

SERIES: 2006-2007

CIRCULAR LETTER: C-10

To: Superintendents of Schools

From: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

Date: April 19, 2007

Subject: Adult Education and the Public School Information System

As you are aware, the Department of Education has fully implemented a statewide public school information system (PSIS) which allows the Department to collect, aggregate and analyze student data. One of the principles behind the PSIS is to fulfill the required state and federal reporting mandates, including those required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Under NCLB Section 1111 (b)(2)(C)(vi), the Department is required to provide information which includes graduation rates for public secondary school students (defined as the percentage of students who graduate from secondary school with a regular diploma in the standard number of years) for the purpose of adequate yearly progress.

Fundamental to the calculation of graduation rates is the ability to account for the number of students who have left school prior to graduation. The Department collects information annually on students who drop out of school in order to ensure that the data provided to the United States Department of Education is accurate and up to date. Of note in our review of this information is that a significant number of these students between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who officially withdraw from school, in accordance with C.G.S. 10-184, and enter adult education programs.

During the 2005-2006 school year, 4,492 students under the age of nineteen enrolled in adult education programs within their local school districts. Of these students, 2,832 were enrolled in the adult high school credit diploma program. These students are not considered dropouts since they enrolled in an adult high school credit diploma program within the same school year as their official withdrawal and, for federal reporting purposes, would be considered transfers.

Therefore, in order to ensure that all students can be accurately represented for Connecticut's adequate yearly progress requirements, as of July 1, 2007, individuals who are between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and who enter adult education for the first time will be required to have their 10-digit state assigned student identification (SASID) number entered into the Connecticut Adult Reporting System (CARS). This will allow school districts and the Department the opportunity to longitudinally track students who drop out of school, enroll in adult education, and earn a local high school diploma within the standard number of years as defined through NCLB.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Robert Lucco, Director, Office of Research and Evaluation at (860) 713-6888.

MKM:cpp