



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, and High School Principals

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

**DATE:** May 20, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Connecticut’s African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies CSDE/SERC 2024-2025 Training Series – Cohort 4

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is pleased to continue its partnership with the State Education Resource Center (SERC) to support the effective implementation of the **African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies (SCED 04901)**. High school educators, including curriculum and department coordinators, who will be teaching or supporting the course next year are strongly encouraged to participate in this transformative, comprehensive training series outlined in the table below.

<b>Cohort 4 Training Series</b>	<b>Summer Institute</b>	<b>September Quarterly</b>	<b>December Quarterly</b>	<b>February Quarterly</b>	<b>March Quarterly</b>	<b>June Showcase</b>
Dates and Locations	July 15-19, 2024 9-3 Days 1-2, at SERC  Days 3-5, Virtual	Sept. 19-20, 2024 9-3 Virtual	Dec. 5-6, 2024 9-3 Virtual	Feb. 6-7, 2025 9-3 Virtual	Mar 27-28, 2025 9-3 Virtual	June 3, 2025 8-10:30 and 11:30-2 Virtual  Reception 3-5, at SERC
Content	Curriculum Expectations and Pedagogy, Semester 1 Units 1-3	Semester 1 Units 4-5	Semester 1 Unit 6 and Semester 2 Unit 1	Semester 2 Units 2-3	Semester 2 Units 4-5	Class, Teacher, and Student Presentations

The majority of sessions in this training series are planned to be virtual to allow for teacher flexibility and at no cost to districts with the exception of release time/substitute coverage. As this training is designed and organized as a professional learning community, it is highly suggested that participants commit to the full training series to yield the benefit of networking with other colleagues teaching the course across the state and to receive exclusive access to training materials and curriculum resources.

The series format, which includes the opportunity to learn directly from historians and scholars, gain perspective from people with lived experiences of historical and current events, and acquire knowledge from other educators teaching the course, has assisted immensely in teaching content with accuracy and creating an authentic and conducive learning environment for diverse groups of students.

Supplemental coaching, advanced topic sessions, and student legacy projects will be made available to past and

current participants. Please watch for further information and registration links on SERC's curriculum website at <https://ctserc.org/pa1912>, social media accounts, and <https://goopenct.org>, the CSDE's open education digital library.

As new content will be offered, past CSDE/SERC Training Series participants are invited to audit sessions based on interest and/or need.

If you have any questions regarding the model curriculum or training series for the **African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies**, please reach out to Dr. Maribel Olivero, Director of Equity and Languages, at [Maribel.Olivero@ct.gov](mailto:Maribel.Olivero@ct.gov); Stephen Armstrong, K-12 Social Studies Consultant, at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov); or any member of the SERC Project Team:

- Nitza Diaz, Consultant, [diaz@ctserc.org](mailto:diaz@ctserc.org);
- Paquita Jarman-Smith, Consultant, [jarman-smith@ctserc.org](mailto:jarman-smith@ctserc.org); or
- Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Consultant, [griffin@ctserc.org](mailto:griffin@ctserc.org).

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cc: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education  
Charles E. Hewes, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner of Academics and Innovation  
Ingrid M. Canady, Ed.D., Executive Director, SERC