

Proposed Changes to Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 61a: Educational Technology

Background

The Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology exists as the principal educational technology advisor for state government, developing and overseeing state-wide technology goals for schools, libraries, institutions of higher education, and municipalities.

Justifications

As defined by CGS § 61a, the Commission's responsibilities address the concerns of a variety of stakeholders, with students as the main beneficiaries. Yet as those who most directly serve and advocate on students' behalf, teachers and educational leaders do not have direct representation on the Commission. Guidance from these constituencies remains critical to many of the Commission's responsibilities, including the definition of student and teacher technology competencies [sections (c)(2)(D and E)] and professional development strategies that effectively leverage technology [section (c)(5)], among others. The current Five-Year Technology Goals and Plan, a core responsibility of the Commission, includes initiatives such as open educational resources, personalized learning, data privacy, and digital equity that directly depend on the perspectives of educators and educational leaders.

The following narrow set of proposed changes would reinstate K – 12 educator and leadership positions that were removed in the most recent changes to the legislation (PA 13-247). Those changes took place to include municipal seats but have done so at the expense of having K – 12 representation. The proposed revisions would keep the Commission's municipal members while reinstating four (4) educator and leader positions previously defined by the statute.

Proposed Revisions

Changes to Chapter 61a, Sections 4d-80(a)(2) and (3) as follows (new text in underline):

(2) one member each representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the Connecticut Library Association, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Educators Computer Association; (3) a secondary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Education Association and an elementary school teacher designated by the American Federation of Teachers – Connecticut