




CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Talk Tuesdays

Student Attendance, Engagement, and Support Series

 Please **sign-in** using the chat - include your name, title, district/school or agency.

Connecticut State Department of Education
April 20, 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome

Kari Sullivan Custer, Attendance & Engagement Consultant, CSDE

2. What's New at CSDE

3. We're All in This Together: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Improve Attendance

Jaclyn Davis, District Climate and Attendance Coordinator, Waterbury Public Schools

Facilitated by: Stephen Proffitt, Director for Special Education Programs and Instructional Design, State Education Resource Center (SERC)

4. Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings



Notice: This meeting is being recorded.




WHAT'S NEW AT CSDE



What's New at CSDE

April 15, 2021

- [Updated “Finish Strong” Document](#) 
- [Designation of Certification Shortage Areas, 2021-22 School Year](#)
- [Profile and Performance Reports \(PPR\) for 2019-20](#)
- [Emergency Broadband Benefit \(EBB\) Program](#)


April 12, 2021

- [New Computer Science Reporting Guide](#)

April 9, 2021

- [Interim Considerations for Spring 2021 End-of-Year School Events](#) 

April 8, 2021

- [Connecticut Accountability Waiver Request Approved](#)
- [Evidence-Based Practice Guides](#) 
- [DESPP Announces Two Competitive Grant Programs](#)



Visit the [Superintendent's Digest](#) to stay current on new guidance from CSDE.

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Do you work at the intersection of families and learning?
Would you like to network and learn from others in the field?



Friday CAFÉ

Professional Network for Community and Family Engagement

Reimagining Summer Learning and the Coming School Year

The Pandemic has shown a spotlight on inequities in America. School closures, social isolation and academic gaps have impacted all students, particularly those living in fragile situations. Adding to the challenge, mental health issues are emerging as many students have lost access to services offered by schools.

No matter what form schools take when the new year begins, families and educators will face new challenges – and opportunities – to help children recover.

Join Friday CAFÉ to reimagine how families, schools and communities can connect the dots to support student and family needs. Your thoughts and ideas about summer learning, September opening and mental health needs will be the focus for Friday CAFÉ.

Date: April 23, 10:00-11:30

Location: Virtual via Zoom

[Meeting Registration -
Zoom](#)





Connecticut State Department of Education

Professional Support Series for Families

Please see below and join as we learn together and grow together.

Upcoming Session in Spanish

Una conversación virtual para padres y familias de estudiantes de aprendices de inglés

Esta sesión proporcionará respuestas a preguntas comunes que los padres y las familias tienen sobre el aprendizaje a distancia. También contará con un nuevo documento informativo para los padres y tutores de los estudiantes de inglés sobre las leyes, reglamentos y políticas que afectan los programas y servicios de los estudiantes de inglés. Cuando los padres, las familias y las escuelas trabajan juntos en colaboración, los estudiantes del idioma inglés pueden alcanzar su máximo potencial.

Presentadore: Gladys Labas, Equity & Language Director, CSDE

Fecha: Martes, 27 de abril de 2021

Hora: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Virtual Conversation Series for Parents & Families (Live Webinars)

April 27, 2021

[Register Now!](#)

A Virtual Conversation for Parents and Families of English Learners (in Spanish only)

This session will provide answers to common questions that parents and families have about remote learning. It will also feature a new informational document for parents and guardians of English learners on laws, regulations and policies that impact English Learner programs and services. When parents, families and schools work together collaboratively, English Language Learners can reach their full potential.



Governor Launches Learner Engagement & Attendance Program (LEAP)

Press Releases



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

04/12/2021

Governor Lamont Launches State Initiative to Address Student Absenteeism and Disengagement Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Connecticut's Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) Will Utilize Federal Stimulus Funding to Reengage K-12 Students Who Struggled During the Pandemic

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced that his administration is launching a new state program aimed at engaging with K-12 students who struggled with absenteeism and disengagement during the 2020-21 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative, known as the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP), will include a partnership between the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the six state Regional

[View Press Release](#)



Selection of LEAP Districts

Five key input variables:

1. percent students eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch (FRL);
2. student enrollment;
3. attendance rate;
4. percent English learners (EL); and
5. number of weeks of in-person school.

For example, a district with high student enrollment and proportion of FRL and EL students, but low attendance and availability of remote or hybrid instruction, would rank as being high-need for additional investment in student attendance and engagement supports.



Eligible Districts

LEAP Districts
Bridgeport
CREC Schools
Danbury
East Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Meriden
New Britain
New Haven
New London
Norwich
Stamford
Torrington
Waterbury
Windham



Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)

To address this issue, Connecticut will direct funding towards the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP). This program will have three goals:

1. Increase student attendance and engagement, relative to prior months of remote and/or blended learning
2. Increase engagement by students and parents/caregivers in remote learning, as measured by needs assessments
3. Increase usage/adoption of district and state resources available to K-12 families, including connectivity solutions and supports for emotional well-being.



Regional Network of Support

1. Funding provided to six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) to support 15 identified school districts.
2. Primary research, including surveys of Connecticut families and school leaders as well as success in other states highlighted the need for “people power.”
3. Home-visiting model to provide direct support to students and families with low rates of attendance and/or engagement with remote learning.
4. RESCs will coordinate with respective districts and local organizations to
 1. expand their capacity to address specific student needs, including
 2. using devices to log in for remote learning;
 3. troubleshooting problems with new broadband services;
 4. providing additional academic supports, like tutoring; and
 5. connecting students with critical social services needs



**We're All In This Together:
Leveraging Community Partnerships
to Improve Attendance**



WATERBURY
Public Schools

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders

We're All In This Together:

Leveraging Community Partnerships to Improve Attendance

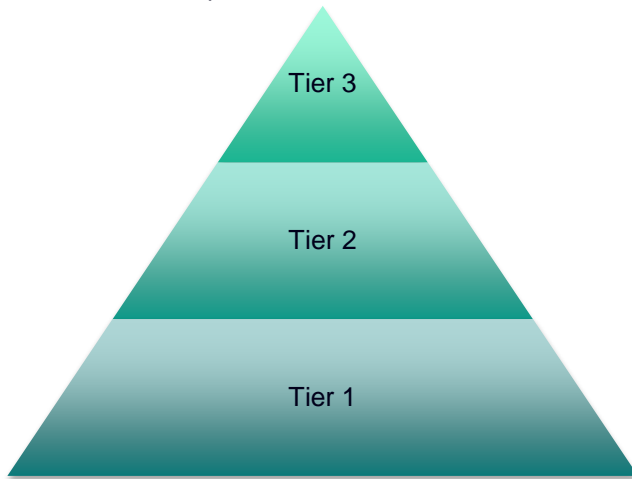


WATERBURY
Public Schools

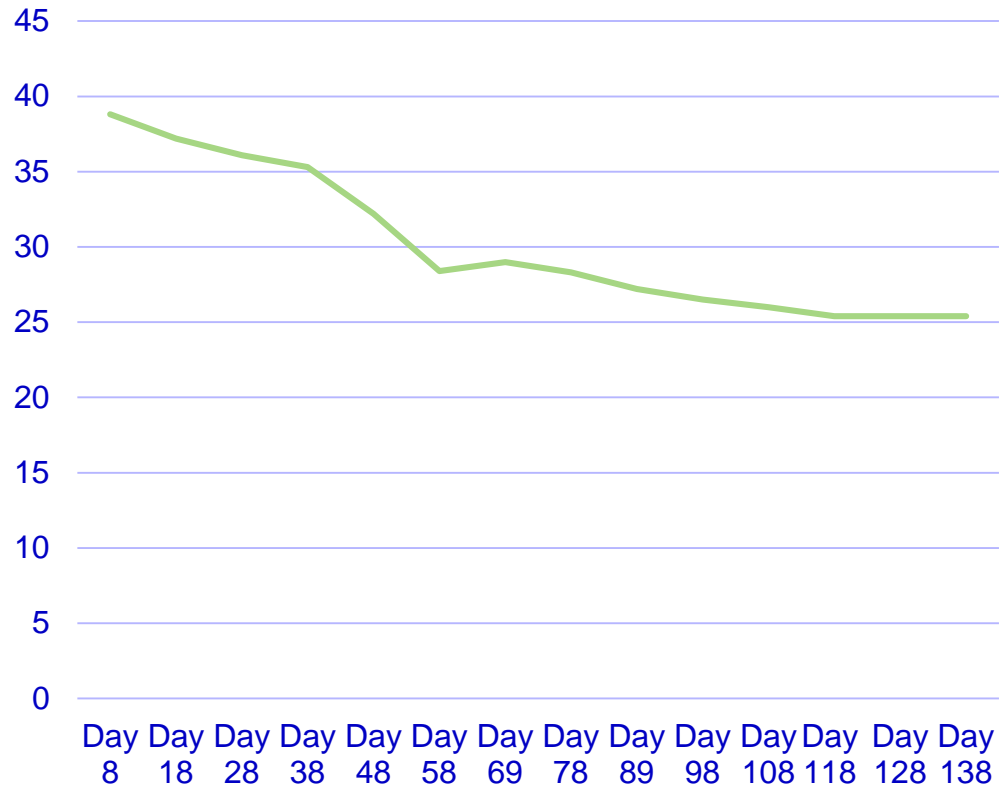
Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders

A Schoolwide Focus On Engagement

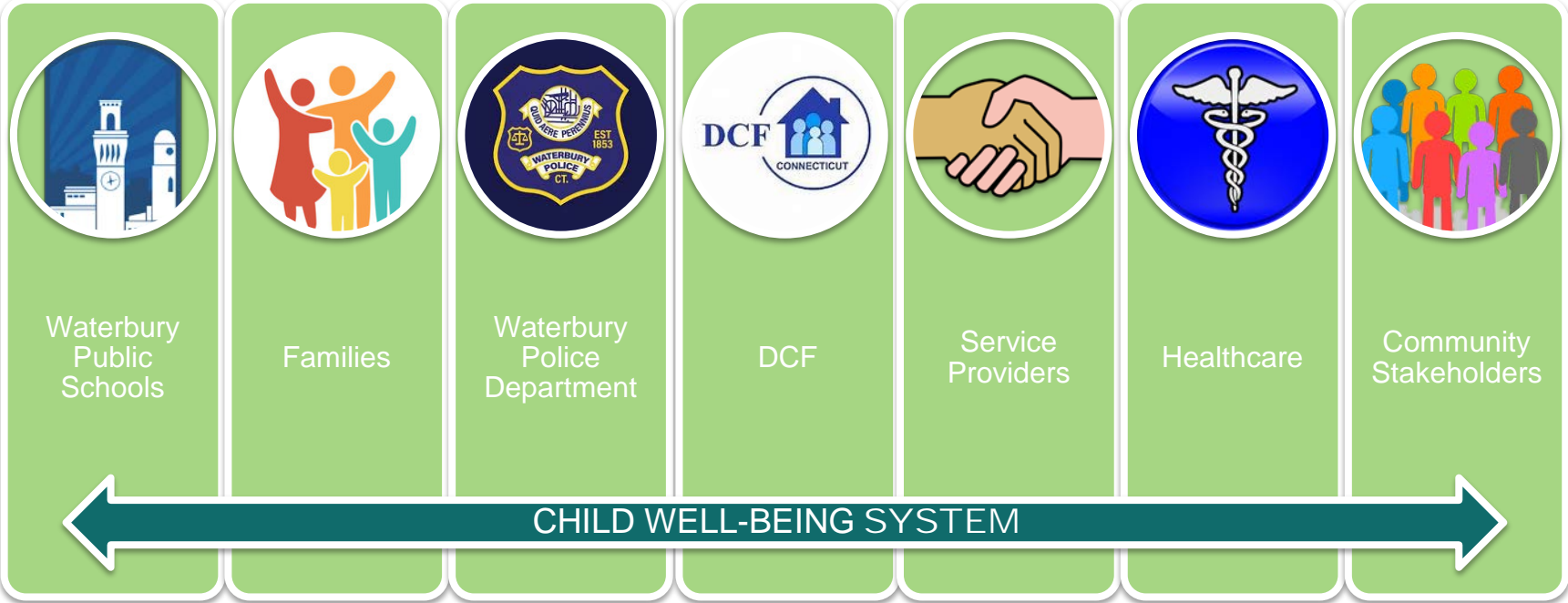
Waterbury Public Schools has worked to provide a number of supports to keep our students connected and engaged during this pandemic. From Tier 1 interventions of timely communication with families and ensuring access to technology to Tier 3 interventions of connecting students to necessary resources, staff have worked to be responsive to families' individual needs.



Percent Chronically Absent

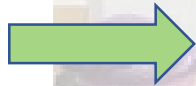


None of us do this alone...



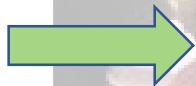
Building Community Partnerships to Support Student Engagement

Learn Together



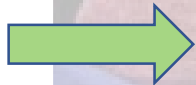
Establish a process to engage community stakeholders in two-way communication about planning for the success of students

Plan Together



Collaborate with partners to identify student needs and gaps in services. Develop strategies to allocate resources as needed.

Act Together



Implement strategies that support the positive engagement of all students.

LEARN TOGETHER

- **Waterbury Voices**- Monthly meeting of school officials, students, parents, law enforcement, civic organizations, social service agencies and faith leaders to discuss the state of our educational system.
- **ThoughtExchange**- Use community exchanges to elicit qualitative feedback on important topics that impact student learning.

LEARN TOGETHER

THOUGHT EXCHANGE

Jul 2020

What concerns, questions or ideas should we consider when planning to reopen schools?

Sep 2020

What are the most important things we can do individually and collectively to help to build a school community culture that promotes safety, diversity, inclusion and belonging?

Oct 2020

As we continue to manage the impact of COVID-19, what are the most important things we need to do to keep everyone connected and well supported?

Mar 2021

When you think about starting school next fall, what excites you? What makes you nervous?

What might be some things we did well during remote learning that you'd want to keep for next year?

What issues, challenges or successes did you have this year that we can learn from?

What can the district/school/teachers do to support your mental health and wellness?

What can the district/school/teachers do to support you in having strong social relationships with classmates and peers?

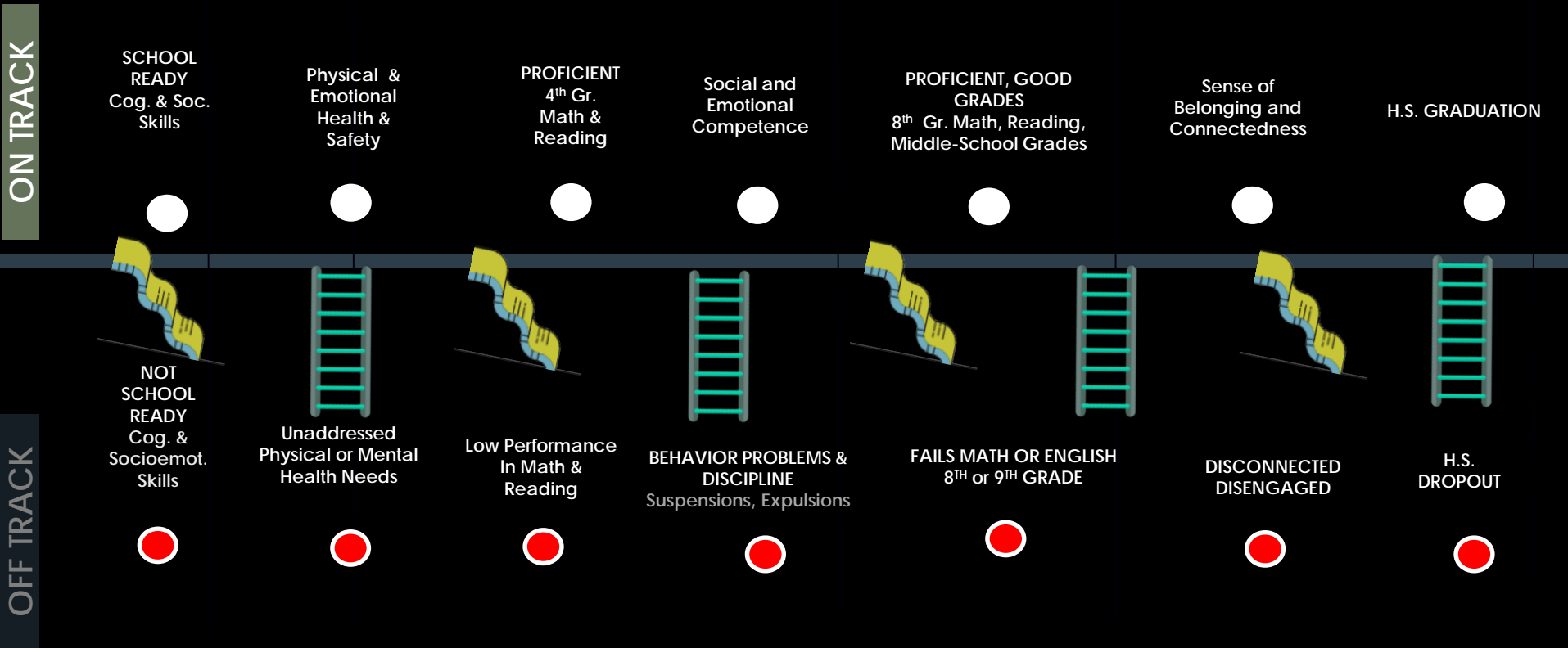
What else do you need from teachers/school/district leadership to make next year successful?

PLAN TOGETHER

- **Trauma Task Force-** WPS, WPD, DCF, Wellmore (211), Juvenile Probation Team meets weekly to discuss gaps in service provision and plan supports for students with identified needs
- **Local Interagency Service Team (LIST)-** The LIST provides a venue for community-level interagency coordination and formal communication and planning around youth service provision.

PLAN TOGETHER

Less Chutes, More Ladders



PLAN TOGETHER COMMUNITY LADDERS

padlet

jDavis203 + 13 • 4m

Community Ladders

IICAPS

Connecticut Junior Republic

Wellness Clinic

One Heart One Soul

Social Emotional

Kelly's Kids

Faith based youth support groups

Community Engagement

CSDE & IDEA

Short Term Family Integrated Treatment (S-FIT) at Waterbury Youth Services

PPT

Planning Placement Team

WOW

Safe Haven

The InGroup

Warren Leach, offers financial work shops and African American and Hispanic American Studies

Curriculums/Models to look into:

Girls Circle
Boys Circle
TARGET-trauma (helps kids who have experienced trauma in life and have explosive outbursts when angry to learn specific skills to help them regulate and recognize triggers)
TFCBT-Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy
MI: Motivational Interview skills- this is a skill set that can help teachers, counselors etc. work with youth or anyone for that matter that are being resistant etc.

above are evidenced based

Short Term Family Integrated Treatment Program (S-FIT) at Waterbury Youth Services

Jrb

Wys

Juvenile Review Board

Waterbury Youth Services

NAACP YOUTH

L.A.C.E youth program

WYS

MOBILE CRISIS

Family and Children's Aid

Holms Ave in Waterbury

Mentor Programs

Linking Academics to Life

Waterbury Youth Services

Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury

The coalition offers bilingual services, advocacy, collaboration, education opportunities.

JRB program, 211 for housing support, nvcc snap program, DMHAS yas program, wioa- WYS

Multisystemic Therapy

Wheeler Clinic

Mental Health

Wellmore, FCA, Catholic Charities, CMHA

IICAPS

Intensive In home child adolescent psychiatric

DSS

Department of Social Services

Functional Family Therapy

Waterbury Hospital PHP (Partial Hospitalization Program) and IOP (Intensive Outpatient Therapy) Programs

Connecticut Junior Republic

ACRA-ACC Program (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach- Assertive Continuum Care) Evidenced based Out Patient Substance Abuse Treatment Program

Jackie Arroyo
(203)757-9939 ext. 201
JARroyo@cjryouth.org

Save girls on fyre

Justice Resource Institute (JRI)

PAL

Various athletic and programs

Kellys Kids

Animal therapy

BAGS

After school and therapy

Connecticut Junior Republic

MDFT Program-Outpatient Substance Abuse Program

(203)757-9939

PACT program (Pledge to advance Connecticut)

Funding for first time college students to fill in the gap between state and federal funding for college.

Youth and Family Emergency Services

Waterbury Youth Services

IICAPS, MDFT, Outpatient therapy at Wellmore, Family and Children's Aid and/or Wheeler Clinic

CJR ACRA/ACC Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach/Assertive Continuum evidence based out/patient substance abuse treatment program

Jackie Arroyo 203-757-9939 jarroyo@cjryouth.org

Care Coordination

RIBA ASIRA Career Academy

Offers job training services and classes such as ESL, GED, and CNA classes.

Department of Labor

Summer Youth employment program

Early Childhood Organizations

Birth to 3, Read to Grow, pediatricians

ACT TOGETHER

- **Mental Health Collaborative-** Partnership with 7 local community behavioral health service providers to plan school-linked and school-based services
- **Wellmore 211 Engagement Pilot-** Use of 211 clinicians to provide additional outreach to disengaged students and families
- **DCF Prevention Workers-** DCF Social worker stationed in schools to provide support for school staff in supporting families and linking families to needed resources.

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Next Talk Tuesday

Tuesday, **May 4**, 2021

10 to 11 a.m.

Self-Assessment Tool

School Attendance Teams

Have a **promising practice or success**
you want to share?

Concerns you want to share through peer
discussion?

Send ideas for topics for discussion to
Kari.Sullivan@ct.gov.

Community of Practice

Save the Date!

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Register Early!





Keep in touch!



**Kari
Sullivan Custer**

Kari.Sullivan@ct.gov

860-807-2041

Connect with CSDE for more information
on student attendance and engagement:



[Facebook.com/ctdepartmentofeducation](https://www.facebook.com/ctdepartmentofeducation)



<http://www.ct.gov/sde>



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