



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Talk Tuesdays
*Student Attendance,
Engagement and Support*

John Frassinelli, Division Director
Kari Sullivan, State Attendance Lead

Connecticut State Department of Education
June 2, 2020

Meeting Outline

- 1. Welcome and Talk Tuesday Objectives**
- 2. Introductions & Check-in**
- 3. Addressing Student's Overall Safety & Well-being**
- 4. Roundtable Response to Presentation**
 1. What's Working? *Systems & Structures to Support Families*
 2. What's Needed? *Share Strategies to Strengthen Supports for Families*
- 5. Reflections & Next Steps**



Welcome & Talk Tuesday Objectives

- To ***engage district attendance administrators in open dialogue*** around student engagement and participation during COVID-19.
- To provide an opportunity for districts and the state to ***work together*** as we finish the school year and plan for summer and fall.
- To ***share lessons learned, common concerns*** and to provide overall support to each other.
- To ***ensure that participants' needs and interests*** inform future meetings, agendas and future guest speakers.
- To ***identify ways the state can support districts*** to reduce learning loss.



INTRODUCTIONS & CHECK-IN



Introductions & Check-in

John Frassinelli, Division Director
Bureau of Health/Nutrition & Family Services

Kari Sullivan, Chronic Absence & Attendance Lead
Connecticut State Department of Education



ADDRESSING STUDENT'S OVERALL SAFETY & WELL-BEING



Addressing Students Overall Safety & Well-Being

- Michael Williams, Deputy Commissioner
- Martin Folan, Superintendent of Schools, USD2
- Lisa Daymonde, Director, DCF Careline



CSDE & DCF Considerations

- A call to DCF should be made only if there is a ***“reasonable suspicion” that child abuse or neglect has occurred.***
- ***Lack of contact does not necessarily indicate child maltreatment.*** If there is a concern, consider filing a non-emergent report online.
 - [FAQ for DCF Electronic Reporting](#)
 - [When to Make a Referral to the DCF Careline](#)
- ***For students who are under the care of DCF/or the family is actively working with DCF, contact assigned worker.*** DCF staff are teleworking and can be reached by [e-mail](#) or state cell phone.



CSDE & DCF Considerations *(continued)*

- ***A student's nonparticipation in continued education opportunities does not immediately constitute educational neglect*** and would not inherently warrant a referral to DCF.
- **If there is evidence that the parent/caretaker has access to the necessary resources to participate**, is responsible for the child's educational participation (defined as a child under the age of 12 or a child is functionally dependent on a parent/caretaker), and ***multiple and diverse attempts have been made to engage the parent/caretaker/other resources*** without success, ***a referral to DCF may be warranted.***
- It is ***recommended that school staff make every effort to first outreach*** via phone calls and letters and access other individuals, such as the emergency contact, who knows the family and can assist you to make a connection. ***A parent/caretaker may need to prioritize a variety of needs to ensure safety, well-being and the overall functioning of the family unit, and if known, this should also be taken into consideration.***

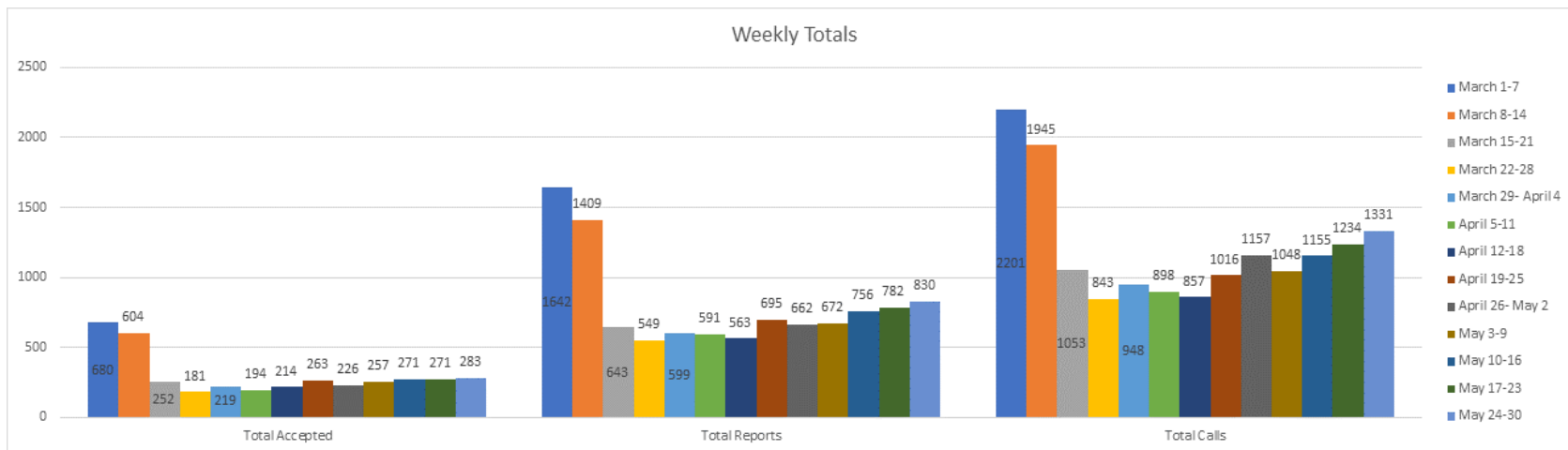


CSDE & DCF Considerations *(continued)*

- ***Virtual engagement*** with a student should include ***a general assessment of their overall well-being.***
- ***If a concern is raised*** that suggests that a child has been ***abused or neglected, or a child is presenting with a justified fear of safety*** in the home, ***a referral to DCF may be warranted.***
- ***Age appropriate and solution-based safety planning,*** when appropriate, should also occur in your interactions.

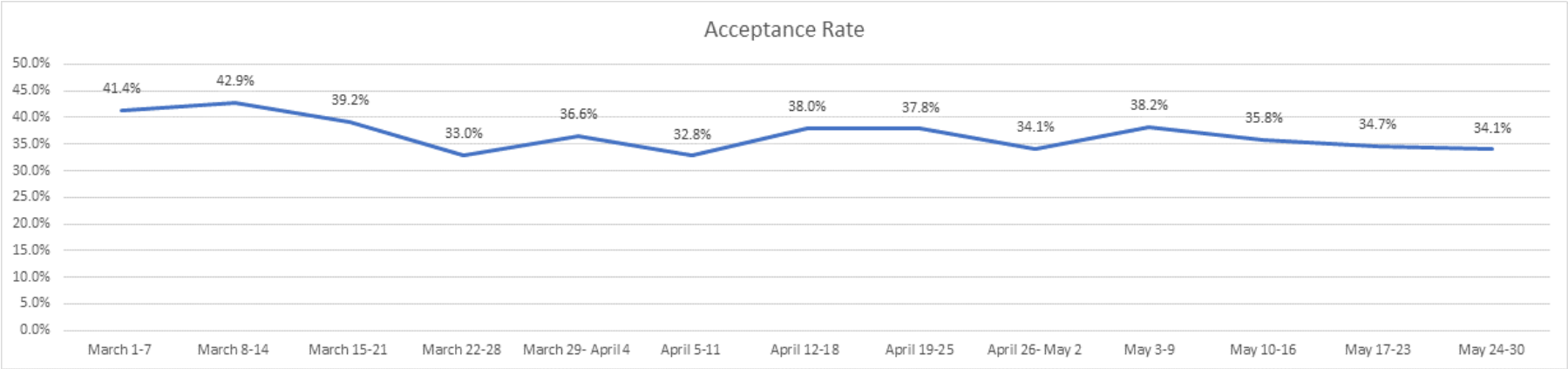


Weekly Trends



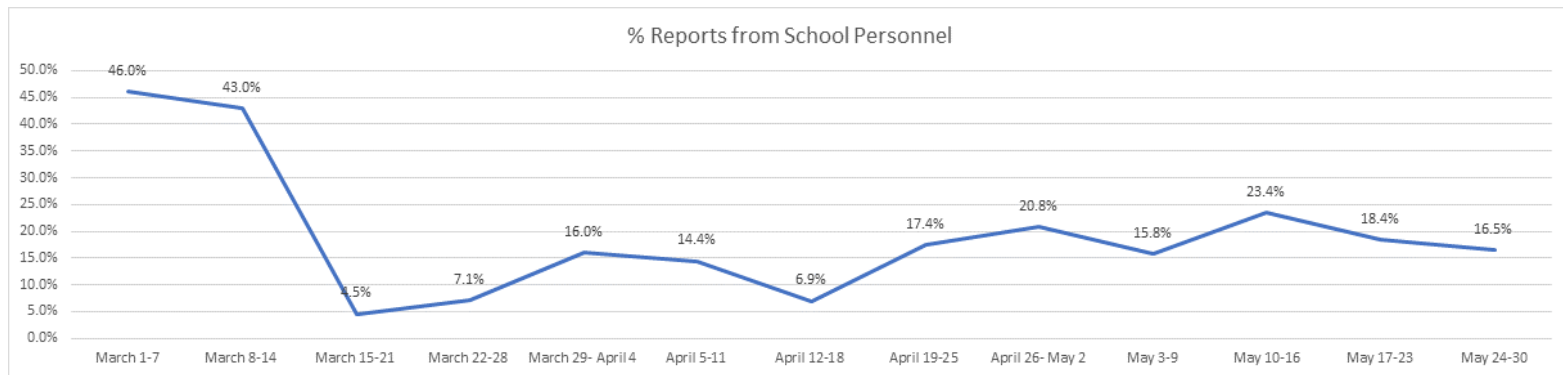
Source: DCF, June 1, 2020

Acceptance Rates



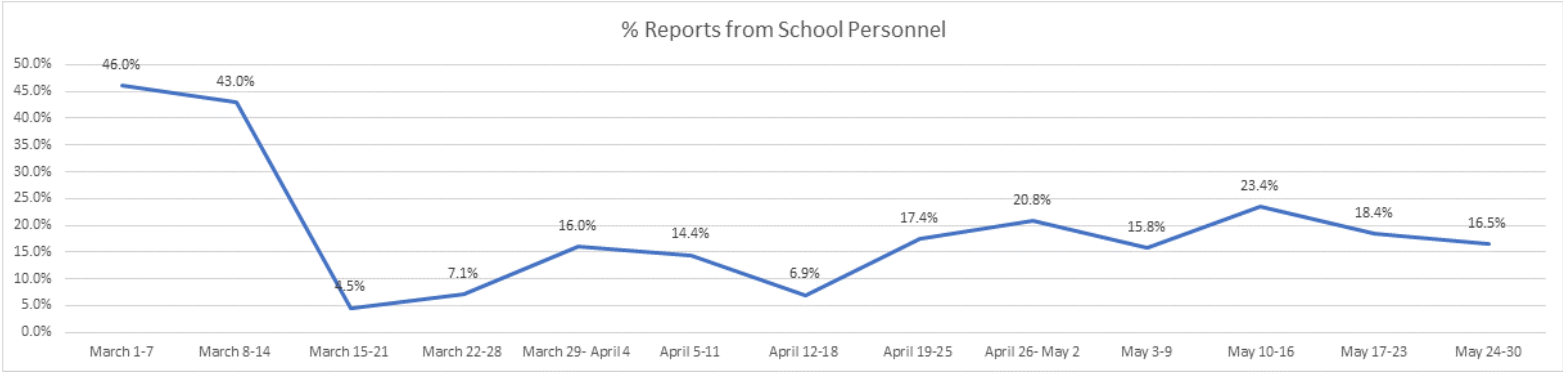
Source: DCF, June 1, 2020

% of Reports from School Personnel



Source: DCF, June 1, 2020

% of Reports from School Personnel



Source: DCF, June 1, 2020

ROUNDTABLE RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION



What's Working?

What's Working? Systems & Structures to Support Families



What's Working?

Notes



What's Needed?

Share Strategies to Strengthen Supports for Families



What's Needed?

Notes



REFLECTIONS & NEXT STEPS



Reflections & Next Steps

Notes





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Next Talk Tuesday
Tuesday, June 16, 2020