Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
June 16, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Virtual Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

June 16, 2026

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Present:

- Dr. Matthew Conway, Professor, Superintendent Derby Public Schools
- Dr. Margie Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.
- Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success (Center), Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
- Gary Highsmith, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools
- Yasmin Ithier-Vicenty, Teacher, Hartford Public Schools
- Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
- Dr. Ashley Oldham, Assistant Professor of Education, Department of Special Education, University of Saint Joseph
- Dr. James Zavodjancik, Chief Academy Officer, Fairfield Public Schools

Facilitator:

Dr. Ellen Stoltz, Educational Leadership Consultant, ImproveYourSchools

I. Welcome and Roll Call

E. Stoltz convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

II. Minutes from May 19, 2026

E. Stoltz opened the floor and made a motion for approval of the minutes from May 19, 2026. M. Gillis approved of the motion and J. Zavodjancik seconded.

III. Council Member Comments and Insights

No action or discussion occurred under this agenda item as Council members did not request to share comments or insights.

IV. Family Engagement Spotlight

Cody Fusco, Associate Education Consultant from the Center and Dr. Margie Gillis shared information pertaining to the Connecticut Literacy Model (CTLM) Family Literacy Events that occurred during the 2025-2026 school year. Guest speakers from Bradley School, in Derby, Connecticut, presented on their Family Literacy Nights: Lisa Detoro, Literacy Coach; Meagan Torelli, Reading Interventionist; and Melissa Breham, First Grade teacher.

V. Connecticut Comprehensive Literacy Framework (CCLF) Survey Data

Associate Education Consultants from the Center, Erin Edwards and Deirdre Savarese, provided updates on the Comprehensive Literacy Landscape Survey. If the Council had remaining questions they were encouraged to email Deirdre.Savarese@ct.gov and Erin.Edwards@ct.gov.

VI. Connecticut English Learner/Multilingual Learner Framework

Dr. Megan Alubicki Flick, English Learner/Multilingual Learner Consultant at the CSDE, presented on the Connecticut English Learner and Multilingual (EL/ML) Learner Framework.

VII. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held virtually on September 22, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.