

ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

January 2017



2017 READING SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

C.G.S. 10-145r, **Survey on Reading Instruction**, requires elementary and early childhood teachers assigned to teach in Grades K-3 in Connecticut public schools to take a reading survey *biennially*. Results of the survey are formative and intended to provide information to support planning of professional development at the school level. The 2017 administration window will be January 3, 2017 through August 31, 2017. As with the previous survey administration, teachers who formally took and passed the Foundations of Reading Test for certification purposes will be exempt. The survey will be delivered via an internet-based Web site link. Teachers will need to use their school or district computer sites to complete the survey. For more detailed information about the reading survey, please refer to the designated reading survey page at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&pm=1&Q=335450>. For questions about survey participation and results reporting contact the dedicated Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) e-mail at reading.survey@ct.gov.

COMPUTER SCIENCE POSITION STATEMENT



The Position Statement on Computer Science Education for All Students K-12 was approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education at the December 7, 2016 board meeting. This statement was developed by the Computer Science Advisory Group which represents a wide variety of stakeholders. This position statement outlines beliefs and guidelines about computer science education to ensure the changing needs of the workplace, technology and global economy are met. In addition, the position statement outlines specific responsibilities for various groups of stakeholders in order to ensure a comprehensive computer science education for all students. This is imperative for developing computational thinking which is characterized by logically ordering and analyzing data and creating solutions using a series of ordered steps. These are fundamental skills that are necessary to become college and career ready in today's world. The Position Statement on Computer Science Education for All Students K-12 can be found on the CSDE Web site: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp>.



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--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 2016-2017 award year. Teachers may also apply directly at 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. Reading Survey, Computer Science Position Statement & Presidential Award
2. Holocaust Survey
3. Professional Learning Opportunities
4. Professional Learning Opportunities Cont'd

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PUTTING LEARNER SUCCESS FIRST!



On November 30, 2016, 280 educators from across Connecticut converged at the 2016 Career and Technical Education (CTE) conference. At the conference, the Annual CTE Assessment Awards were presented to districts in recognition of schools demonstrating top student scores on the CTE Assessment and offering high-quality CTE programs.

Keynote speaker Kate Blosveren Kreamer from Advance CTE presented the shared vision for the future of CTE which included:

- all CTE programs are held to the highest standards of excellence;
- all learners are empowered to choose a meaningful education and career;
- all learning is personalized and flexible;
- all knowledge is facilitated by knowledgeable experts; and
- all systems work together to put learner success first.

As evidenced by participant feedback, educators found the content relevant and helpful to improving their practice. Here are a few comments shared by participants: “the college and career readiness seminar was incredible”; “sessions were eye opening”; and “the information was diverse and able to be applied readily in current classes.”

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 3-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.

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 PCG, 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.



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES CONT'D

Mathematics
Instructional
Materials Evaluation
Tool (IMET)
Training

Tuesday, January
31, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00
p.m. at ACES**
205 Skiff Street
Hamden, CT 06405

Thursday, February
2, 2017

**8:30 a.m. – 12:30
p.m. at EdAdvance**
355 Goshen Road
Litchfield, CT 06749

Tuesday, February
7, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00
p.m. at EASTCONN**
376 Hartford Turnpike
Hampton, CT 06247

Thursday, February
9, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00
p.m. at CES**
40 Lindeman Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611

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.*



Mathematics: In support of the recommendations from the Commissioner's Council on Mathematics, the CSDE is providing professional learning to assist districts in effectively implementing the Common Core Standards-Mathematics with fidelity (Council Recommendation #2). The CSDE will be hosting [Instructional Materials Evaluation Toolkit \(IMET\)](#) training at each Regional Educational Service Center (RESC). This half-day training is designed to give a high-level overview of the IMET. The IMET is a tool for evaluating a comprehensive textbook or textbook series for alignment to the shifts and major features of the CCSS. It can be used to inform decisions about purchasing, evaluate previously purchased materials to identify necessary modification, and build understanding of aligned materials. To register for training nearest you, please visit the [CTCoreStandards](#) professional development page.

Social Studies: Beginning in late January the Connecticut State Department of Education and the PIER programs at Yale University will be co-sponsoring a three-part webinar series on "Teaching Africa". These webinars are designed for high school and middle school teachers.



On Friday, March 17 the CSDE is sponsoring a full day workshop entitled "[Inquiry Instruction: From Theory to Practice](#)." Joining us for the day will be John Lee, co-author of the C3 social studies frameworks. On that day will be a session for third grade teachers on "Teaching Connecticut." For additional information on either of these programs contact Stephen Armstrong, Education Consultant, at 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 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; self-paced. Six modules have been released thus far. Current production of several more modules are underway.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES CONT'D

**NGSS Curriculum
Unit Development
Institute**
(Five Day Institute)

**February 9, 13, 14,
22, 23, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30
p.m. at LEARN**
44 Hatchetts Hill Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Cost

\$475 per person
(includes materials,
light breakfast and
lunch).

To Register go to
[www.learn.k12.ct.us/
NGSS](http://www.learn.k12.ct.us/NGSS)

Questions?

Contact:

Dr. Terry Contant at
[tcontant@learn.k12.ct.
us](mailto:tcontant@learn.k12.ct.us) or at 860-434-4800
ext.172

Transitioning to NGSS, A Video Collection: This set of over two dozen video clips shows experienced Connecticut educators making good-faith efforts to shift their instruction to support the NGSS. It is recommended that educators reflect on these clips in local professional learning communities.

Why NGSS?: Designed to be an introduction to NGSS, this 2-day workshop will lead participants through immersive NGSS experiences as adult learners. Registrations have begun for sessions in 2016 and 2017.

For more information, contact Ronald Michaels, Education Consultant, at Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov.

