

Attendance & Engagement System of Support & Professional Communities

Talk Tuesdays

Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with
Attendance Works & SERC

2/6/2024



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

High School Attendance Affinity Group Series

Ann Marie Cordisco, SERC
Elisa Laudati, SERC

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Christine Kuehlewind, SERC



Welcome

January 8, 2024

- [Virtual LEAP 101 Trainings](#)
- [CSDE launches Grades K-5 Computer Science Model Curricula](#)

January 11, 2024

- [Guidance on Civil Rights Protections and Supports for Transgender or Gender-Diverse Students](#)
- [Student Participation in Alternate Assessment](#)
- [Internet Safety Training – On behalf of the US Attorney’s Office, District of Connecticut and the Department of Children and Families - January 25, 2024](#)

January 22, 2024

- [CT Education Forum on Literacy: A State & National Conversation](#)
- [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Liquidation Extension](#)
- [Increasing Educator Diversity Plan Support Webinar | Thursday, February 8, 2024, 2-3:30 PM \(EST\)](#)

Superintendent's Digest





Welcome

January 29, 2024

- [Enumeration Report in EdSight Secure \(Local and Regional School Districts only\)](#)
- [Deadline Extended: DMV Annual Teen Safe Driving Video Contest](#)

January 25, 2024

- [Suicide Risk Assessment Guidance](#)
- [Notice of the Availability of Mediation \(Public Act 23-137, Section 45\)](#)
- [Student Summit: Unveiling Students' Power and Legacy of Resistance: What does it have to do with you?](#)

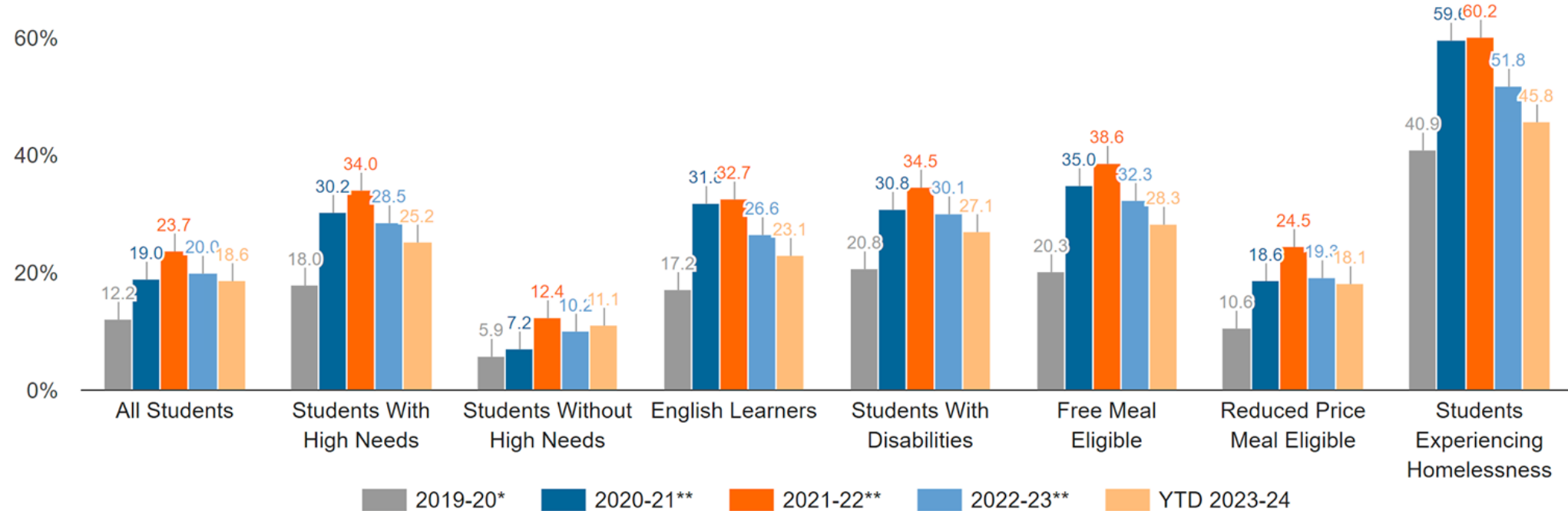
Superintendent's Digest



Year-to-Date Chronic Absence Rates December 2023

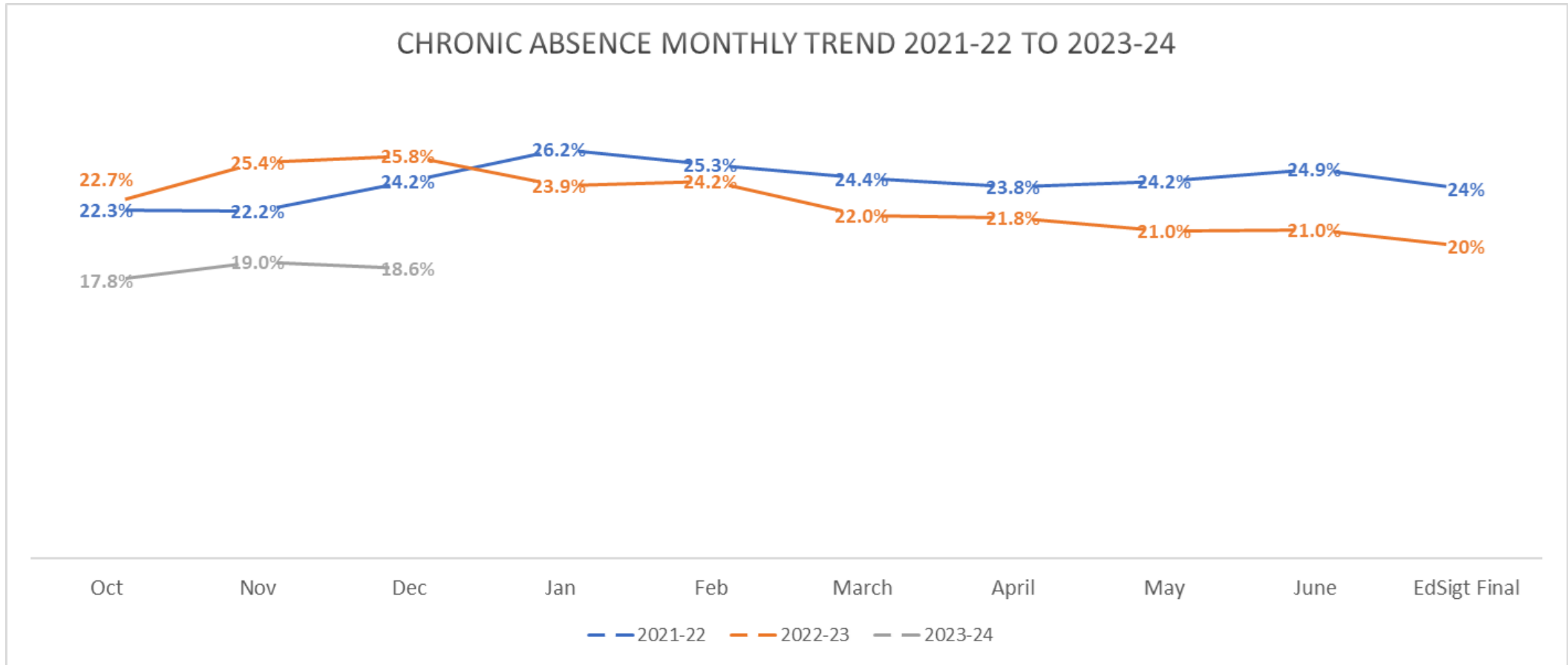


Percentage of Students Chronically Absent by Student Group (YTD as of December 2023 compared to 2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-2021, and 2019-20)



*Calculations are based only on in-person school days until mid-March 2020. **Calculations include both in-person and remote days.

Monthly Chronic Absence Trends





Attendance Awareness Toolkits

Make sure your building gets your banner, stickers, and fidget stress balls!

More than HALF of Connecticut school districts picked up toolkits!



3'x6' Vinyl Banner in English/Spanish



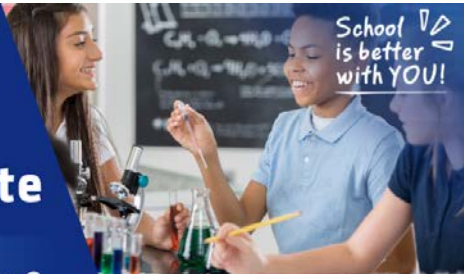
Push-n' pop stress balls



4x4 vinyl stickers

Attendance Awareness Product Website

Website Live From:
January 29 - February 9



SCAN HERE TO VISIT WEBSITE



Better With You Attendance Awareness Campaign Merchandise Available!

EdAdvance, in collaboration with BARKER SPECIALTY, is launching a pop-up website featuring an extensive range of products designed to promote positive attendance messaging. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase *Better With You* merchandise for your school and district!



Pop Up Shop Open Now through Feb. 9th!

Online Resources

Attendance Awareness Campaign

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/betterwithyou>

Attendance Awareness Media Campaign

Goal: to increase awareness of the importance of school attendance and engagement in order to improve school attendance.



High School Attendance Affinity Group Series





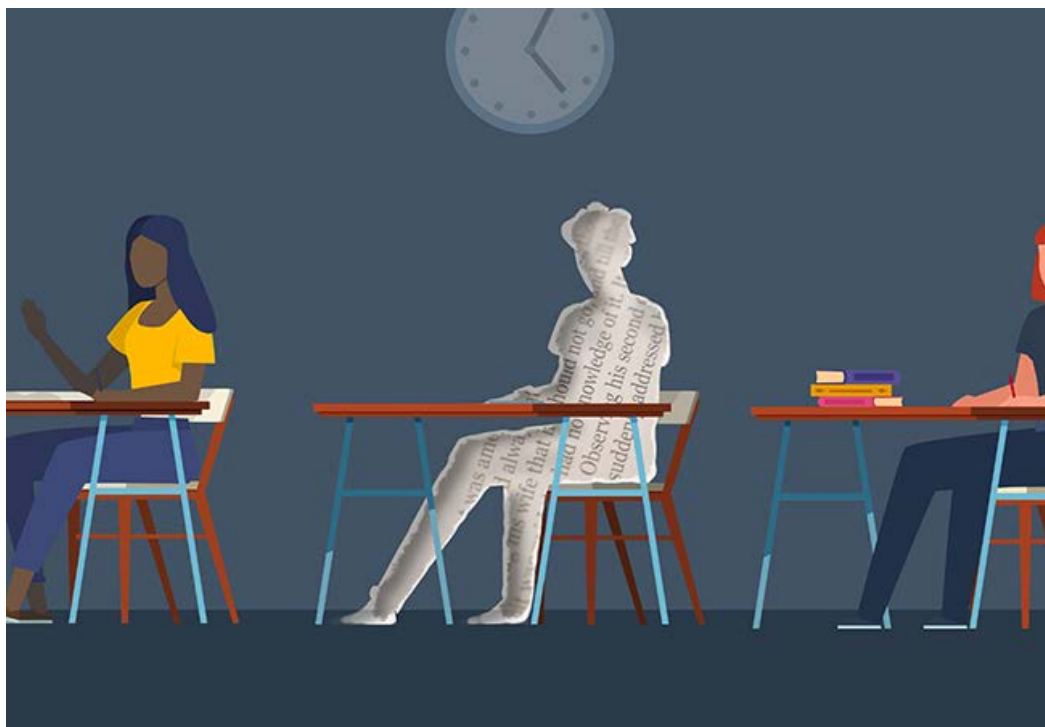
Team Members



- **Jay Brown**
Jay.Brown@ct.gov
- **Kari Sullivan Custer**
Kari.Sullivan@ct.gov
- **Ann Marie Cordisco**
Cordisco@ctserc.org
- **Holli Ryan**
Ryan@ct.serc.org
- **Christine Kuehlewind**
Kuehlewind@ctserc.org
- **Elisa Laudati**
Laudati@ctserc.org
- **Malik Champlain**
Champlain@ctserc.org
- **Nicole Vitale**
vitale@ctserc.org



High School Affinity Group Series



A three-part series for high school educators focused on attendance and engagement

Developed given:

- post-pandemic high school chronic absence rates
- collaboration between CSDE and Attendance Works
- work by the Attendance Advisory Team and participants' experience in the Science of Reading Master Class

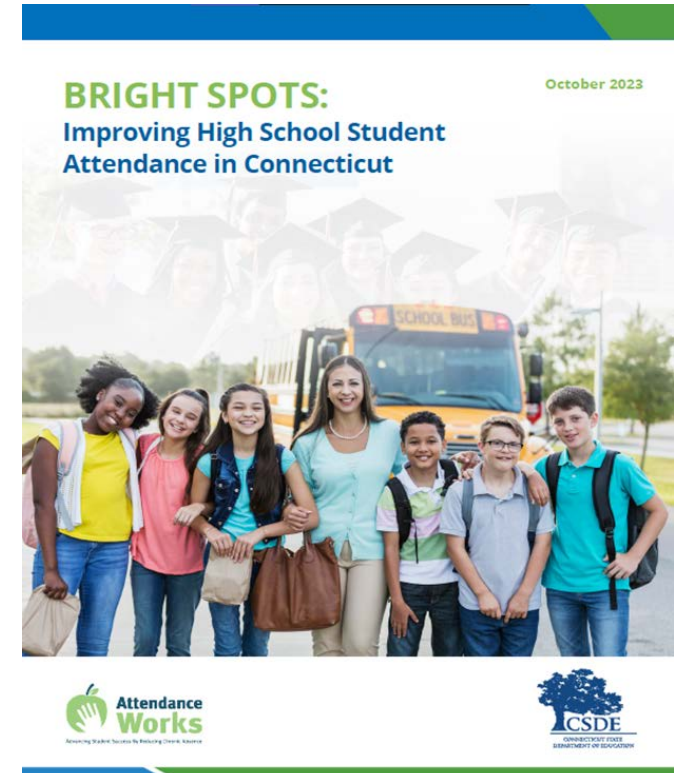


Bright Spots Brief



Attendance Works and CSDE used a semi-structured protocol with school and district leaders to understand practices, interventions, and challenges

- 7 schools participated
- Ongoing challenges were summarized
- Recommendations were proposed



[Link to Bright Spots Report](#)



Bright Spots Brief Challenges and Recommendations



Ongoing Challenges

- Mental Health
- Rebuilding School Culture
- Punitive Policies
- Districtwide Communication with Families

Recommendations

- Foundational, Whole-School Supports
- Mindset shift from punitive approaches to caring conversations
- Access to robust data systems
- School Team to champion the work
- Re-examine attendance policies
- Engage families and community members as partners
- State level support



Session 1: Bright Spots Brief Overview



- Shared Bright Spots Brief Challenges and Recommendations
- Featured a presentation by Dr. Joseph Raiola, principal at Bassick High School in Bridgeport.
- Included a breakout room with facilitated discussion and brainstorming protocol.



Session 2: Family Engagement



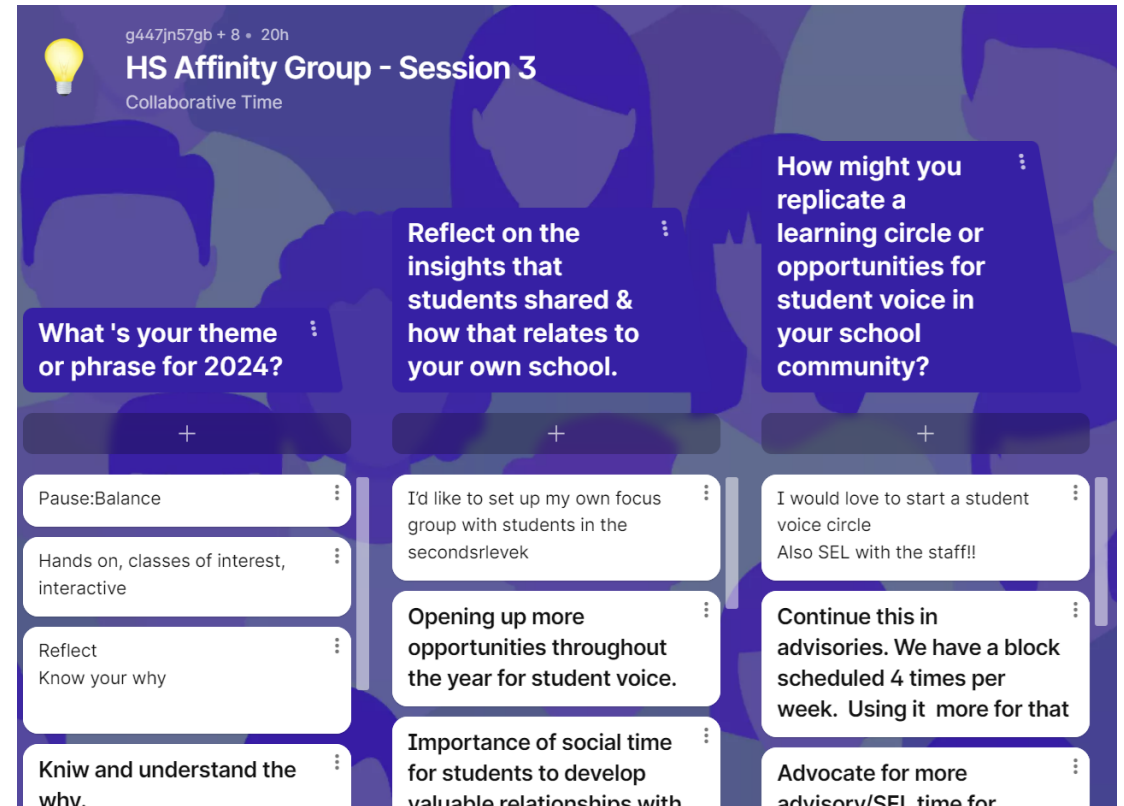
- Opened with whole group participation in Place, Name, Intention and shared Cultural Introductions activity
- Featured presentation by Caroline Calhoun, EdAdvance
- Shared resources: principles of family engagement, Learner Engagement & Attendance Program (LEAP), and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).



Session 3: Foundations for Learning



- Focused on mental health, belonging and mattering
- Featured a student panel, spotlighting student voice as a way to cultivate belonging
- Closed with collaborative time and padlet



Student Panel Themes

Make Time to Listen

"I feel motivated when I know I know I am being listened to, that teachers want me to be there, like it matters to them when I am there."

Understand Students as Learners

"Get to know students likes and dislikes, if they have an IEP know their accommodations."

Create Opportunities to Connect and Express

"...more opportunity for students to get to know one another and space to express opinions..."

Focus on Communication

"All voices should count in school."

"I like to know what is going on in school, so good communication with students"



Participant Feedback



Jacob Cornish

Student Engagement Specialist

Buckley High School



Erika Treanie

*Director of Climate, Culture, and
Engagement*

Bristol Public Schools



Other Comments or Questions?





Resources from HS Affinity Group Series



- **Session 1**

- [BRIGHT SPOTS: Improving High School Student Attendance in Connecticut](#)
- [Attendance Playbook](#)
- [Needs Assessment Toolkit Including Root Cause Analysis](#)

- **Session 2**

- [CT Full, Equal and Equitable Partnerships with Families](#)
- [NAFSE: Family Engagement Core Competencies](#)
- [The LEAP Effect](#)

- **Session 3**

- [Including Voice in Education: Addressing Equity Through Student and Family Voice in Classroom Learning](#)
- [Zach Mercurio Blog on Mattering](#)

Kindergarten

Attendance Affinity Group Series



Dates:

Three Part Series

Wednesday, March 6th
Wednesday, April 17th
Wednesday, May 15th

Time:

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Location:

SERC
175 Union Street
Waterbury, CT

Audience:

Maximum of 30 participants

PreK and Kindergarten
Teachers, Administrators,
and Student Support
Services



For questions
regarding content,
please contact:
Ann Marie Cordisco at:
cordisco@ctserc.org

For information
regarding registration,
please contact:
Holli Ryan at:
ryan@ctserc.org

Please
join us!

Registration is now open for the
Kindergarten Affinity Group series
at <https://ctserc.org/events>.



Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Talk Tuesdays for the 2023-24 School Year

- February 20
- March 5
- March 19
- April 2
- April 30
- May 14
- May 28

Register for Talk Tuesdays





Keep in Touch!

Kari Sullivan Custer, CSDE	Kari.Sullivan@ct.gov 860-807-2041
Jay Brown, CSDE	Jay.Brown@ct.gov 860-713-6918
Christine Kuehlewind, SERC	Kuehlewind@ctserc.org 860-632-1485, ext. 371
Stephen Proffitt, SERC	proffitt@ctserc.org 860-632-1485, ext. 322
Ann Marie Cordisco, SERC	cordisco@ctserc.org 860-632-1485, ext. 399