



DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## **Connecticut State Department of Education Submits Federal Plan for Every Student Succeed Act**

(HARTFORD, CT) — Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell today formally submitted [Connecticut's Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Consolidated State Plan](#) to the U.S. Department of Education. The plan is posted on the SDE's ESSA webpage, along with resources that informed the development of the plan.

Connecticut's state plan for ESSA was developed following an extensive and comprehensive process consisting of focus groups, an online survey, a Commissioner's Equity and Excellence Tour last fall, and a final collection of public comment to the draft plan in February. Over 450 parents, teachers, students, and other education stakeholders participated in the focus groups and the survey garnered nearly 7,000 responses.

"An excellent public education can enable every child - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, family wealth, zip code, or disability status – to reach for high standards and achieve their full potential," Governor Dannel P. Malloy said. "Connecticut's ESSA plan reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that every child has access to an equitable, high-quality education that opens the door to a brighter future. And thanks to our more holistic and comprehensive accountability system, we are able to identify and replicate success, while targeting supports to the students and schools that need it the most."

"For the past year, we have been working hard to create a state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act that reflects Connecticut's collective vision for equity and excellence in education for all students," said Commissioner Wentzell. "We have engaged with communities across the state, and this plan reflects the diversity of stakeholders' hopes, dreams, and aspirations for our children. We look forward to the work ahead of ensuring all Connecticut children have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in life."

Signed into law in December of 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act is grounded in the concept of equity and the promise of an excellent, well-rounded education for every student regardless of race, color, national origin, family income, citizenship, or disability status. To achieve this, the law gives states the flexibility they need to innovate, while simultaneously holding them accountable for student outcomes.

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