

# Reimagining Education for Tomorrow's Workforce

## College and Career Readiness for Life

February 23, 2021

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is committed to helping all students achieve college, career, and life success. More than 70% of Connecticut jobs require some form of education beyond a high school diploma, and nine of the 10 fastest-growing occupations require at least an associate's degree. With three foundational goals, key performance indicators (KPIs), supported by targeted and best-practice strategies, the CSDE works with districts to open access and improve outcomes that will help today's young leaders become tomorrow's future workforce. With the help of committed partners, we work to build a unified approach to college and career readiness (CCR) across the state.

### Our Aim: All Students Graduate with Industry-Valued Competencies

We look toward a future where there are no barriers to learning industry valued skills and competencies for all students have a choice and voice in the post secondary experience. To do this, the CSDE will research the development of a competency-based framework to align with current graduation requirements and industry-valued performance standards.

When we integrate industry-valued skills and competencies with academic standards and assessments, then students acquire the necessary tools that transfer for college, career, and life success.



Connecticut State Department of Education

### CCR Goal

1

#### Increase Student Participation in "Future-Ready" Course Work

Increase percentage of 11th and 12th graders taking two or more courses in at least one of the three categories.\*

- KPI 1 — Percentage of students taking Dual-Enrollment Courses/ Advanced Placement (AP)/ International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, Career Technical Education Courses within a cluster, or Workplace Experience courses

#### Strategy:

1. Perkins V Grant Funding and Support
  - Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment 2020
2. Awareness and Communication of potential for rigorous coursework for all students
3. Implement the Comprehensive School Counseling Framework
4. Student Success Plan Course/ Career Planning — personalized and localized career and postsecondary guidance

\* Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System for districts and schools

### CCR Goal

2

#### Increase Student Performance in "Future-Ready" Course Work

Increase percentage of students meeting benchmark on "Future-Ready" Coursework.\*

- KPI 1 — Percentage of students meeting benchmark on SAT/ ACT/AP/IB
- KPI 2 — Percentage of students passing dual enrollment courses (e.g., UConn ECE and CSCU)
- KPI 3 — Percentage of students graduating with Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC)

#### Strategy:

1. Organized local system of support that provides academic and financial assistance and access CSDE as a collaborative partner in supporting local efforts to increasing student performance
2. Teaching and Learning Grant Funding through Title I, II, III, & IV
3. School Improvement Grant Funding through Alliance District, SIG and Commissioner's Network

### CCR Goal

3

#### Increase Post-Secondary Enrollment

Increase percentage of students enrolling in 2- and 4-year institutions.

- KPI 1 — Percentage/growth of statewide FAFSA data through completion

#### Strategy:

1. FAFSA Completion Challenge
2. District opt-in for FAFSA data through EdSight Secure to encourage completion
3. National Student Clearinghouse data for districts

