Digital Learning Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2016

Attendees
- Scott Zak – Council Chair
- Doug Casey, CET

- Katie Bauer, Trinity College
- Kevin Corcoran, Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium
- Larry Covino, Bristol Adult Education
- Sarah Edson, Ethel Walker School
- John Elsesser, Town of Coventry
- Barbara Johnson, Colchester Public Schools
- Clint Kennedy, New London Public Schools
- Valerie Mara, Archdiocese of Hartford
- Laura McCaffrey, Archdiocese of Hartford
- Jim Mindek, State Department of Education
- Jim Spafford, Manchester Adult Education
- Jennifer Widness, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

Meeting Outline and Notes
1) Initiative and Past Meeting Minutes Review
2) Student Technology Proficiency Standards

NOTE: The points below represent an assimilation of ideas rather than a verbatim or chronological record of points shared.

Initiative Review

- Members reviewed and discussed the following table of topics and initiatives raised in the May 16 meeting, mandated by the CET statute, or both (see indicators in second and third columns):

Priority 1

Initiative	Council	Statute
Computer Science Curriculum	☑	☑
Digital Literacy Standards and Supports for Parents	☑	
Open Education Resources	☑	

Priority 2 or Covered by Other Councils

Initiative	Council	Statute
Administrator Technology Proficiency Standards	☑	☑
Digital Equity	☑	☑
Student Technology Proficiency Standards	☑	☑
Teacher Certification and Endorsements (Tech, LMS, CS)	☑	☑
Teacher Professional Development		☑
Teacher Technology Proficiency Standards	☑	☑

General and Adult Education

- Larry Covino pointed to the importance of aligning K – 12, community college, and adult education streams of mastery and standards. For example, the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) reflects mastery of many core academic and professional skills gained throughout various stages of formal and informal education. The incorporation of any new or evolving set of standards requires strong professional development for teachers.
- John Elsesser pointed to innovative programs taking place in Coventry's library, incorporating Pokémon Go as a means of encouraging students and other citizens to get out and learn more about the history of their town. Innovation and creative uses of technology are happening in a diversity of learning environments.
- The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium offers a prerequisite course to assess technology and career readiness.

Computer Science Curriculum

- Several members inquired about Computer Science Curriculum and education in general. Clint Kennedy pointed out that the State Department of Education's Computer Science Advisory Committee planned to convene September 29. Doug underscored that the purpose of the CET Advisory Councils is to champion the effective use of technology according to our statutory obligations and the leadership of its members and advisory councils, not to duplicate efforts by other key agencies such as the State Department of Education. Since the August 25 meeting date, Doug has since reached out to Jennifer Michalek, chair of the CS Advisory Committee, to look into ways to support their efforts and align initiatives between the CET and SDE. On a related note, in meetings with

Commissioner Wentzell, Doug learned of her desire to empower teachers who are integrating computer science and coding into their curriculum, rather than saddling educators with additional certification requirements and thereby quash their integration of technology into lessons.

- Scott Zak pointed to the difference between Computer Science as a practice and concentration and general Digital Literacy and "21st-Century" skills. Kevin Corcoran further differentiated between Computer Science, or the colloquial "coding," and other areas of practice in information technology (e.g., networking, hardware and microprocessing, security, data management, etc.). Scott suggested that the Digital Learning Advisory Council produce a statement that articulates these differences.

Student Technology Standards

- Doug shared that the Practices Advisory Council recommended the adoption of the 2016 student standards issued by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The Commission members will review and vote on this recommendation at the September 12 CET meeting. That recommendation will also include a motion to convene a working group to help operationalize the standards.
- Several members expressed interest in participating in this effort, including the research, curation, and possible development of exemplar materials. These could include lesson plans, video tutorials on technology integration, outreach to other states to identify best practices, etc. The outcome would be a set of Web-based materials and references that schools can use in integrating the new standards into teaching and learning.
- Sarah Edson underscored the importance of defining what the mastery of these skills and practices looks like, empowering students to become creators, not just consumers, of technology.
- Doug also mentioned partner efforts with the State Department of Education (SDE) to "push in" or embed the new ISTE standards into the *CT Evidence Guides* (by content area and grade-level band) to create a dynamic set of resources that the field is pairing with the CCT Rubric for Effective Teaching, used in the observation of practice and performance for teachers as part of the educator evaluation and support process.
- Members of the Advisory Council underscored the importance of having supports to implementing the ISTE standards across multiple fronts, including effective and relevant professional development, a tie to teacher evaluation to ensure accountability and fidelity of implementation, and some form of student evaluation to assess mastery of the standards.
- Doug agreed to convene a working group around these efforts comprised of engaged educators from the Practices as well as Digital Learning Advisory Councils and others who have expressed interest in offering their contributions of time and insight.
- ISTE is also releasing teacher standards next year. Doug has been working with the standards team at ISTE to gather teacher input on these standards and will

facilitate a session at the upcoming CT Educators Computer Association (CECA) conference to collect educator feedback on potential standards.

Open Education Resources

- The members continued the discussion started in May on how to adopt and support open education resource (OER) standards and materials. Doug asked Kevin Corcoran to speak about progress to date of Representative Haddad's Open Source Textbooks Task Force, a group that meets regularly to look at OER solutions for the higher education community. Kevin obviously had a substantial amount of background and insight to share and highlighted the following points:
  - The Task Force has created a survey gathering input from educators on their use of OER materials.
  - The Task Force has discussed and reviewed different platforms for managing OER materials at a state level.
  - K – 12 schools can leverage higher education materials after tailoring them for grade level appropriateness.
  - The State Library has made great inroad on the OER front over the years, especially with its recent work in rolling out electronic books (eBooks).
  - Newington and other districts are moving to digital textbooks.
  - Exemplar states in the adoption of OER standards, platforms, and materials include California, Florida, Georgia, and Utah.
  - Funds are available to assist with a statewide rollout of an OER initiative. Granting bureaus are enthusiastically looking for states to propose initiatives tied to OER.
- Doug mentioned OER work on the K – 12 side through the U.S. Department of Education's #GoOpen initiative and his efforts through the State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA) to bring Connecticut on board as a "GoOpen" state. Joe Campbell with the Technical High School System has also done a substantial amount of research in this area.
- The Advisory Council members agreed that a concerted, statewide initiative around OER held promise to ensure consistency and efficiency across K – 12, higher education, adult education, and libraries.
- Doug will start the process of convening potential partners in this effort to identify standards, professional development resources, a common platform for materials storage and retrieval, etc.