

Attendance & Engagement System of Support & Professional Communities

Talk Tuesdays

Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with SERC

November 14, 2023



Today's Agenda

Welcome

Christine Kuehlewind, Stephen Proffitt, Ann Marie Cordisco, and Elisa Laudati,
State Education Resource Center (SERC)

What's New at CSDE and Partners

Kari Sullivan Custer, Attendance & Engagement Consultant, CSDE
Jay Brown, Bureau of Special Education Consultant (Academic Office), CSDE

Governor's Prevention Partnership

Najla Staggers

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Christine Kuehlewind, SERC



Welcome

October 11, 2023

- [Middle East Conflict - Resources for talking to Students, Families and Staff](#)

October 12, 2023

- [On behalf of CT Department of Transportation Commissioner Garrett T. Eucalitto – 2023 CTDOT Snowplow Naming Contest](#)

October 16, 2023

- [Press Release: Connecticut's 2024 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year](#)

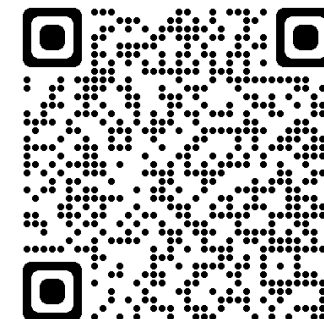
October 19, 2023

- [Press Release: The LEAP Effect: A Systemic Approach To Boosting Student Attendance and Engagement](#)
- 2022-23 School Discipline Data Posted on EdSight: [suspension rates](#), [district tiers](#), [incidents](#), [sanctions](#), and [bullying](#).
- [CSDE launches Grades K-5 Computer Science Model Curricula](#)

October 23, 2023

- [CSDE's New Entry Age for Kindergarten: Considerations for Connecticut Schools](#)

[Superintendent's Digest](#)





Welcome

October 26, 2023

- [Connecticut Special Education Data System \(CT-SEDS\) User Experience Pulse Survey](#)
- [Press Release: Governor Lamont and Commissioner Russell-Tucker Announce Release of \\$11.5 million to 46 School Districts to Boost High Dosage Tutoring](#)
- [Press Release: Governor Lamont Announces Kiana Foster-Mauro is Connecticut's 2024 Teacher of the Year](#)

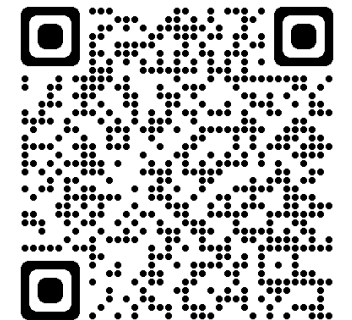
November 2, 2023

- [Just Released! Bright Spots: Improving High School Student Attendance in Connecticut](#)
- [2022-23 Education Financial System, Special Education Excess Cost Grant System, Public School Information System, and Independent Accountant's Report](#)

November 9, 2023

- [Student Recruitment for Choice Programs and Specialized Schools](#)

[Superintendent's Digest](#)





Attendance Rates

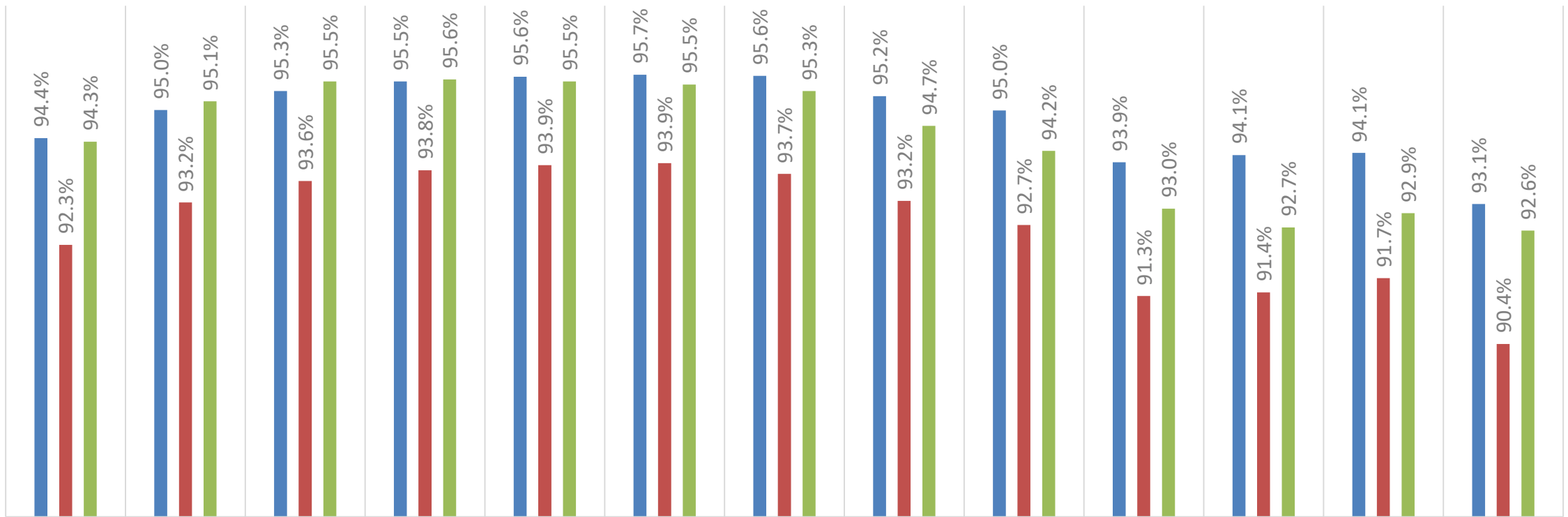
Beginning of Year compared to Previous Years



ATTENDANCE RATES FOR YTD SEPTEMBER 2023 COMPARED TO SCHOOL YEARS 2022-23 AND 2019-20



■ 2019-20 ■ 2022-23 ■ YTD 09/23



<https://edsight.ct.gov/relatedreports/Supporting%20Student%20Participation%20in%202020-21.html>



CSDE Attendance Support



SERC Attendance Team (Steve, Christine, Ann Marie Elisa)

- Talk Tuesdays
- Affinity Groups (High School and Kindergarten)
- ***Attendance Advisory Group***

LEAP Team with CREC and EdAdvance (Francisco and Caroline)

- LEAP District Coordinators (grantees) Facilitation
- CT Home Visit Hub - LEAP 101 Trainings, ConneCTions Meetings
- The LEAP Effect
- Individualized District Support for LEAP and overall attendance strategy and structures

Access to Data

- Monthly – Supporting Student Participation
- EdSight and EdSight Secure
-

Attendance Works

- The LEAP Effect Brief
- High School Bright Spots Brief

Statewide Attendance Awareness Campaign

with Governor's Office (O'Donnell Company a and EdAdvance

On-line toolkit

Pop-up Store (coming soon)



The LEAP Effect

Learner Engagement & Attendance Program (LEAP)



The LEAP Effect

A collaboration between CSDE, Attendance Works, CREC & EdAdvance

- [101 Virtual Trainings](#)
for home visitors free
of charge through the
CT Home Visit Hub

www.ct.gov/LEAP



September 2023

LEAP





Learner Engagement & Attendance Program

The LEAP Effect

Taking A Systemic Approach to
Improving Attendance & Engagement

*Lessons Learned from Connecticut's
Learner Engagement & Attendance Program (LEAP)*

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) with contributions from
Attendance Works, CREC, and EdAdvance

 Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker John D. Frassinelli Kari Sullivan Custer	 Hedy Chang Catherine Cooney Cecelia Leong	 Amy Karwan Francisco Baires	 Jonathan Costa Caroline C. Calhoun
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BRIGHT SPOTS

Improving High School Student Attendance in Connecticut



BRIGHT SPOTS: Improving High School Student Attendance in Connecticut

October 2023



What did high school leaders do to keep or bring their chronic absence numbers down?

The brief provides

- cross-cutting themes,
- ongoing challenges,
- recommendations and
- summaries of schools interviewed.

The [brief](#) was recently presented on [Talk Tuesday](#).

[Watch the presentation](#) with Helen Duffy, Attendance Works, and Matthew Ryan, East Hartford High School.



Talk Tuesdays



[CT.gov Home](#) / [Department of Education](#) / [Talk Tuesdays - Student Attendance and Engagement](#)

Talk Tuesdays - Student Attendance and Engagement

Overview

Talk Tuesdays are information sharing sessions that provide district and school staff an opportunity to support each other and their work to improve student attendance and engagement. Virtual sessions are a quick way to stay in touch with a network of support. One hour sessions are held every other Tuesday and engage state agency, district and school staff in an open dialogue around student attendance and engagement. Meetings are **open to all** working to improve engagement and attendance – school, district and community members.

The objectives of Talk Tuesdays are to: 1) stay up-to-date on state policies, practices, events and issues; 2) share successes and lessons learned, 3) trouble-shoot common concerns and 4) provide overall support to each other. Participants help identify the topics for future meetings, present problems of practice, and spend time together expanding our knowledge and capacity to engage students in school.

Register for Talk Tuesdays (one time registration for all sessions) at: <https://serc.info/tues2324>. If you have trouble registering, please contact Holli Ryan at ryan@ctserc.org.



Talk Tuesday Sessions 2023-24

- Hartford Public Schools ACE Team
- BRIGHT SPOTS: Improving High School Student Attendance in Connecticut
- School is Better with You! Attendance Awareness Campaign
- Understanding and Interpreting Monthly Attendance Data

Summer Series 2023 - "Back to Basics"

- School Climate: Impact on Attendance
- Attendance & Engagement 101

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Chronic-Absence/Talk-Tuesdays>



Featured Speakers

Governor's Prevention Partnership

Najla Staggers



Building School Love:

*Tap the Power of School-Based Mentoring
Recommendations, and Inside Info on Our Initiative*

2023 - 2024



PreventionWorksCT.org



Facebook.com/GPPC



@PREVENTIONWORKSCT



@PREVENTIONNEWS



Welcome & Introductions





Facilitator

Najla Staggers

Director of Mentoring Training and Program Development, The Governor's Prevention Partnership

najla@gppct.org

Reflection...

- Adults have had at least one person in their lives that have made a difference

Activity

- *How has someone made a difference to you?*
Put your response in the chat



Who can be mentors at school?

- Teachers
- School personnel
- Corporate partners
- Who else... add to the chat
 - Any hurdles with the suggestions?



Mentoring at K-12 schools, whether by volunteers or school personnel, brings caring adults and older peer relationships to the lives of more youth and has been for several decades.



School-Based Mentoring Initiative

Partnership with CSDE

- Provide resources, training and support to educators about the benefits of youth mentoring as a prevention tool
- Support the training and program development of schools and districts already developing mentoring programs
- Provide resources and opportunities for recruitment of mentors and mentor matching within schools



Key Questions to Get Started

- What types of programs or supports exist to support a structure
 - How will you host the following
 - Meetings
 - Trainings
 - On-board key staff and stakeholders
- How are mentors identified and selected?
- What policies need to be implemented?



Mentoring Programs in Schools

- **What type of school-based mentoring program should schools consider... should be based on the following considerations:**
 - Commitment
 - Mentoring Platform
 - Virtual mentoring
 - One-to-One
 - Group
 - Team
 - Teacher to student
 - Peer Mentoring



Recruitment Process

- Who will you recruit?
- How will you recruit?
- Considerations and hurdles to consider...



Training

- On-site or at school
- Number of hours
- Expectations
- Relationship Development
- Bias
- Monitoring
- First Meeting Orientation



Student Selection

- What students will be served?
- Student interviews
- Priority list
- Teacher or guidance counselor recommendation
- New mentor workshops and trainings - ongoing



Hurdles

- Time
- Student does not show
- Parental involvement
- Mentor backs out
- Mentor does not feel successful



The Possibilities...

School-based mentoring programs may provide structured activity curricula or guidance to mentors about activities they can do with mentees.



Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Talk Tuesdays for the 2023-24 School Year

2023

- November 28
- December 12

2024

- January 9
- January 23
- February 6
- February 20
- March 5
- March 19
- April 2
- April 30
- May 14
- May 28

Register for Talk Tuesdays





Keep in Touch!

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