



# Connecticut State Department of Education Professional Support Series for Districts

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

Series 17 — October 7, 2020

## Virtual Mentoring as a Tool to Improve Student Engagement in Remote and Hybrid Learning Models

A caring relationship at school—whether it's with a teacher, a counselor, or another student—can enhance a student's sense of belonging and reduce absenteeism. Once a school identifies a student with problematic attendance, mentoring can improve not only attendance but also student achievement. MENTOR, a national nonprofit dedicated to the practice, cites research by Public/Private Ventures showing that students who meet regularly with mentors are 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school than similar students without such support. (*Attendance Playbook*, FutureEd, Georgetown University, June 2020)

Participate in a joint, collaborative effort with The Governor's Prevention Partnership to learn the benefits of using virtual mentoring as a strategy to strengthen student engagement. Participants will learn:

- Why relationships are key to student engagement and ways in which intentional mentor relationships can improve a student's connection to school;
- How to "pivot" from in-person mentoring to a virtual mentoring model;
- What the coordination of a virtual mentoring programs entails including, virtual etiquette and considerations, permissions and consent forms; how to get started and ensure a safe experience for students; and
- Where this is working and how it can work for their school/district.

In addition, participants will receive information on The Governor's Prevention Partnership's free training and technical assistance resources for integrating and implementing a mentoring program into school improvement plans.

**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2499728001125555216>

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.)

**Presenters:**

CSDE



Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner  
John Frassinelli, Division Director  
Kari Sullivan, Education Consultant

**The Governor's Prevention Partnership**



Roland Harmon, Co-President, and Chief Program and Administrative Officer

Aristede Hill, Program Manager, Mentoring Services

**Local perspective — Virtual mentoring and Bridgeport Public Schools**

Michael Testani, Superintendent, Bridgeport Public Schools

Faith Harrison-Villegas, Executive Director, Bridgeport Public Education Fund

Anne Gribbons, Executive Director, School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport