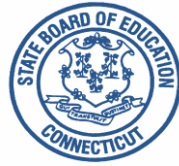




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer

**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**SUBJECT:** CSDE K-12 Universal Curricula Design Principles Handbook

The Connecticut State Department of Education is pleased to release the CSDE K-12 Universal Curricula Design Principles Handbook.

The purpose of the handbook is to provide a common language and structure and planning templates to assist in curricula design. The intent is to increase consistency within and among instructional programs, districts, schools, grade levels, and content areas statewide. The systematic and intentional process outlined in the handbook offers Connecticut educators and curriculum designers opportunities to refine their application of the curricula development process and support curricula evaluation and renewal.

The CSDE K–12 Curricula Design Principles Handbook describes a collaborative curricula-development process committed to designing curricula that embodies six core design principles:

1. Focused
2. Relevant
3. Flexible
4. Rigorous
5. Coherent
6. Diverse Equitable and Inclusive

When designed by these principles, teachers and students have the tools and resources to engage in impactful learning experiences. The principles and unit templates provided are the cornerstones of the CSDE K-8 model curricula. The release of the CSDE K-12 Universal Curricula Design Principles is an important milestone in the collective commitment to assuring all students have access to high quality grade level instruction daily to meet them where they are to accelerate their growth.

It is the hope of the CSDE that districts, educators, curriculum, and teacher leaders realize the potential in planning the teaching and learning experience aligned with the CSDE research-based curricula development process and design principles.

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