



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Update on Efforts to Support Districts, Families and Students During COVID-19 Disruption

Resources to Support Distance Learning

- Resource Volumes for Districts to Support Student Learning During COVID-19 Class Cancellations
 - [**Volume 1:**](#) Content specific resources organized by discipline and grade band. (March 17, 2020)
 - [**Volume 2:**](#) Expanded content specific resources and general resources to support remote learning. (March 31, 2020)
 - [**Volume 3:**](#) Student data privacy, grading practices, assessment, and professional learning. (April 14, 2020)
 - [**Volume 4:**](#) Instruction for Three-tiered model of SRBI, SRBI resources, and MTSS-behavioral resources. (May 1, 2020)

Resources to Support Distance Learning (continued)

- Philanthropic Supports
 - 60,000 laptops for high school students in Alliance Districts and others
 - 187,000 [scholastic book packs](#) for PK-8 students in Alliance Districts and others
 - [Learn from Home Task Force](#) to coordinate safe distribution
 - Working in collaboration with the LEGO Group. Over 3500 Replay Sets were distributed to all public school 1st graders in Waterbury and Bridgeport along with an additional 180 sets to needy students in Enfield, LEGO's US Headquarters.

Resources to Support Distance Learning (continued)

- District needs assessments and supports
- Distance learning participation and barriers
- [CARES Act Priorities](#)
 - Equitable access to technology (devices and connectivity)
 - Equitable access to high quality online curriculum including supports
 - Education Recovery & Reopening Schools
 - Social/emotional well-being
- Rapid Connectivity Deployment Group (CSDE represented on Governor's Office workgroup)

Professional Support Series (Live and Recorded Webinars)

[CT.gov Home](#) / [Department of Education](#) / [Professional Support Series for Districts](#)

Directions for Sharing Best District Practices in Connecticut >

District Financial Considerations >

Early Childhood and Distance Learning >

Executive Orders and Education >

Guidance on English Learners >

Guidance on Social and Emotional Learning >

Guidance on Special Education >

Learning at a Distance: Journeys of Connecticut Schools >

Performance Topics >

Student Supports Topics >

Talent Updates >

Professional Support Series for Districts

Welcome to the Professional Support Series for Districts. Please select a topic below and join as we learn together and grow together.

Directions for Sharing Best District Practices

District Financial Considerations

Early Childhood and Distance Learning

Executive Orders and Education

Guidance on English Learners

Guidance on Social & Emotional Learning

Guidance on Special Education

Learning at a Distance:
Journeys of Connecticut Schools

Performance Topics

Student Supports Topics

Talent Updates

Professional Support Series for Districts

Learning at a Distance: Journeys of Connecticut Schools

Multi-part live webinar series that showcased a range of Connecticut districts

- [Session 1: Addressing the K-12 Continuum](#) (April 21, 2020)
- [Session 2: A Focus on English Language Arts and Mathematics](#) (April 23, 2020)
- [Session 3: Meeting the Challenges and Learning from Change](#) (April 28, 2020)
- [Session 4: When your Classroom is in your Home: Teaching and Learning Science K–12](#) (May 5, 2020)
- [Session 5: Teaching the Artistic Processes from a Distance](#) (May 7, 2020)
- [Session 6: Virtually Teaching Today’s Skills for Tomorrow’s Careers](#) (May 11, 2020)
- [Session 7 - Teaching Social Studies in a Period of Change](#) (May 18, 2020)
- [Session 8 - Strategies for Effective Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Online Instruction](#) (May 21, 2020)

Professional Support Series for Districts

Performance Topics and English Learners

- Performance
 - [Remote Interim Assessment Administration and Smarter Balanced Remote Learning Resources](#) (April 24, 2020)
 - [EdSight Secure Student Summary Webinar](#) (May 5, 2020)
- English Learners
 - [High-Quality Distance Learning Resources for English Learners](#) (April 2, 2020)
 - [Best Practices for Serving English Learners](#) (May 1, 2020)

Professional Support Series for Districts

Social Emotional Learning and Student Support

- Guidance on Social and Emotional Learning
 - [Grief Supports for the School Community](#) (April 27, 2020)
 - [Engaging Students and Families During COVID-19](#) (May 15, 2020)
 - [Effective Engagement of Students and Families from Diverse Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (May 18, 2020)
- Student Supports Topics
 - [Family Engagement for Educators: Friday CAFÉ Series: Family Engagement During COVID-19](#) (May 8 and May 29, 2020)
 - [School Nursing: Virtual 2020 Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference](#) (May 13 and June 24, 2020)
 - [Student Voices: Distance Learning During COVID-19 Virtual Connecticut Forum](#) (May 20, 2020)
 - [Connecting and Listening to Vulnerable Families During COVID-19](#) (June 5, 2020)

Professional Support Series for Districts

Alternative Schools/Programs and Homeless Liaisons

- Support for Educators at Alternative Schools and Programs
 - Connecting and Sharing Best Practices for Alternative Education Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Support for Homeless Liaisons
 - Biweekly Virtual Conversations on COVID-19: Questions, Strategies, and Information



Connecticut State Department of Education Professional Support Series for Districts

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Series 6 — May 6, 2020

Support for Educators at Alternative Schools and Programs (Live webinar)

Connecting and Sharing Best Practices for Alternative Education Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During this extraordinary time, it is vitally important that we maintain a positive and supportive environment for students and staff as we adjust to ever-evolving changes. The role of educators has taken on even more importance as we create a sense of normalcy and security for our students. Alternative School Settings, in particular, have consistently adjusted well to meeting the diverse needs of students. This virtual meeting will provide an opportunity for educators to connect and share information about their successes, as well as, learn from others new and creative ways to continue educating and supporting our students.

Guidance on Social and Emotional Learning

Effective Engagement of Students and Families from Diverse Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic educators are learning new ways to promote continued student engagement and learning. Effectively engaging students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds must be informed by an understanding of the social and environmental structures that influence continued engagement in the learning process. This video will provide some guidance and best practices in how educators can promote and maintain connections with students and families of diverse backgrounds, in an effective, informed and sensitive manner.

Family Engagement for Educators (Live webinars)

Friday CAFÉ Series: Family Engagement During COVID-19

This two-session online series will focus on family engagement during COVID-19. These sessions will feature the voices of practitioners and families in CT schools and districts who have developed promising practices related to: two-way communication with families, meeting families' SEL needs, and connecting with marginalized and EL families.

Presented in collaboration with the CSDE Turnaround Office and the Statewide Family Engagement Center at CREC.



Presenters: Jocelyn Mackey, PhD, Education Consultant, CSDE; Glen Peterson, Division Director, CSDE

Date: May 13, 2020, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Register: <https://ctsdevents.webex.com/ctsdevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=039546049a24911bd7a37005d8fd2f2d>

The session will be recorded and available for future access on the [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#) webpage.



Presenters: Jocelyn Mackey, PhD, Education Consultant, CSDE

Recorded Session Available: May 18 on the [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#) webpage.



Presenters: Dr. Judy Carson, CSDE Family Engagement Specialist

Dates: May 8 and May 29, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Register:

5/8/20 session: <https://zoom.us/join/register/jv5UpluutaTqgZLMGvYFmbZxXO3ix-InvIdg>

5/29/20 session: https://zoom.us/join/register/tZUfuf2rcj8vW0a6v1JNfbb_EdZUa-Mat_A

These sessions will be recorded and available for future access on the [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#) webpage.

Professional Support Series for Districts

Internet Safety and Student Attendance/Engagement

- Safe Student Use of the Internet
 - Internet Safety: Information for Parents and Caregivers
- Internet Safety for Students
 - Internet Safety for Students: Empowering Smart Online Choices
 - Child Trafficking and Child Abuse Training
- Talk Tuesdays: Student Attendance, Engagement and Support
 - Bi-weekly sessions engaging district attendance administrators around student engagement and participation during COVID-19



Connecticut State Department of Education
Professional Support Series for Districts

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Series 8 — May 12, 2020

Safe Student Use of the Internet

Internet Safety: Information for Parents and Caregivers

In today's ever growing technological world, new trends and programs are developed to improve our lives. But with all these new advances, especially during this challenging time of distant learning and students spending more time online than ever, come new concerns. Parents and caregivers will learn of the new technology their children are accessing, the risks and dangers that exist, and how to establish safety rules for their children. Topics include: today's current apps and programs; cyber bullying; sexting/texting; social networking positives and negatives; online gaming; how to protect kids from becoming victims of trafficking and exploitation; and, how families create "digital footprints."

This program is made possible through collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Connecticut Children's Alliance, Connecticut Human Trafficking Response Team (HART) and Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut.

Internet Safety for Students

Internet Safety for Students: Empowering Smart Online Choices

In today's world students need to know what could happen if they are not thinking about safety or the consequences of using today's ever-changing technology. While there are a lot of positive aspects to the Internet, social media, gaming and communications, there are serious dangers that could happen if students don't understand the risks. Results of our online actions can impact us all immediately and in our futures, so the time to start thinking about smart online choices is now. This presentation will not be a lecture but will be an open and honest conversation about staying safe and making the best choices we can.

Topics include:

- social networking—positives and negatives and the impact they could have;
- cyber bullying—how to protect yourself and others;
- picture sharing—dangers and consequences;
- video chats;
- email concerns;
- creating "digital footprints"; and
- how technology can help or hurt you, not only currently but in the future.

This program is made possible through collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Connecticut Children's Alliance, Connecticut Human Trafficking Response Team (HART) and Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut.



Presenter: Scott Driscoll, former police officer and president of Internet Safety Concepts LLC

Date: Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5980354101317253646>

The session will be recorded and available for future access on the [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#) webpage.



Presenter: Scott Driscoll, former police officer and president of Internet Safety Concepts LLC

Date: Tuesday, May 19 at 2 p.m.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2604995241045116174>

The session will be recorded and available for future access on the [CSDE Professional Support Series for Districts](#) webpage.

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- Support for Students with Special Needs >

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by Keyword

Professional Support Series for Families

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Early Childhood

English Learners

Social and Emotional Support

Support for Students with Special Needs

Professional Support Series for Families

Social Emotional Learning and Other Supports

- Social and Emotional Support
 - [Family Tips: Providing Social and Emotional Support to Children for COVID-19](#)
 - [The Three Rs of Learning from Home: Tips for Stressed-out Families](#)
 - [Student Voices: Distance Learning During COVID-19 Virtual Connecticut Forum](#)
- English Learners and Continuation of Education
 - [Resources for Learning at Home](#)
 - [Recursos para Aprender en Casa](#)
- Early Childhood
 - [Distance learning and the importance of play and predictability](#)

Professional Support Series for Families

Supporting Students with Special Needs

- [Resources and Supports for Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Supporting Parents/Caregivers of Students with High Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) including:
 - ([Life Skills/Self-Help Skills](#); [Art](#); [Communication Skills](#); [Physical Activity/Mobility](#); [Literacy](#); [Sensory Activities/Supports](#); [Math](#); [Play and Leisure](#); and [Science, Social Studies, Current Events](#))
- [Secondary Transition Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- Learn-from-Home Resources for Parents/Guardians of Learners with Special Needs (Including Those with Significant Cognitive Disabilities) [Webinar 1](#) and [Webinar 2](#)

Special Education Supports

- [COVID-19 Special Education Guidance and Resources](#)
- Communication and Engagement
 - Educators (ConnCASE), Parent Training (CPAC), Parent/Child Advocates, Special Education Roundtable, State Advisory Council for Special Education
- Guidance and Training Provided
 - Dispute Resolution sessions
 - CPAC: What Parents Want to Know and FAQ
 - FAPE: Topic Brief and Flowchart
 - Approved Private Special Education Contracts
 - Continued Educational Opportunities and the PPT Process
 - Extended School Year (ESY) – for students on IEPs
 - Child Find during COVID-19
 - Students Exiting from Special Education
 - Recovery Services for Students with Disabilities

Child Nutrition Programs

- [School Child Nutrition Programs Under COVID-19](#)
- Emergency School Meals Program
 - 132 Programs, 460 Sites, 8-Million meals since the closure of schools in March; 123 At-risk After-school Supper Programs
 - Waivers and Summer Extensions
- Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Program (DSS Partnership)
290,000 students receive a one-time benefit of approximately \$365 each
(Total: \$105-Million)
 - Phase 1 - Late May: Students in households receiving benefits through SNAP and TANF
 - Phase 2 - June 7th: Students in households enrolled in Medicaid (HUSKY A)
 - Phase 3 - Mid-June: Students not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2 but **receiving** free or reduced-price school meals when school is in session
- Meals to You Program
 - Rural food box delivery program
- State FEMA Application
 - Funding to support additional meal services