



Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology September 2023 Executive Director's Report

Digital Equity

- Currently engaged in Planning Phase (\$736K), the development of state Digital Equity Plan to address barriers to technology availability, adoption, and use
- More than a dozen focus groups completed in June and July, addressing digital equity issues with residents and frontline workers who support priority groups
- Resident survey with more than 6,000 responses, capturing input on service and device availability and affordability, skills, and technical support
- Covered populations less likely to have an Internet connection or device; lower levels of digital literacy; greater needs around service and device affordability
- Widespread concerns around privacy, digital literacy skills, and technical support
- August 24 listening session of digital navigators, state leaders, and community partners to identify strategies for Digital Equity Plan
- Extension of phase by 120 days, pending approval by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Likely draft plan late fall for internal review, curing with National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), and public comment
- Letter of support for Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Action Items
 - Plan design input at [CT.gov/DigitalEquity](https://ct.gov/DigitalEquity)
 - Input from providers of digital equity services for service mapping and funding eligibility: www.bit.ly/DigEquityPartners

K – 12 Cybersecurity Resources

- Updates and resources equipping Connecticut schools and highlighting efforts by Commission and CEN to protect institutions and equip residents
- [K-12 Digital Infrastructure Brief: Defensible & Resilient](#): US Department of Education and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guide highlighting CEN network-level and end-point protections
- CISA Training for Schools: Content specifically for K – 12 school leaders, staff, and students to help protect against cyber attacks
- Private Partners: Amazon Web Services (AWS), Cloudflare, and PowerSchool providing free cybersecurity training and tools