 3,000 ELs in districts around the state. Given this demographic diversity and the unique needs of ELs, what are the best program models through which to serve these students? Are there models that honor students' cultural and linguistic diversity, and if so, where are they being implemented? Join us for a webinar designed for building and district administrators to explore research on the academic outcomes of ELs in various programs and to look closer at districts around the state that are implementing research-based models which are proving effective for EL students.



Presenter: Megan Alubicki-Flick, Michael Sabados, Pei-Hsuan Chiu
Date: May 1; **Time:** 1 p.m.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5597146810430307084>

Connecticut State Department of Education

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Early Childhood and Distance Learning

Early childhood professionals check out the video on what distance learning means for young children. This video will feature a brief discussion with staff from the CT State Department of Education and the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC) about supporting young learners through distance learning and the importance of play and predictability. The role of the early childhood professional in supporting families as well as developmentally appropriate resources and instructional practices will be discussed.



Presenters: Andrea Brinnel, Consultant, CSDE; Michelle Levy, Consultant, OEC
Recorded Session Available: April 2 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#)

Executive Orders and Education (Live webinar)

Review of the executive orders issued by Governor Lamont as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on schools, boards of education and school districts. Followed by FAQ on those topics relevant to the executive orders, including: 180 Days and the Length of the School Year; Teacher Evaluations; Assessments and Testing; School Class Cancellations; Freedom of Information Act; Social Distancing; Continuing Educational Opportunities; and Budget Timelines



Presenter: Jessa Mirtle, Legal Director
Date: April 3; **Time:** 1 p.m.
Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5448286130168470028>

Talent Updates

SDE Talent Office Updates for District Human Resources (HR) Staff

The SDE Talent Office will take district human resources staff through the Bureau of Educator Standards & Certification's continued efforts to respond to the current public health emergency. They will explain the new flexibility allowing some electronic submission of documents; extension of expiration dates on some certificates and permits; which authorizations will be extended and which will not; considerations when hiring recent graduates who may or may not have completed student teaching; and waiver of educator evaluation requirements. They will also include a brief tour of the CSDE certification web pages to help you stay informed of additional changes as we move forward, how to find new fillable forms, and how to contact the bureau for additional assistance.



Presenters: Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE; Chris Todd, Bureau Chief, CSDE
Recorded Session Available: Week of April 6 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#)

Directions for Sharing Best District Practices in Connecticut

As districts across the state have stepped up to provide learning opportunities for students, we know that there are many amazing things going on throughout our state on behalf of students. We want to highlight and share best practices around distance learning, early childhood practices, English learners, food distribution etc. This overview will give districts additional information on how to submit your best practices so we can share through social media and our website so we can all learn from and share with each other. We would love to share your examples too.



Presenter: Desi Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Academics and Innovation, CSDE
Recorded Session Available: <https://youtu.be/lOde0JrODJo>