



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Irene E. Parisi *I.E.P.*
Chief Academic Officer

DATE: September 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Announcement of Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Continuation

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Labor (CT-DOL) is continuing the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program (UELP) for the 2020–21 school year.

The purpose of the UELP is to enable local education agencies (LEAs), individual high schools, and business and industry partners to place students in unpaid work-based learning opportunities for up to 120 hours per year. The program waiver supports LEAs' efforts to expand and build new pathways for students, while allowing for career skill development in an authentic setting.

All briefing and mandatory safety workshops will be virtual this year. The CSDE is hosting two informational sessions. In order to participate in the UELP you or your designee must attend the briefing session.

- [Register](#) for the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Briefing Webinar occurring on September 29, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

All district staff placing students at worksites must attend one of the two available UELP Safety Webinars:

- [Register](#) for the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Mandatory Student Safety Webinar occurring on October 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.; or
- [Register](#) for the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Mandatory Student Safety Webinar repeat session on October 6, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Should you need additional information regarding the 2020–21 UELP, please contact Harold Mackin at 860-713-6779 or Harold.Mackin@ct.gov.

We thank you for your interest.

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cc: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education
Desi D. Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Academics and Innovation
Dr. Melissa K. Włodarczyk Hickey, CSDE Reading/Literacy Director
Harold Mackin, CSDE Education Consultant