

NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

For Immediate Release
Office of Communications

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Forum to address relationships between families and schools

(HARTFORD)--A forum, "Building Bridges Between Schools and Families for Student Success," will be held Wednesday, September 13, at the Connecticut Grand Hotel, 3580 East Main Street in Waterbury at 8AM. The purpose of the event is to bring together educators, parents and community members to discuss strategies to improve relationships between home and school that support student learning. Participants will hear from two prominent leaders in the field of school-family relationships. The event is sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the State Education Resource Center, the Capitol Region Education Council, the Connecticut Parents Plus of the United Way of Connecticut and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.

Scheduled speakers include Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Ph.D. and Joyce Epstein, Ph.D. Dr Lawrence-Lightfoot is a sociologist and Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Her presentation will focus on the crucial conversations that occur between parents and teachers and unique ways to improve family-school relationships. She will explore the cultural contexts of learning and the relationship between family, schools and communities.

Dr. Epstein is an international expert on family and community involvement. She is a research Professor of Sociology at John Hopkins University and Director of the

Center on School, Family and Community Partnerships. She established the National Network of Partnership Schools in 1995. Her presentation will focus on the ‘how to’ of partnerships, highlighting the infrastructure in schools and districts that is needed to support sustainable programs and produce positive results for all students.

“There is no question that we see better outcomes for students when schools, families and communities work together,” said George A. Coleman, commissioner of education. “We must be more proactive in building these relationships and improving the communication between the adults that are so powerful in children’s lives. If we are committed to all children succeeding, we will take this responsibility seriously,” Coleman added.

The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes lunch and materials. Deadline to register is Friday, September 1. Registration fees must be mailed to Schools and Families, State Education Resource Center, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, Connecticut, 06457-1520. For additional information, contact Charlene Russell-Tucker at 860-807-2071 or Judy Carson, Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-807-2122 or e-mail her at judy.carson@ct.gov.

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