

Attendance & Engagement System of Support & Professional Communities



Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with SERC

1/21/2025



Today's Agenda

Welcome

Christine Kuehlewind, Ann Marie Cordisco, and Holli Ryan, 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

Home Visiting (LEAP)- Naugatuck Public Schools

Francisco Baires, LEAP Coordinator, CREC (Capitol Region Education Council)

Nuchette Black-Burke, CT Home Visit Hub (HV), CREC (Capitol Region Education Council)

Nicole Jeanetti, Assistant Director of Special Services, Naugatuck Public Schools

Angela Griffin, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Naugatuck Public Schools

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Christine Kuehlewind, SERC



Welcome

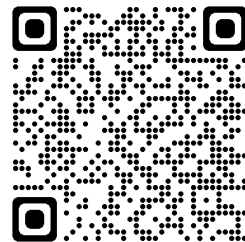
January 6, 2025

- [Preliminary Education Cost Sharing Calculations](#)
- [Handle with Care Alert System Webinar Memo](#) and [Flyer](#)
- [State Summative Assessment Calendar for 2025-26](#)

January 10, 2025

- [Assessment Audit](#)
- [CT-Dyslexia Awareness Event](#)
- [Parent Bill of Rights, Translation and Interpretation Services for English Learners/Multilingual Learners](#)
- Now Available: [K-12 Model Digital Citizenship Curriculum](#) and [Quick Start Guide](#)
- [2024-25 Engage Every Student Recognition Program](#)

[Superintendent's Digest](#)





A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTICUT
Education

2024-2025

Talk Tuesday

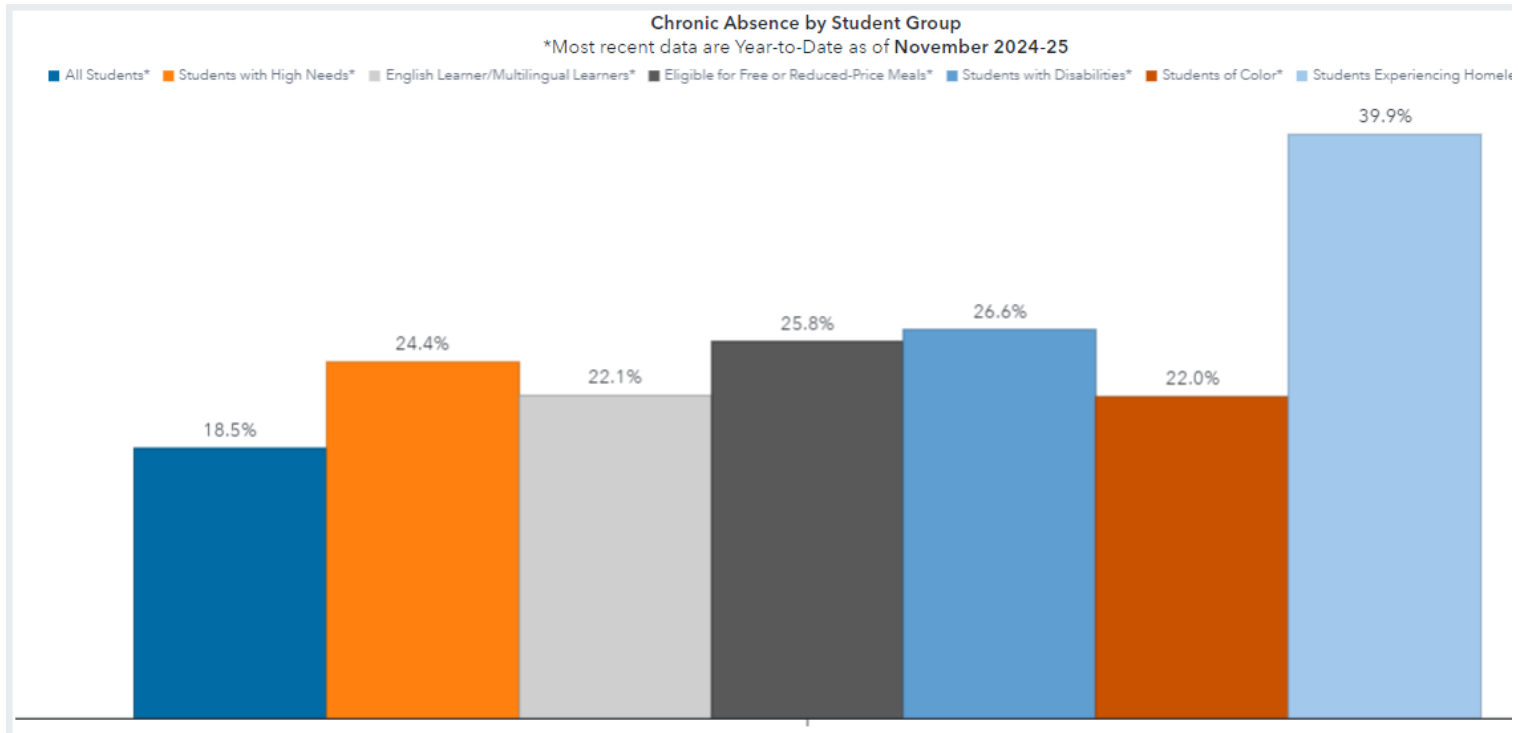
Kari Sullivan Custer
January 21, 2025

Connecticut State
Department of Education



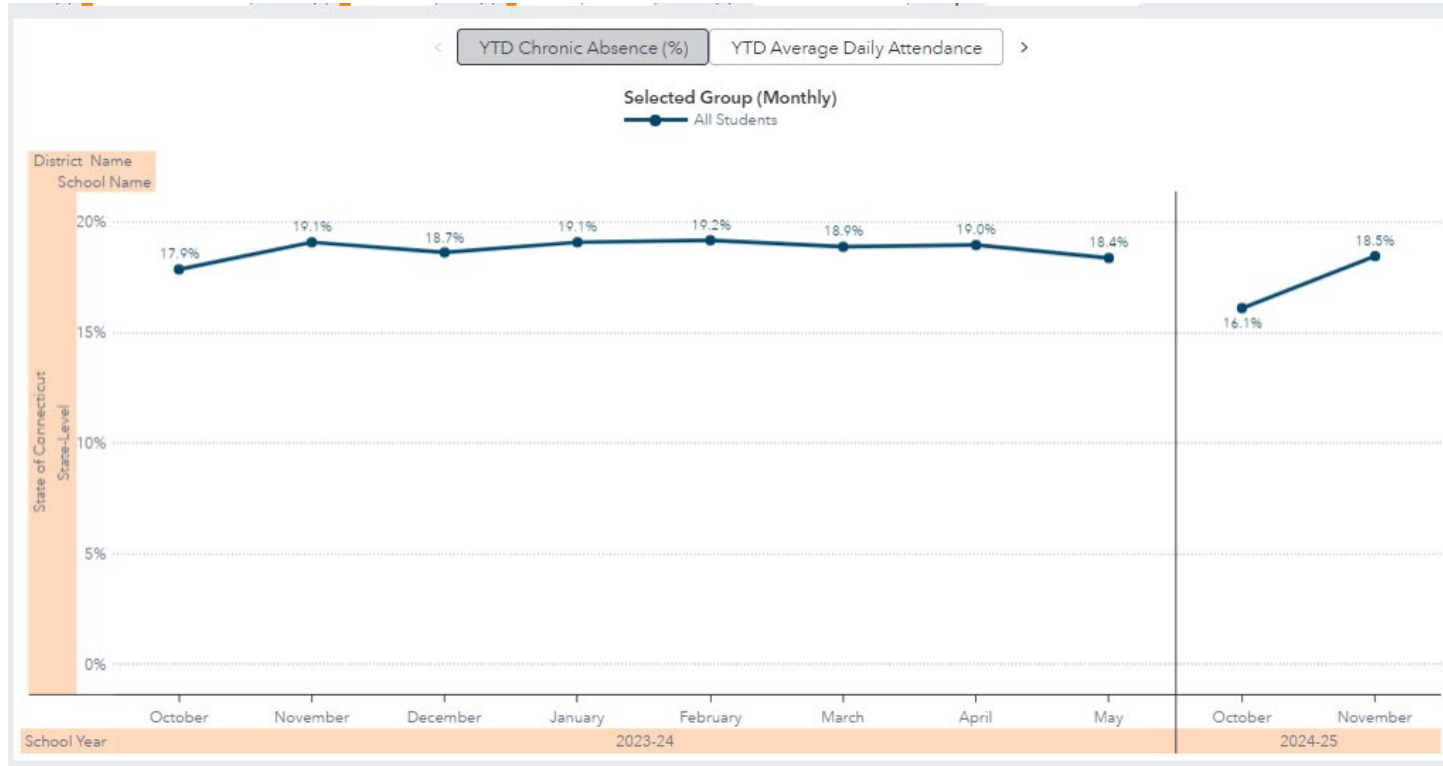
EdSight Attendance Dashboard

November 2024





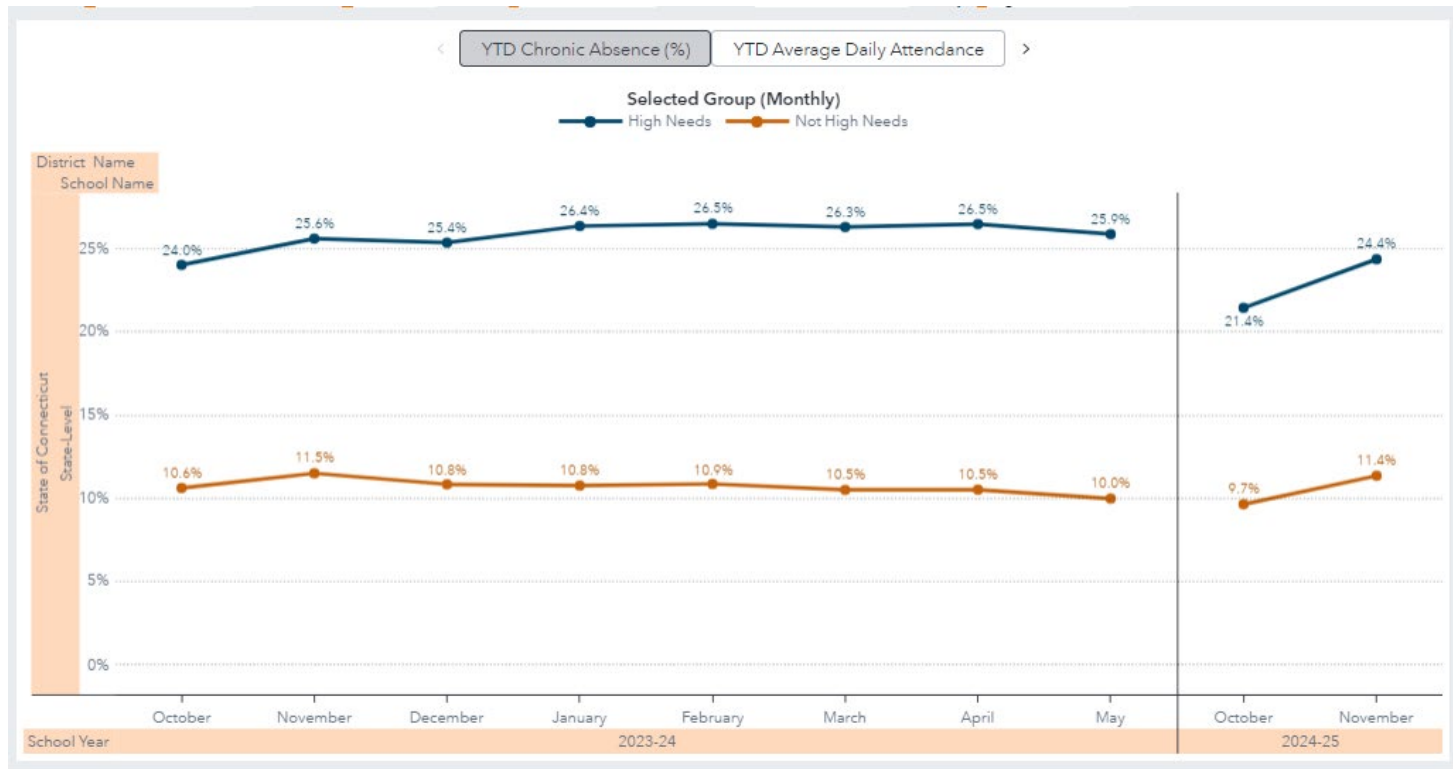
Two Year Trend – November All Students





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OPPORTUNITIES

Two Year Trend – November High Needs vs. Non High Needs





Winter Resources for Addressing Attendance

1. Preventing Absences in Winter Months - Attendance Works

- Offers strategies and tools to combat seasonal challenges like illnesses, transportation issues, and weather-related barriers.
- [Attendance Works Resources](#)

2. Bright Spots CT Report 2023

- Includes Connecticut-specific examples and strategies to improve attendance.
- [Bright Spots CT Report 2023](#)

3. CDC Guidance for Schools During Cold and Flu Season

- Tips on reducing illness-related absences by promoting hygiene practices and vaccination programs.
- [CDC School Health Resources](#)

4. EdSight Attendance [Dashboard](#)

- Helps districts analyze chronic absenteeism data to identify trends and plan interventions.

5. "[School is Better With You!](#)" Attendance Awareness Campaign

- A Connecticut-focused initiative promoting attendance messaging and engagement ideas.

6. [Talk Tuesdays!!!](#) Where we learn from each other.



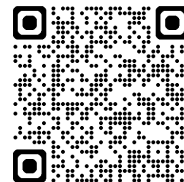
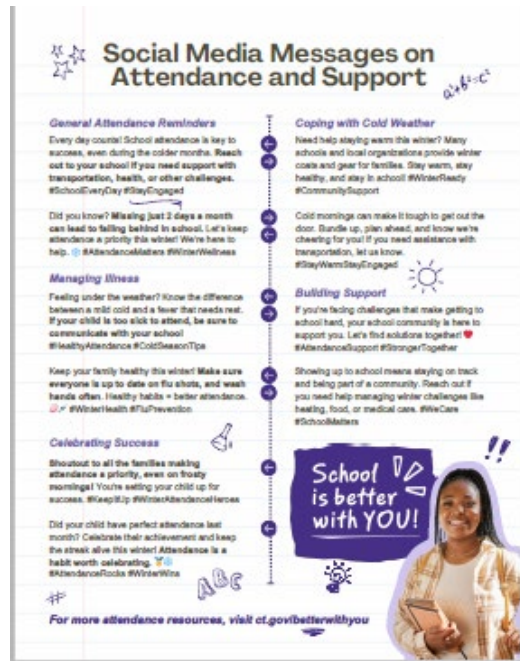
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OPPORTUNITIES

School is Better with You!



Spread the Word Toolkit

- Parent Flyer (English & Spanish)
- School Staff Flyer (English & Spanish)
- Tip Sheet – morning announcements
- Tips for Talking to Parents and Families
- When is sick too sick for school? (English & Spanish)
- Is your child missing school due to anxiety? (Attendance Works)
- Logos
- Social media memes (English & Spanish)



www.ct.gov/sde/betterwithyou



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Handle with Care

Handle With Care

An alert system initiated by first responders for students who are exposed to trauma-inducing experiences outside of school.

The Problem

- From a national survey referenced by Handle with Care Massachusetts:
 - 60% of American children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse.
 - 40% were direct victims of two or more violent acts.
- Extended exposure to violence and trauma can negatively impact a child's ability to learn and thrive in school. **Potential consequences** include academic failure/grade retention, truancy, suspension/expulsion, drop-out, and involvement with the juvenile justice system.

A Solution: What is Handle With Care?

An alert system initiated by first responders for students who are exposed to traumatic incidents, such as domestic violence, drug overdose, and other trauma-inducing experiences outside of school. Through school-community partnerships, this initiative confidentially alerts schools to observe the student and determine whether there is need for additional support, as well as respond with empathy if their behavior is dysregulated.

Mission

To provide context for educators and school staff if a child's behavior in school is altered because of an incident and to be proactive in the provision of supports. Ultimately, the goal is to optimize a school's response and promote student success.

Benefits

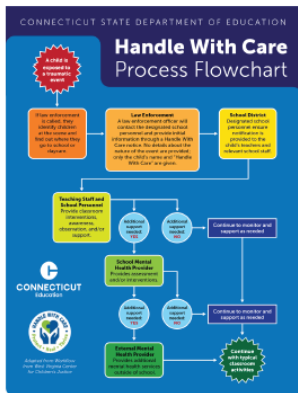
- Immediate notification for school staff
- Supports children who are exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community in connecting with appropriate resources
- Promotes positive relationships between families, schools, and law enforcement

Do we have Handle with Care in Connecticut?

Enfield, North Haven, and East Hampton are currently implementing Handle with Care in their school districts!

Common Key Stakeholders

Child exposed to violence or trauma, law enforcement officer/Child Protective Services worker, superintendent, principal, school mental health providers, teacher(s), families, community partners.



See larger version on next page.

What is Handle with Care?

Handle with Care is an alert system initiated by first responders for students who are exposed to traumatic incidents, such as domestic violence, drug overdose, and other trauma-inducing experiences outside of school. The alert is sent to predetermined school official(s) following first responder or law enforcement's involvement in such community incident occurring the day or night before.

Next Steps

The CSDE, OEC and DESPP are working together to expand this program already operating in other states and a number of districts in Connecticut. **Please join us for a virtual meeting on January 28, 2025, from 9:00-10:00 at this link: [Handle With Care Alert System Informational Meeting](#)** for a discussion with Connecticut school leaders and law enforcement partners already implementing this program with success.



Naugatuck Public Schools

TALK TUESDAY January 21st, 2025

**CONNECTICUT
HOME VISIT HUB**



CREC
RESOURCE
GROUP



CONNECTICUT
Education

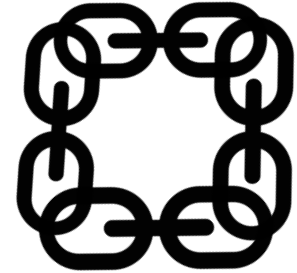
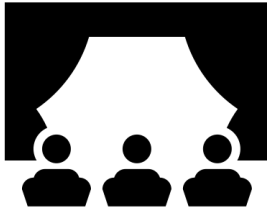


RESC Alliance
RESEARCH • EVALUATION • SUPPORT • COORDINATION



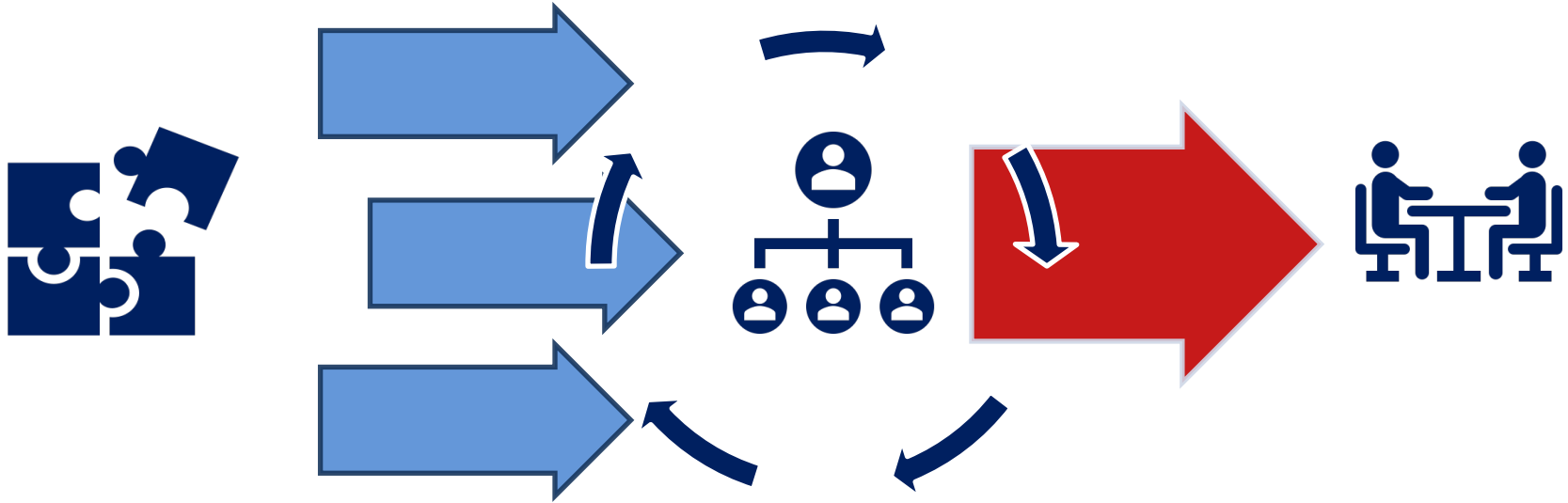
WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

Section Review



LEAP

Running On People Power



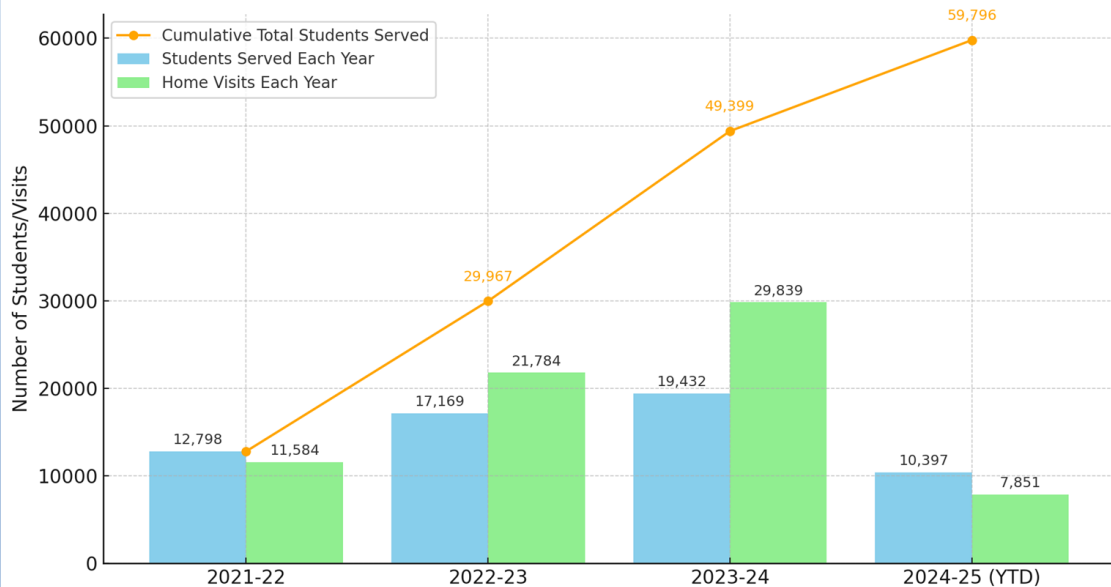
1. LEAP 101 Trainings

Over 3,450 people have attended LEAP 101

- 25 LEAP Districts
- Over 100 additional CT schools, districts, organizations
- 31 states across the U.S.
- Canada

2.

LEAP Program: Students Served and Home Visits Through November 30, 2024



GRAPH CREDIT: Kari Sullivan Custer



CT Dept of Education

@EducateCT

3.



@GovNedLamont is right, as **92% of LEAP districts (23 out of 25) have reduced their chronic absence rates** over the past two years.

LEAP is making a real difference for students and families across Connecticut! 📖



I met with the school superintendents... they said, "Let's build on LEAP," the outreach program. They're knocking on doors of those kids who missed a lot of school, maybe with a teacher or a peer or a friend, saying, "We miss you." That's gone a long way, it's bringing down our absentee rate dramatically, and it's making a difference.



Governor Ned Lamont

State of the State Address
January 8, 2024



Naugatuck Public Schools

LEAP

Chronic Absenteeism
Program

2024-2025

Structure in Naugatuck

District Attendance Team:

Melissa Cooney (*Asst. Superintendent*)

Angela Griffin (Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging)

Nicole Jeanetti (Asst. Director of Special Services)

School Attendance Teams (K-12; 9 schools):

Administrator, Teachers, Support Staff, Student & Family Engagement Specialists (SFES)

- SFES .5 per K-12 school



Role of Student and Family Engagement Specialists

- All SFES are new hires for the 2024-2025 school year; salaries are paid by LEAP grant.
- Angela provided onboarding training to all SFES (Ex. asset based language, unconscious bias)
- SFES responsibilities include building relationships with families and conducting home visits according to the LEAP model, but are also assigned other building responsibilities, which vary by school.
- SFES are part-time employees with varied schedules, so we strive to streamline communication and expectations while still following the LEAP process authentically.



First Year District Focus - Calibration

LEAP philosophy vs. traditional home visits

- NPS traditional home visits were not all aligned with LEAP philosophy & expectations.
- Importance of LEAP training for all attendance team members.
- LEAP philosophy is not always intuitive. Changing past practices can take time.

Including the Qualtrics Log in practice

- Promoting consistency - logged and unlogged contacts.
- Consideration of process for logging non-LEAP communications

Roles & Responsibilities

- SFES roles in different buildings
- SFES roles versus school support staff



Structures for Calibration: Bi-weekly Meetings

Bi-weekly meetings were created to streamline and unify communication regarding LEAP

- **Week 1** - SFES, Angela, and Nicole meet to discuss LEAP updates, resources, expectations, deadlines, and answer any questions. SFES also have opportunities to share successes and collaborate on struggles.
- **Week 2** - Angela & Nicole meet to discuss any concerns, consider additional communication to schools and administration, and to review district data.



Structures for Calibration: Google Classroom

All LEAP information and communication is housed in a Google Classroom specifically for the Student and Family Engagement Specialists.

The goal is to streamline communication regarding LEAP, and to provide easy access to LEAP information and resources. SFES share ideas in the following ways:

- **Resources**
- **Reminders**
- **Collaboration “chats”**
- **Surveys** (data collection & feedback)



Google Classroom: Support Problem Solving

- The SFES Google Classroom and bi-weekly meetings are used for communication and problem solving for LEAP, and for reinforcing information that has previously been provided. SFES share ideas, strategies and provide feedback to each other as a PLC.
- Community Resources are shared amongst the group as a means of problem solving or attendance incentives. (Ex: Restaurant gift certificates offered to schools.)
- Angela and Nicole problem solve collaboratively to analyze district and school LEAP needs and data.



Google Classroom: Data Collection & Reminders

- Data Collection reminders are provided as a resource in the Google Classroom prior to the deadline. SFES are reminded that they must log home visits accurately and on time.
- Pre-Data Collection Reminders typically occur the week prior to deadline in the Google Classroom.
- Google Forms surveys are shared to assess SFES needs, feedback, and most recently success stories for the mid-year LEAP survey



Closing Thoughts

As we embark on the journey of implementing the LEAP process, let us remember that change is never without its challenges. Building strong relationships with families to improve attendance requires persistence, empathy, and a willingness to grow together.

While the initial steps may feel slow or uncertain, every effort we make today lays the foundation for a brighter tomorrow. By staying focused on our shared goal — ensuring every student feels supported and connected — we can transform attendance challenges into success stories. Together, we have the power to make a lasting difference in our students' lives.



What's Happening at CT-HVH?!?



①

Connection Sessions

②

Curriculum Development
/Training Modules

Connecticut Home Visit Hub

The Hub offers the LEAP 101 virtual training that all home visitors are required to attend before conducting home visits. These 101 trainings are two hours and take place monthly.

New Dates:

**Upcoming
101 Dates:
Jan. 22 & 29**



Wednesday, January 8
10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, January 22
10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, January 29
2:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, February 12
2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, March 12
10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, April 9
3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Building Relationships for Student Success!



LEAP (Learner Engagement & Attendance Program) is Connecticut's research-based, relational home visit model proven to increase student attendance and family engagement.

Wednesday, January 22

10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.



Wednesday, January 29

2:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.



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Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Talk Tuesdays for the 2024-25 School Year

2024-2025

- February 4
- March 4
- March 18
- April 1
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27

Register for Talk Tuesdays





Keep in Touch!

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