




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
May 4, 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome

Kari Sullivan Custer, Attendance & Engagement Consultant, CSDE

2. What's New at CSDE

3. Engaged: Using Summer to Connect with Students and Families

AccelerateCT Summer Program Grants

Chris Soto, Director of Innovation & Partnerships
Connecticut State Department of Education

21st Century Community Learning Centers – Summer School Overview

Shelby Pons, Education Consultant
Connecticut State Department of Education

4. Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings



Notice: This meeting is being recorded.



WHAT'S NEW AT CSDE



What's New at CSDE

April 29, 2021

- [CSDE, OEC, CAS and NAESP Invite you to a Virtual Forum for Principals and Leaders of PreK-K- 3rd grade programs](#)

April 28, 2021

- [Summer Learning and Enrichment Opportunities Provided Through the American Rescue Plan Act](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Remote Learning, 2021-2022 School Year](#)

April 27, 2021

- [Summer Enrichment Program Applications](#)
- [2022 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program](#)
- [2022 Connecticut Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Application](#)

April 20, 2021

- [Governor Lamont Announces Partnership with Steven Van Zandt's TeachRock to Engage Connecticut Students in Academics Using Popular Music and Culture](#)

- [TeachRock Partnership – Invitation to Apply](#)
- [CSDE and TeachRock Partnership Application for Participation](#)

Visit the Superintendent's Digest to stay current on new guidance from CSDE.



Interim Guidance for Remote Learning 2021-22 School Year

Interim Guidance for Remote Learning 2021-2022 School Year

April 27, 2021

The public health response to COVID-19 is continuously evolving, particularly given the opportunities for vaccination and the potential impact of virus variants. Therefore, the guidance herein could change, but is published because planning for next year is imperative. This guidance is also subject to change pending the outcomes of the 2021 legislative session, to the extent that such changes influence virtual and remote education.

DEFINITIONS

Remote Learning: means an educational opportunity provided at home or outside of a school building, typically using virtual learning (*location* where learning happens.)

Virtual Learning: means the provision of instruction by means of one or more internet-based software platforms as part of an in-person or remote learning model.

This guidance addresses the changes expected related to remote learning as we reimagine education for the 2021-2022 school year based upon the lessons learned from our collective experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, DPH and CSDE **do not anticipate the need to mandate**, due to public health necessity, that all school districts provide an option for students and their families to opt-in to a voluntary remote option after this school year.

Source: [Interim Guidance for Remote Learning 2021-22 School Year](#), April 27, 2021, CSDE



ATTENDANCE WORKS: NEW RESOURCES, WEBINARS & TOOLKIT



2021 Attendance Awareness Campaign



The 2021 Attendance Awareness Campaign calls for

- Starting in the spring to promote attendance and laying the foundation for ensuring students will attend classes this fall;
- Building relationships, and creating opportunities over the summer will support the routine of showing up in person to a classroom; and
- Reviewing attendance data on an ongoing basis to identify, early on, students in need of outreach and possibly additional support.



2021 Attendance Awareness Campaign Webinars



Attendance Awareness Campaign webinars. [Register for all four here!](#)



Committed: Supporting Attendance and Participation to the Very Last Day of School
ICYMI: The Attendance Awareness Campaign kickoff webinar, with 3,800 registered!
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

[Find the links](#) to the webinar recording, presentation slides and resources.



Engaged: Using Summer to Connect with Students and Families
Wednesday, May 26, 2021
11am-12:30pm PT / 2pm-3:30pm ET

[Register for May 26](#)

Welcomed: Embracing Students, Families and Educators in the New School Year
Wednesday, August 4, 2021

11am-12:30pm PT / 2pm-3:30pm ET

[Register for August 4](#)

Fully Present: Leveraging Attendance Data to Ensure Ongoing Success
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

11am-12:30pm PT / 2pm-3:30pm ET

[Register for September 29](#)



Pathways to Engagement



Don't miss Attendance Works' new toolkit:

[Pathways to Engagement: COVID-19 Recovery Through Attendance.](#)

Guide and its resources are organized according to the following four steps. Click on one of the strategies below to learn more.

- [Step 1: Establish Your Team.](#) Convene a small group of leaders if you are just starting, or integrate into the work of an existing team.
- [Step 2: Identify Priority Groups.](#) Use data to identify which group(s) of students or schools most need additional engagement and to better understand their strengths and challenges.
- [Step 3: Craft Engagement Strategies.](#) Take a multi-tiered approach to engagement, especially for priority student groups, that starts in the spring, continues in the summer and is amplified in the fall.
- [Step 4: Reflect, Learn and Improve.](#) After each phase of work, invest in taking stock to assess what worked and what can be improved for the future.

Source: [Pathways to Engagement: A Toolkit for COVID-19 Recovery Through Attendance](#), Attendance Works, April 2021



Pathways to Engagement

A shift to a strategic, transformative and long-term approach to engage students and families a team approach.

- It involves moving beyond individual student case management to taking actions at scale that broadly offer pathways to engagement to groups of students.
- Actions should be tailored to recognize the strengths and specific challenges of high priority student groups who experience significant levels of chronic absence.
- Ideally, nurturing feelings of belonging to school, *begin in the spring!*



Spring: Belonging to School

Summer: Building Bridges to School

Fall: Creating a welcoming, Restorative Community at School

Source: [Pathways to Engagement: A Toolkit for COVID-19 Recovery Through Attendance](#), Attendance Works, April 2021



ENGAGED: USING SUMMER TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Summer: Build Bridges to School



- Summer bridge activities can create opportunities for students to play and socialize with peers, engage in fun learning activities and practice the routine of showing up in person to a classroom.
- Especially important for young students who have never been in a formal classroom setting.
- Conduct personalized outreach and home visits to students — and their families — who were chronically absent during the 2020-21 school year, when educators can check in on their well-being and ensure they have the support they need to return to school.
- Implement programming prior to the beginning of school to allow students and families to meet school staff, to share resources and ensure that they feel safe and supported prior to the first day of school.

Coming Soon from Attendance Works!

- ***Building Bridges to School multi-tiered sample activities handout*** (forthcoming) offers ideas and actions that your school or district can take to encourage a successful transition back to school.
- Create your own plan with ***this Building Bridges to School template*** (forthcoming).



Source: [Pathways to Engagement: A Toolkit for COVID-19 Recovery Through Attendance](#), Attendance Works, April 2021



Connecticut
State
Department
of Education



AccelerateCT Summer Program Grants

CSDE expects to award up to \$11 million in grant funding for summer program activities organized between June 1, 2021 and September 3, 2021.

Expansion Grants

- Funding to expand existing programs or create new programs to serve students who would otherwise not have access to summer camp or programs.
- Awards will total up to \$25,000 per site. Applicants may submit up to three separate applications for different sites. A maximum of one grant will be awarded per site/location, with a maximum of three per organization
- The number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applicants, the quality of the proposals, and the amount of funds available. Awards will be made in all six RESC regions.

Innovation Grants

- Funding for organizations that can serve Connecticut children at scale, provide holistic learning opportunities that blend educational and enrichment components, and remove financial and other types of barriers that have typically precluded participation.
- Awards will range from \$50,000-\$250,000 per program site. A maximum of one application per program will be accepted.
- The number of grants funded will depend on the number of applicants and funds available. Applicants are highly encouraged to share sources of additional funding, including in-kind resources such as facilities, as part of their application.

Eligible applicants (both grant programs)

1. Non-profit orgs. with a current, valid child care center or youth camp license from Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
→ *Note: OEC licensed programs can only request funding for sites with existing licenses with school-age care endorsements. Sites licensed to serve only children ages five and under may not apply.*
2. License-exempt child care center/youth camp operated by a (A) municipal agency; (B) private or independent school; or (C) are organizations that are specifically exempted by name in the statute (Sec. 19a-77).
3. Local education agencies (LEAs) that received less than \$50,000 in Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II) funding.
4. License-exempt non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) for programs serving exclusively youth ages sixteen or older.
5. A partnership led by one of the above eligible organizations, working together with other non-profit organizations, municipal agencies, local and regional boards of education, Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), charter schools, or magnet schools.

Expansion Grants: Eligible Activities

Age Groups	Programs must serve school-age children who have completed kindergarten and are within the age group of 5-18, with the exception that programs may serve youth with special needs still enrolled in their school district up to their 22nd birthday.
Acceptable Use of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve additional children or youth through existing programming (e.g., hire more staff/lifeguards, rent a larger facility, expand hours/weeks, expand ages served, etc.) • Subsidize enrollment costs for students, particularly those eligible for free or reduced-price school meals • Provide transportation for program participants (up to a maximum of 40% of the total grant award)
Prior Program Experience	Programs may be either expansions of existing programs or new programs that would not otherwise be able to operate without this funding, although additional points will be awarded to applicant organizations that have operated summer or after-school programs for school-age youth in the past three years.
Student Population	Programs should address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).
Enrichment	Programs must provide enrichment activities designed to encourage “purposeful play,” which could include: sports, music, art, hands-on experiences, mentorship, teamwork, field trips, guest speakers, career/college exploration, cooking, food and nutrition, wellness, physical activity and physical education. Applications should describe what a typical daily/weekly activity schedule would look like. Enrichment activities should make up at least 50 percent of all structured programming
<i>Additional detail regarding eligible activities—including # hours and weeks of operation—included in the RFP materials.</i>	

Please send questions regarding the application process to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov

Innovation Grants: Evaluation Criteria

Ages Served	Programs must serve children within the age group of 5-18, with the exception that programs may serve youth with special needs, still enrolled in their school district, up to their 22nd birthday.
Student Population	Programs should address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care)
Scale	These grants are geared towards entities that can implement programs at scale, either regionally or statewide.
Enrichment Component	Programs must provide enjoyable, challenging, and engaging enrichment opportunities through which students can accelerate their learning, which could include STEAM projects, sports, music, art, hands-on experiences, mentorship, teamwork, field trips, guest speakers, career/college exploration, cooking, food and nutrition, wellness, physical activity and physical education. For programs that offer enrichment outside a traditional camp format, applicants must describe what a typical daily/weekly activity schedule would look like. Enrichment activities should make up at least 50 percent of all structured programming.
Record of Impact	Programs must be evidence-based and demonstrate, either through available research, past program data, or by other means, a superior record of improving student outcomes.
Accelerated Ramp-up	Programs must demonstrate an ability to quickly build and operationalize their program through existing partnerships with school districts, colleges, municipalities, and/or other educational and community organizations.
Minimal or No Cost	All programs must be provided to students at no or minimal cost to them and their families.
Time period	Programs should aim to serve students for the majority of the day, and as many weeks as possible throughout the summer. Programs with part-day participation are encouraged to partner with other programs to accommodate the remaining portions of the day.

Please send questions regarding the application process to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov

Both Grants: How to apply

Application Access	Applicants may apply using this link: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment . Please do not submit applications via email!
Deadline	Applications must be submitted no later than May 10, 2021 at 5pm ET. Awards announced May 24 th .
Questions & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please send questions regarding the application process to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov.• Common questions will be addressed in a Frequently Asked Questions document here: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment
Application Template	Detailed instructions found in the “Application Template” section of each grant’s RFP document. Sections include Organization Type, Contact Information, Proposal Narrative, and Budget Narrative.
Other	Programs should respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).

Please send questions regarding the application process to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Summer School Overview

Shelby Pons

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shelby.pons@ct.gov

21st CCLC Funding

- **Approximately \$10 million**
- **Five year grants.**
- **The minimum grant award is \$50,000 to a maximum award of \$200,000.**
- **Serves approximately 7,000 students per year.**

Organizations Who Receive this

- **Local education agencies (LEA's)**
- **Community-based organizations (CBO's)**
- **Faith-based organizations**
- **Other public and private entities**
- **A consortium of two or more agencies/organizations, or entities**

The purpose is...

- **To fund programs that provide students with academic enrichment and recreational opportunities designed to complement their regular school day.**
- **To provide opportunities for the families of these students to participate in educational programs.**

Who does it serve...

- **Students from schools where a minimum of 40% percent of the student population are eligible for free and reduced priced meals.**
- **Programs are designed to serve students in Pre-K through grade 12.**

When are programs held...

- **Funds can be used to carry out a broad array of activities such as:**
 - **before and after school;**
 - **Saturday;**
 - **vacation; and**
 - **summer programming.**

Activities...

- **Activities are designed to complement learning objectives from the regular school day.**
- **Offerings include opportunities for students to participate in activities outside of what is offered in the regular school day.**

How many programs are providing summer programming?

- **Summer of 2020: Out of 26 sub-grantees/107 sites, 5 sub-grantees/10 sites ran summer programming.**
- **Summer of 2021: Out of 26 sub-grantees/107 sites, 21 sub-grantees/< 90 sites will provide summer programming.**

Why the increase?

- **Due to the COVID 19 pandemic sub-grantees could not provide the afterschool programming that their original grant applications outlined, which created large surpluses of funding.**
- **The CSDE and CREC worked with each sub-grantee to help plan summer programming.**

Summer activities for elementary and middle school students include...

- **Offer FULL DAY Programing with early start and late pick up opportunities for working families.**
- **Provide Transportation.**
- **Combining resources to create FULL DAY summer opportunities. The school districts are providing the academic supports in the mornings using COVID relief funding and the 21st CCLC grant is providing the enrichment and recreation in the afternoon.**
- **Purchasing slots for students in existing summer programs.**

Summer activities for elementary and middle school students include cont.

- **Providing virtual opportunities, such as virtual field trips for students while at the program and for families to enjoy at home. This site has 25 free virtual field trips <https://www.weareteachers.com/best-virtual-field-trips/>**
- **Providing online master classes through <https://www.masterclass.com/> . This is an immersive online experience, which gives everyone the opportunity to learn from the world's best practitioners. Every class was created by the instructor and includes extensive pre-recorded video content, a class workbook, interactive assignments, and community activities.**

Summer activities for high school students include...

High schools are working hard to meet the unique needs of each of it's scholar's. This age group is the most challenging to engage and requires meeting individualized needs (student lead). Successful programs provide the following opportunities:

- Credit recovery
- College and Career readiness (campus tours)
- Work Force Development
- Drivers Education
- Classes that earn certification and provide a skill set such as life guarding, CPR, EMT, PCA.

Where can I get contact info for current 21st CCLC Programs?

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qSJ33Ftsa50OnoVTfykXpSE9UkUddUkG0pncfihYORg/edit?usp=sharing>

or

21st CCLC Grantee Contact Information

[Grantee Primary Contacts 2020-21](#)

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Next Talk Tuesday

Tuesday, **May 18**, 2021

10 to 11 a.m.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) &

Statewide K-12 SEL Assessment System

(Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) System)

Kimberly Traverso, State Education Consultant, CSDE

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.





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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