



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer *IEP*

**DATE:** November 19, 2020

**SUBJECT:** FREE Blended Learning Professional Learning Modules and Coaching

To support the ongoing planning of face to face, hybrid and remote learning environments, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in partnership with the RESC Alliance are offering two types of support for educators:

### 1. Blended Learning Playlist

The RESC Alliance has designed 9 free professional learning mini-courses focused on each research-based blended learning model for school staff. These free learning modules are led by education specialists and instructional coaches from each Connecticut RESC Alliance. They are intended to equip school staff (teachers, student support staff, and administrators) at all grade levels and content areas with evidence-based tips and strategies for designing learning models that can increase student engagement, support efforts to accelerate learning, and advance equity.

#### About the 9 Courses

Each course has two synchronous modules and one or two asynchronous modules. Each session/module are designed to be about 60 minutes. The 9 courses being offered are:

- 1) Introduction to Blended Learning
- 2) Station Rotation in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 3) Lab Rotation in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 4) Individual Rotation in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 5) Flipped Learning in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 6) Flex Learning Model in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 7) A La Carte Model in a Physical and Remote Classroom
- 8) Enriched Virtual Model for Remote Classrooms
- 9) Leadership Session: Transformational Leadership When Implementing Blended Learning Classroom

To learn more about the content of each course and register to attend, please visit our [Blended Learning website](#).

## 2. (RFS) for Free Professional Learning and Coaching Services

In addition to the Blended Learning Courses, districts can apply through a request for services (RFS) for free professional learning and coaching services, including the use of varied blended learning models of instruction to Connecticut schools. The intent is for districts to apply for instructional coaching hours to support their plan for implementing research-based blended learning models to structure, support and shape a meaningful learning environment for all learners. The RESCs and the CSDE are committed to providing quality professional learning experiences. Embedded coaching has been demonstrated to be among the most effective means of changing instructional practice for student success. The focus of this RFS is “virtual professional learning and coaching services” to:

- Empower educators with the strategies to engage students in continuous learning as outlined in the Reimagining Connecticut Classrooms for Continuous Learning document.
- Advance the implementation of personalized learning through blended learning.
- Playlists for use by PreK-12 educators in onsite and remote learning settings.
- Enhance practice that leads to personalized, mastery based outcomes for students through high quality job-embedded professional learning.
- Provide opportunities for professional dialogue, reflection, and sharing of effective practices to engage learners.

Districts may request services in support of teachers, teacher teams, and instructional leaders. Requests may be made for full day (1.0) or half day (.5) segments. It is anticipated that during the 2020-2021 school year approximately, 300 days may be allocated across the State of Connecticut. In an attempt to ensure equity of distribution, applicants are asked to limit their requests to no more than 3 days per school. Additionally, applicants may request up to 5 days for district-level educators.

*Application deadline is December 18th.*

[Click here](#) for the application. If you have questions or need assistance with completion of this proposal, do not hesitate to contact [your local RESC](#).

To take advantage of this timely learning opportunity, superintendents are invited to distribute this memo throughout their district. Please contact Chief Academic Officer, Irene Parisi at [Irene.Parisi@ct.gov](mailto:Irene.Parisi@ct.gov) with questions or requests for assistance.

IEP:ln

cc: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education  
Desi Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Education for Academics and Innovation