

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
August 19, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Virtual Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

August 19, 2025

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Present:

- Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent Derby Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Professor, Neag School of Education the University of Connecticut
- Kim Healy, Selectwoman, Wilton, CT
- 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

Facilitator:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

M. Hickey convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m., following a delay due to technical issues.

II. Robert's Rules to Accept Minutes from June 17, 2025

M. Hickey opened the floor and made a motion for approval of the minutes from June 17, 2025. A. Oldham approved the motion and G. Highsmith 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. Updates Regarding Connecticut's K-3 Literacy Strategy Expansion to Include Grades 4-12

Staff from the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success joined discussion to answer questions and gather feedback from Council members on Connecticut's K-3 Literacy Strategy Expansion. A. Oldham shared with members an overview on summer expansion. M.

Hickey shared with Council members the original K-3 Strategy; Council members were given time to review the revised K-12 document. Discussion ensued.

V. Council Meeting Times for 2025–2026 School Year

Discussion ensued with Council members. Council members agreed on changing the meeting time from 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m., to 1:00 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held virtually on October 14, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.