



# A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTICUT  
Education

**2024-2025**

CT Reading Leadership  
Implementation Council

October 15, 2024

Connecticut State  
Department of Education



# Agenda

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call** (2:00 p.m.-2:05 p.m.)  
Council Clerk to call attendance
  
- II. **Council Member Comments and Insights** (2:05 p.m.-2:35 p.m.)
  
- III. **Director's Updates Regarding *The K-3 Literacy Plan for the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success*** (2:35 p.m.-2:55 p.m.)
  
- IV. **Crucial Conversations in Action: 2024-26 Goals of the Council** (2:55 p.m.-3:25 p.m.)
  
- V. **Meeting Adjournment**



# Adopted Council Norms

- Equitable Participation
  - Pause
  - Be open and allow constructive silence
  - Share the air
- Active Listening
  - Paraphrase
  - Be present
- Respect for All Perspectives
  - Assume positive intentions
  - Take an inquiry stance



# Council Members Comments and Insights





# Director's Updates: Continued System of Supports

## Funding Assistance

**ARPA and ARP ESSER Grants** were awarded to assist Connecticut local and regional boards of education in addressing educational disparities and increasing their investment in scientifically based, evidence-based literacy teaching and learning to purchase:

- Connecticut approved, evidence-based, scientifically based Kindergarten to grade three (K-3) universal screening reading assessments, K-3 Reading curriculum models and programs, and associated professional learning provided by the vendors of the approved assessments, curriculum models and programs (ARP-ESSER could be utilized for staffing purposes)
- ARPA Right to Read Statewide Leadership Training (Leadership Series and Science of Reading Series)
  - Partners: UCONN, Hill for Literacy, Literacy How
  - Purpose: Increase expertise in identifying and creating systems and structures (e.g., implementing tiered instructional framework, consistent literacy knowledge, data-driven decision making), form a district literacy leadership team, and create a district literacy plan

## Three-year Fixed Pricing on Selected Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models and Programs for Goods and Services

- CSDE worked with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to issue a solicitation for bids to all Connecticut approved, evidence-based, scientifically based K-3 reading curriculum models and programs
- Awards were provided to Amplify Education, Inc., Benchmark Education Company, LLC., Imagine Learning, LLC., and Open Up Resources



# Director's Updates: Continued System of Supports

## No Cost Professional Learning Opportunities

### Connecticut's Literacy Model Strategy

- Partners: University of Connecticut, Hill for Literacy, and Literacy How
- Audience: 76 Schools across Alliance Districts and Opportunity Districts
- Purpose: Build district and school culturally responsive, scientifically-based, evidence-based literacy structures and practices

### ReadConn

- Partner: Public Consulting Group (PCG)
- Audience: School-based Teams (e.g., literacy leaders, teachers, administrators)- Total 500 participants
- Purpose: Increase teachers' expertise in identifying and providing instruction in the necessary foundational reading skills, spotting student skills gaps, and monitoring students' progress to create a solid foundation in early literacy skills



# Director's Updates: Continued System of Supports

## No Cost Professional Learning Opportunities

### K-3 Literacy Model Curricula and Program Adoption Process and Implementation Plan

- Partner: TNTP
  - Audience: 45 Schools from Alliance Districts and Opportunity Districts (District-based teams)
- Partner: Hill for Literacy
  - Audience: 14 Districts

### Network Improvement Community-Smaller Districts

- Partner: WestEd
- Audience: 15 District-based Teams (e.g., superintendent, district literacy lead, administrators, teacher leaders)
- Purpose: Develop local capacity for science of reading and components of comprehensive K-3 literacy instruction



# Director's Updates: Continued System of Supports

## No Cost Professional Learning Opportunities

### Science of Reading Masterclass

- Partner: Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
- Audience: District-based Teams (e.g., superintendent, district literacy lead, administrators, teacher leaders)
- Purpose: Develop local capacity for science of reading and components of comprehensive K-3 literacy instruction

### RESC Alliance Science of Reading Affinity Groups

- Partners: ACES and all RESCs
- Audience: District and School-based teams (e.g., administrators, instructional coaches, interventionists, curriculum leaders)
- Purpose: Collaborative groups designed to support districts in implementing state-approved curriculum models and programs. Coaching will be provided to districts as well.





# Crucial Conversations: Key Strategies

## 1. Start with Heart:

Focus on what you want from the conversation, for you for others. Be clear about your intentions and goals.

## 2. Learn to Look:

Be aware of the conversation's dynamics.

Pay attention to whether the conversation is moving smoothly or if council members are defensive or inattentive.

## 3. Make it Safe:

Create a safe environment for dialogue. Show respect and concern for other opinions. Clarify your intentions.

## 4. Master Your Stories:

Recognize the stories that influence you emotionally. Avoid jumping to conclusions.

## 5. State Your Path:

Share your viewpoint clearly and confidently.

Use facts and describe your thoughts and feelings, then invite others to share their perspectives.



# Crucial Conversations: Key Strategies

## 6. Explore Others' Paths:

Encourage others to share their views. Ask open-ended questions.

## 7. Move to Action:

After discussing the issue, agree on a course of action.

Make sure everyone is clear about what will happen next, who will do what, and by when.

## 8. Agree on a Mutual Purpose:

The first Council established shared goals. These goals and the legislation inform our purpose.

This stated purpose helps keep the conversation constructive and focused on achieving a positive outcome.

## 9. Use Contrasting:

If someone misunderstands your intentions or feels attacked, clarify your meaning.

Explain what you don't mean and state what you do mean.

## 10. Practice Active Listening:

Show you are listening by asking clarifying questions. This builds trust and ensures that everyone feels heard.



# Crucial Conversations in Action: Legislated Roles and Responsibilities

## Director: Oversee Center Activities Aligned to the Legislation

1. Communicate Center activities to inform the Council and the field.
2. Coordinate the dissemination of information, tools, and services to advance legislation.
3. Consult with the Council to review issues related to *implementing* an approved curriculum model or program, including the provision of technical assistance to those districts whose waiver was not approved.

## Council: Provide Input to Center Activities Aligned to Legislation

1. Communicate activities of the Center to inform the field.
2. Disseminate information, tools, and services to advance the legislation.
3. Share successes and challenges of *implementing* an approved curriculum model or program with the Center, including the provision of technical assistance to those districts whose waiver was not approved.



# Crucial Conversations in Action: Reading Leadership Implementation Council Goals



## 2023-24 Goals

- **AWARENESS:** Review research and analyze successful birth through grade 12 evidence-based literacy strategies and instruction (e.g., Multi-tiered Systems of Support, Tutoring, District Work).
- **POLICY:** Build upon [Connecticut's K-3 Strategy](#) to include birth through grade 12.
- **CAPACITY:** Evaluate and identify supports for schools and districts regarding K-3 assessment and instruction (e.g., professional learning, tools, materials, etc.).
- **COMMUNITY:** Support and communicate the activities, information, and services provided by the Center.



# 2024-25 Meeting Dates and Times

- September 17, 2024 (1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.)
- October 15, 2024 (2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)
- December 17, 2024
- February 25, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 17, 2025