

**Connecticut State Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

November 16, 2022

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology and Co-Director for the Center for Behavioral Education and Research (CBER), NEAG School of Education, UCONN
- Dr. Margie, Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.
- Ms. Kim Healy, Wilton, CT
- Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Chief Academic Officer, Bridgeport Public Schools
- Ms. Frances Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Retired Educator

**Absent:**

- Ms. Christina Tietz, English Teacher, Waterbury Public Schools
- Mr. Steven Hernandez Esq., Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity (CWCSEO)
- Dr. Stephanie Lockhart, Principal, Avon High School, Avon Public Schools
- Ms. Cristina Kingsbury, Instructional Coach, Naugatuck Public Schools

**Facilitator:**

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

**Staff Present:**

- Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Leslie Navarrete, Education Staff Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome and Roll Call**

The Council's facilitator Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE), convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m. and the Council's Clerk called attendance. Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey welcomed the Council and reviewed the Council norms.

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from September 20, 2022, and October 3, 2022**

The Council accepted the minutes and final will be posted to [Reading Leadership Implementation Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/reading-leadership-implementation-council).

**III. Explore Our Connecticut Student Literacy Data**

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education shared information regarding Connecticut student literacy data. Mr. Gopalakrishnan noted that prior to the COVID pandemic, around 54 percent of Connecticut students were proficient in English language arts (ELA) on the Smarter Balanced assessment, and after the COVID pandemic the proficiency rate declined to 47 percent, nearly 19,000 Connecticut students are not proficient in ELA in Grade 3. The pattern existed prior to covid but was exacerbated. He also shared that the majority of Connecticut students below proficiency in Grade 3 remain below in Grade 6 ELA. (for more information on the presentation please review [November 16, 2022, PowerPoint Presentation](#))

Council members had the opportunity to ask questions.

**IV. Review Draft Connecticut's Literacy Plan and Strategy**

The Council reviewed and discussed the draft plan and strategy. Council members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Dr. Melissa K. Włodarczyk Hickey plans to submit documents to Communications Office on December 1, 2022, so the approval process can begin.

**V. Update on Staffing and Resourcing of Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success**

Unaddressed agenda item.

**VI. Other Topics**

Unaddressed agenda item.

**VII. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.