Computer Science Advisory Group
MEETING MINUTES

State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue-Room 307A, Hartford, CT
November 21, 2014, 2-4 p.m.

I. **Present:** Commissioner Pryor, Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Sarah Barzee, Nancy Pugliese, Ralph Morelli, Seth Freeman, Chinma Uche, Heather Saska, Jackie Corricelli, Lee Marcoux, Jennifer Michalek, Marcy Reed and Charlene Tate Nichols.

II. **Commissioner's Update:** The Commissioner stated the importance of students having access to the digital area through computer science. He informed the group that the State Board of Education has already approved the formation of this advisory group and is interested in the work that comes out of it. The Commissioner concluded by questioning how to ensure there are standards which enable children to learn what they need in computer science—it is such a growing area?

III. **Computer Science Education Considerations:** There was much discussion around the variety of topics relevant to computer science. The discussion centered around:

   a. A definition of what computer science means;

   b. computer science standards and their relation to other standards;

   c. what districts are currently doing in computer science and what further information is needed as we move forward;

   d. equity issues and the lack of underrepresented populations in computer science opportunities and Advanced Placement testing;

   e. the upcoming computer science week and how we can lend our voice to support the efforts of Hour of Code;

   f. incentives to support computer science education in the state; and

   g. training of teachers in the area of computer science at all grade levels.

IV. **Short-Term Goals:** The committee identified the short-term goals to be carried out before the next meeting. These are to:

   a. amend the current survey to include information about opportunities after school hours or during the summer;

   b. schedule a meeting with representatives from Code.org for December;

c. map current standards in the areas of math, science, business and technical education to the Computer Science Teachers Association standards and International Society for Technology and Education standards;

d. prepare a presentation for the December 3, 2014, State Board of Education meeting;

e. develop a spreadsheet that identifies what is happening in computer science in other states; and

f. scale up the K-5 Code.org training of teachers already underway.

V. **Long-Term Goals:** Through the work of subgroups, this committee will create a position paper on computer science for the state and develop a working definition for computer science.

VI. **Next Meeting:** January 2015, 2:30-4:00 p.m.. Date to be determined.