

# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

February 2017



## WE HAVE MOVED!

On January 13, 2017, the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office moved from 165 Capitol Avenue to our new location at [450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103](#). Our current mailing address is:

State of Connecticut Department of Education  
Academic Office  
P.O. Box 2219  
Hartford, CT 06145

Please note that our telephone numbers and emails have remained the same.

## MATHEMATICS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS

In support of the recommendations in the Commissioner's Council on Mathematics Report, the CSDE, in partnership with WestEd, is offering a three-day Family Engagement Institute for educators. This professional learning opportunity will take place at the Radisson in Cromwell, CT from March 7–9, 2017. The aim of this Institute is to support systems change and the reorganization of school family engagement efforts in order to connect specific student learning goals with family supported learning in the home. [Register](#) now!

## PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING (PAEMST)

PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science (including computer science) teaching. Anyone including: principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public, may nominate exceptional mathematics or science teachers, who are currently teaching Grades 7–12 for the 2016-17 award year. Teachers may also apply directly at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org). The Nomination Deadline is April 1, 2017, and the Application Deadline is May 1, 2017, for secondary school teachers (Grades 7–12). Elementary school teachers (Grades K–6) will be eligible to apply during a future cycle.

### What's Inside:

1. New address, Family Engagement, Presidential Award
2. Professional Learning Opportunities
3. Literacy Webinar & Holocaust Survey
4. Arts Standards Updates

## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Mathematics  
Instructional  
Materials Evaluation  
Tool (IMET)  
Training

Wednesday, March  
22, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00  
p.m. at CREC**

111 Charter Oak  
Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

*There is NO cost for  
the workshop but  
registration is  
required! Register  
today by clicking on  
the date of your choice.*

**Social Studies:** There are two exceptional professional development opportunities for Connecticut social studies teachers and social studies curriculum leaders in the very near future. The CSDE, the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, and the *Programs* in International Educational Resources (PIER) at Yale University will be co-sponsoring a three week webinar series on “[Teaching Africa.](#)” These webinars will “run live” on February 8, 15, and 22, 2017, from 3:30-4:30; they will also be archived for those teachers who are unable to watch them live. These webinars are specifically designed for Grades 6 and 7 middle school teachers and for high school world history teachers wishing to gain more knowledge about Africa. If you have questions about this series or wish to register, contact Stephen Armstrong, state social studies consultant, at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

On Friday, March 17, 2017, at Central Connecticut State University, the CSDE and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring a full-day workshop on “[Integrating Inquiry into the Social Studies Curriculum.](#)” Our special guest will be Dr. John Lee, co-author of the *C3 Social Studies Frameworks*. In the morning we will discuss concrete ways to integrate inquiry into lessons and units of instruction. In the afternoon we will be dividing by discipline (e.g., high school world history, civics, etc.) and taking a deeper dive into the implementation of inquiry. We will also be holding a special session of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers on the teaching of Connecticut history providing them with both content and resources to assist in the teaching of state history. For additional information contact Steve Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).



**Science:** The CSDE and the [Connecticut Science Center](#) are pleased to announce continued registration for several professional development opportunities. Click on the links for more information:

**[Next Gen Science Exemplar System \(NGSX\):](#)** A web-based, expert-led experience of a “3-Dimensional” culture of science learning, where students use science “practices” (specifically modeling and arguing with evidence) and “crosscutting concepts” to co-construct scientific explanations of real-world phenomena. Plans for several more cohorts have been announced.

**[Next Generation Science-CT:](#)** An introduction to Next Generation Science Storylines (NGSS) and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012). No-cost; web-based; and self-paced. Six modules have been released thus far. Current production of several more modules are underway.

**[NGSS:](#)** Across the State of Connecticut, districts, schools, and teachers are working on implementing a new vision for science classrooms based on the adoption of NGSS: classrooms in which teachers support students in science and engineering practices to build and use science ideas to explain real phenomena and solve real problems. A core challenge is the lack of curriculum materials that reflect the dramatic changes in this vision. Traditional textbooks, lesson plans, and units are not up to the challenge. Science educators are finding they need to find, adapt, or create new curriculum materials to support the 3D approach to science learning. One of the ways to meet this challenge, the NGSS project is dedicated to providing tools that support teachers in developing, adapting, and teaching with strongly aligned NGSS materials in classrooms around the country.

## **NEW! LITERACY SCREENING DATA TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH READING DIFFICULTIES WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE**

The CSDE, in partnership with the State Education Resource Center (SERC), presented a live webinar entitled *Using Literacy Screening Data to Support Students with Reading Difficulties* on January 10, 2017, featuring Dr. Margie Gillis, president and founder of Literacy How. In this recorded and now archived webinar, Dr. Gillis explores different patterns of reading difficulty based on screening data derived from the curriculum-based assessments in Connecticut's Approved Menu of Research-based Grades K-3 Universal Screening Reading Assessments. She provides guidance regarding informal diagnostic assessments that can be used to examine component reading skills in more depth, including an assessment decision tree. An overview of structured literacy instruction methods for use in Tier 2 to support reading success for children in the early grades is presented, as well as tools for progress monitoring. To view the archived webinar and download handouts, visit SERC's Web site at <http://www.ctserc.org/index.php/dyslexia/dyslexia-professional-learning>.

## **UPCOMING HOLOCAUST SURVEY AND CURRICULUM MATERIALS**

The CSDE is working with JFACT (the Jewish Federation Associates of Connecticut) to provide curriculum materials for teachers of all grade levels on teaching the Holocaust. To assist in creating these materials, a survey will be available to all Connecticut social studies teachers. When complete, a link on the CSDE webpage will contain newly-created curriculum materials on teaching the Holocaust. In addition, in February/March a three-part webinar series will be held for Connecticut teachers and curriculum leaders on innovative ways to teach this subject; this will include using children's and young adult literature with Holocaust and Holocaust-related themes. For additional information contact CSDE social studies consultant, Stephen Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

## **UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Connecticut Core Standards Online Learning Modules:** Finding time for professional learning remains a challenge for Connecticut educators. For this reason, the CSDE, in collaboration with the Public Consulting Group, continues to offer anytime, anywhere access to professional learning content focusing on the Connecticut Core Standards. With modules designed to support the implementation of the standards in both English Language Arts and mathematics, as well as modules to meet the needs of special populations, teachers engage in high quality professional learning content and online collaboration. [Register](#) now.

## CSDE NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS ROLL-OUT UPDATES

In partnership with Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA), the CSDE established the Connecticut Arts Standards Team (CAST) to assist in the creation of quality professional learning and resources to support districts and arts providers in better understanding and utilizing the newly adopted CSDE National Core Arts Standards (Arts Standards).

Register NOW for the following upcoming professional development opportunities!

- \* **Free regional workshop.** This 2 ½ hour workshop was designed by teachers for teachers to explore and utilize the recently adopted Arts Standards. The workshop will be presented in each RESC region and will include introductory information to familiarize teachers with the Arts Standards and include activities for those who have started integrating the standards into their daily instruction. The workshop is geared for elementary and secondary teachers (including all five arts disciplines: Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theatre, and Media Arts). Please e-mail the following contacts to register:
  - February 8, 2017, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: EASTCONN: contact Diane Gozemba at [DGozemba@eastconn.org](mailto:DGozemba@eastconn.org);
  - March 23, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: ACES: contact Ruth Feldman at [rmfeldman09@gmail.com](mailto:rmfeldman09@gmail.com);
  - April 5, 2017, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Staples High School, CES Region: contact Mark Ribbens at [ribbensm@ces.k12.ct.us](mailto:ribbensm@ces.k12.ct.us);
  - April 6, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: LEARN: contact Michele Hammond at [MHammond@westbrooketschools.org](mailto:MHammond@westbrooketschools.org) and Leah Stillman – [StillmanL@newlondon.org](mailto:StillmanL@newlondon.org);
  - April 7, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: EdAdvance: contact Sue Palma at [palma@edadvance.org](mailto:palma@edadvance.org); and
  - March 22, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: CREC: contact Dawn Marie Conroy at [conroyd@region1oct.org](mailto:conroyd@region1oct.org).
- \* **Workshop for Curriculum Leaders and School Administrators: *Unpacking the CSDE National Core Arts Standards: What do the New Arts Standards Mean for District Curriculum Leaders and School Administrators?*** This full-day conference will occur Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott. Sessions have been designed to assist district curriculum leaders, building level administrators and arts supervisors in better understanding the new Arts Standards and artistic literacy as well as explore implications on curricula development and classroom practices. [Register](#) here.

Stay tuned! The following tools and professional learning opportunities are in development by CAST:

- Model Districts – Selected districts have been identified and are generating sample curriculum resources to be housed on the state department Web site.
- *2017 Guide for Program Development in the Arts* – The previous guide is being updated and aligned to the new standards.
- Webinars – A series of six webinars will occur with topics including artistic literacy, dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts.
- Workshop for Arts Organizations and Teaching Artists – A session will be devoted to the support of the work of arts organizations and teaching artists.
- Workshop for Non-arts Teachers – A workshop is in the works to assist non-arts teachers in understanding how to capitalize on artistic literacy in their non-arts classrooms.
- **Save the Date!** The CSDE National Core Arts Standards Conference. This exciting four-day conference will occur at Central Connecticut State University from Monday, June 26, 2017 – Thursday, June 29, 2017. Session topics include cornerstone assessments, cultural responsiveness, curricula writing, media arts, and an institute track for deeper curricula work.

