



# A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTICUT  
Education

**2024-2025**

# Commissioner's Annual Back-to- School Meeting for Superintendents

Connecticut Science Center  
September 10, 2024

Connecticut State  
Department of Education



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Welcome Remarks:  
Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker**



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Welcome Remarks:  
President and CEO Matt Fleury  
Connecticut Science Center**



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Student Performance:  
The Singing Panthers**

**W.F. Kaynor Technical High School**

**Director: Sarah Patel**



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Greetings:**

**Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, CAPSS**



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Superintendent of the Year Address**

**Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent, Vernon  
Public Schools**



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Message:**

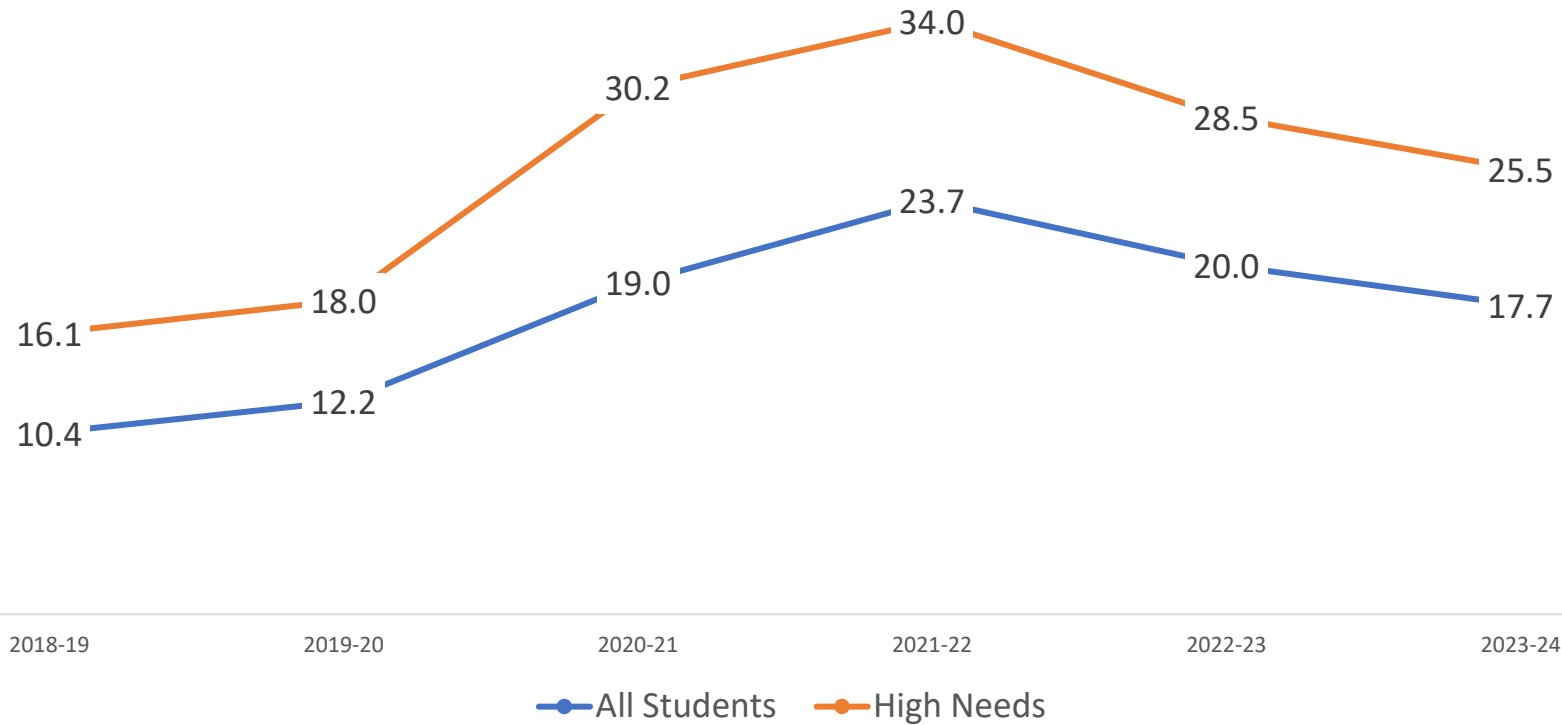
**Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker**



# Attendance Results

### Chronic Absenteeism Trend

*Percentage of Students Chronically Absent*







# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

## **2024-2025 Focus Areas**



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



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**RECRUIT  
& RETAIN**

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Recruit and retain a diverse workforce of educators, while modernizing the certification process.



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



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**SAFE  
& HEALTHY**

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Support safe and healthy learning environments for students and school staff with continued attention to addressing their mental health needs.



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



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**PRESENT  
& ENGAGED**

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Ensure students are physically present in the classroom and actively engaged in learning.



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



**ELEVATE  
& SUPPORT**

Elevate curriculum frameworks and curricula, with a continued focus on supporting early literacy.



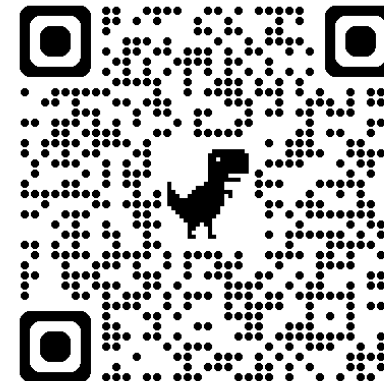
# GoOpen CT



The screenshot shows the GoOpen CT website. At the top left is the GoOpen CT logo. To its right are navigation links: Discover, Hubs, Groups, and Learn More, followed by an Add OER button. Further right are icons for search, notifications, and the state of Connecticut. The main banner features a background image of hands writing on a document. The text reads: "GoOpen Connecticut" and "Welcome to GoOpen CT, the State of Connecticut's public digital library of open educational resources by and for teachers, professors, students, and education leaders." Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "What are you looking for?" and a search button. To the left of the search bar are dropdown menus for "Subject", "Education Level", and "Standard". Below the search bar is a link to "advanced search". At the bottom of the banner is the heading "Extensive Searchable Library, Powerful Connections" and three icons representing different resource categories: Collections, K-12 Model Curricula, and Higher Education Resources.

## K-12 Model Curricula

- K-8 English Language Arts
- K-8 Computer Science
- K-8 Mathematics
- K-8 Science
- K-8 Social Studies
- 6-12 Financial Literacy
- 9-12 African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies



[GoOpen CT](https://goopenct.org)



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



**MODERNIZE  
& EXPAND**

Modernize and expand post-secondary pathways that advance students in careers of their choice while growing Connecticut’s workforce.

# Postsecondary Labor and Earnings Dashboard

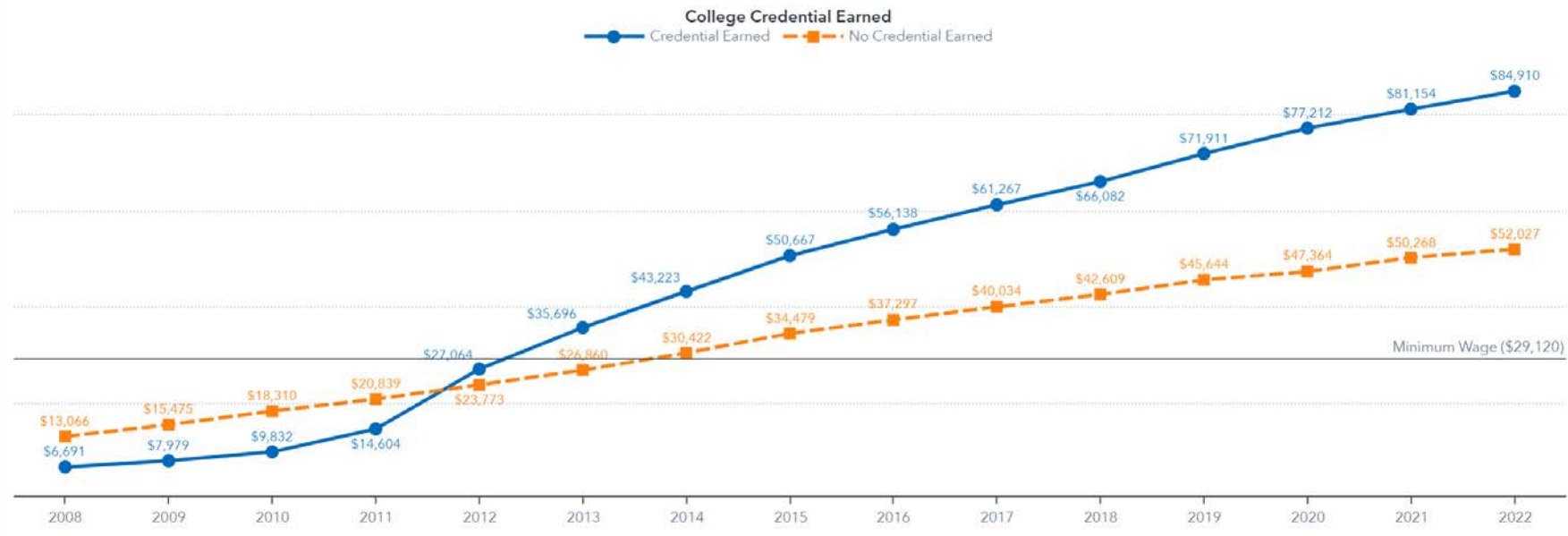
Summary Report   Interactive Report

Select High School Graduating Class<sup>1</sup>

2007   2008   2009   2010   2011   2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

College Completion   Highest Credential Earned   Gender   Race/Ethnicity   High Needs   Industry of Employment   CTECS

Those with college credentials<sup>4</sup> earn<sup>3</sup> substantially more than those without credentials beginning 5-6 years after high school graduation. However, in the first four years, those who eventually obtain college credentials<sup>4</sup> earn<sup>3</sup> less, likely because they are still attending college during that time.



[Postsecondary Labor and Earnings \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/postsecondary-labor-and-earnings)





# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



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**IMPROVE  
& INCREASE**

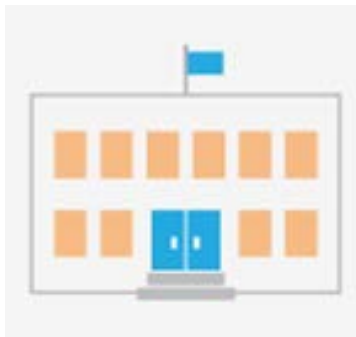
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Improve outcomes for all students, with a focus on increased access and opportunity for students with disabilities.



# CT Education Landscape

- **School Districts: 201**
- **Schools/Programs: 1,516**
- **Certified Staff FTE: 53,436**
- **Non-Certified Staff: ~69,000**



## Students: 512,652

- 53.8% Students of Color (~275,000)
- 44.0% Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (~225,000)
- 17.9% Students with Disabilities (~92,000)
- 10.6% English Learner/Multilingual Learners (~54,000)
- More than 180 Languages spoken
- Over 5,000 Students experiencing homelessness and housing instability



# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



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**STRENGTHEN  
& PROMOTE**

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Strengthen partnerships with families and communities to promote high-impact practices that make a difference for all students, educators, and families.





# 2024-2025 Focus Areas



**RECRUIT  
& RETAIN**



**SAFE  
& HEALTHY**



**PRESENT  
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**ELEVATE  
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**MODERNIZE  
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# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Panel Discussion:**

**A Universe of Opportunities for Connecticut  
Education**



# Panel Discussion: A Universe of Opportunities for Connecticut Education



**Susan Bysiewicz**

Lieutenant Governor

**Major General Francis Evon**

The Adjutant General, Connecticut Military  
Department

**Jeffrey Riley**

Former Commissioner of the Massachusetts  
Department of Education

**Dr. G. Duncan Harris**

Chief Executive Officer, CT State, Capital Campus



# Educator Flight Day

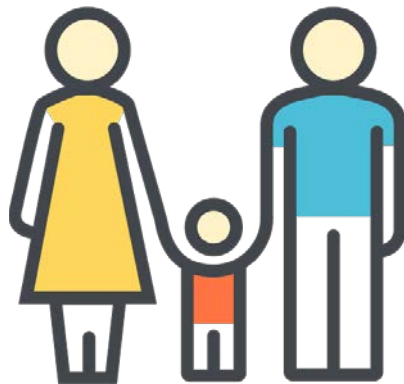
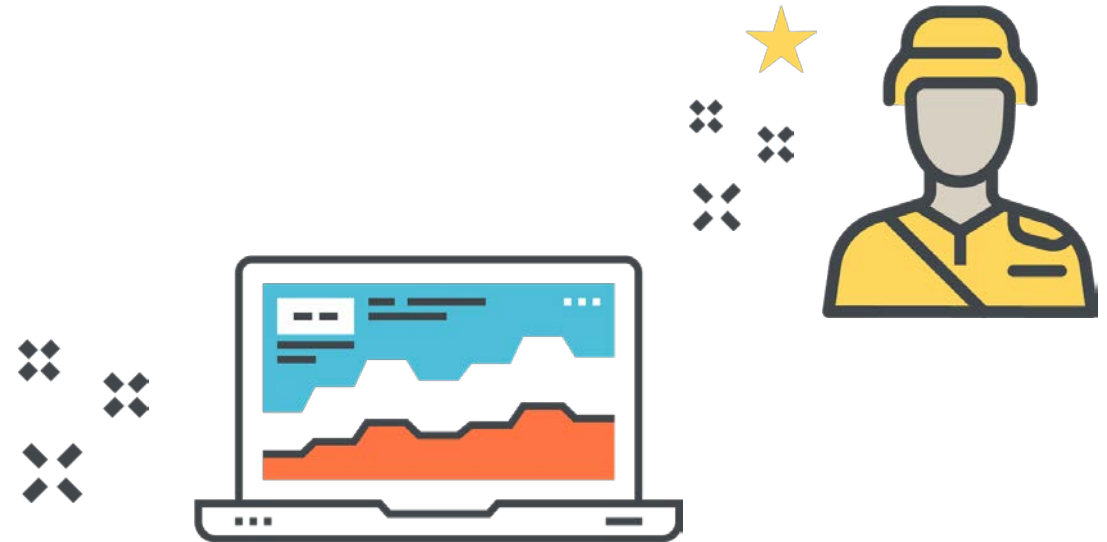






# Who We Are Connecticut's Home Team

- CTARNG
- CTANG
- State Mission
- Federal Mission
- What Makes Us Unique?
- Citizen Soldiers and Airmen





# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

WHAT WE OFFER

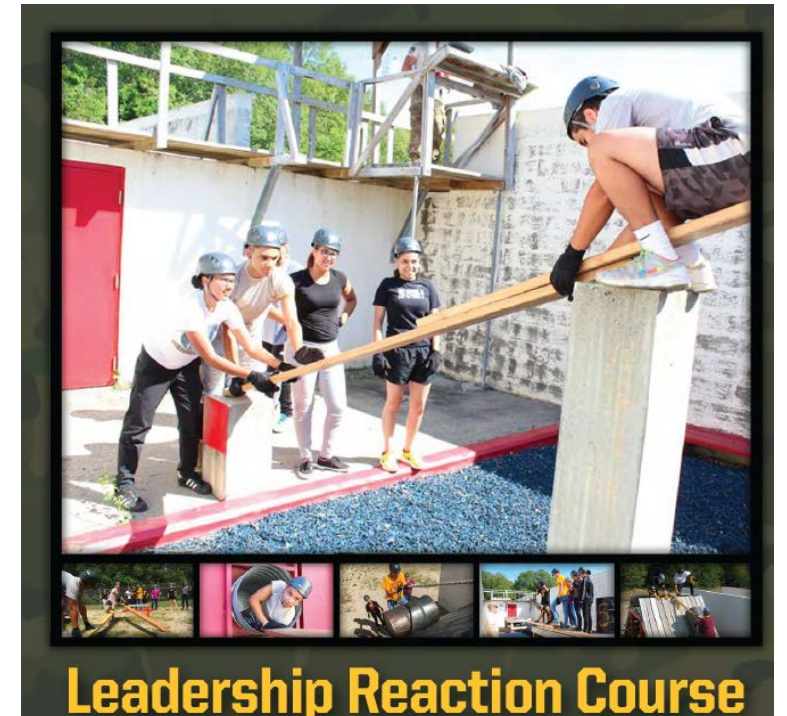
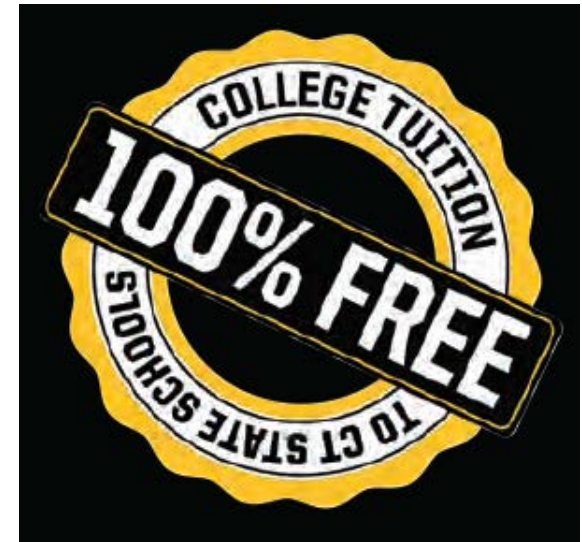




# Opportunities to Serve

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- Tuition Waiver – State Universities
- Low Cost Access to Health Care
- Job Skills Training
- Leadership Development Opportunities
- Fitness Support/ Combating Obesity
- Pathway to Citizenship



# Opportunities to Enhance Education

- STEM Trailer
- Military Guest Speakers: Veterans Day
- Leadership Development; Model UN, JROTC, Leader Reaction Course,
- Computer Coding; SkillQuest
- Athletic Support; Camps, Jerseys, Equipment to Supplement PE, Football Camps
- Tech School Job Shadowing; Mechanical/Automotive
- Minuteman Scholarship
- Accelerated path to West Point USMA



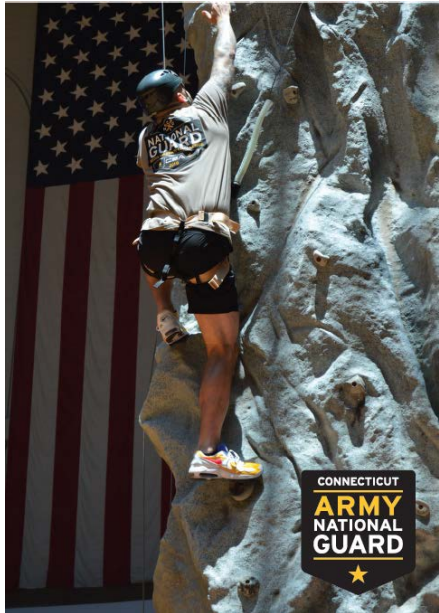




# Opportunities to Supplement Education

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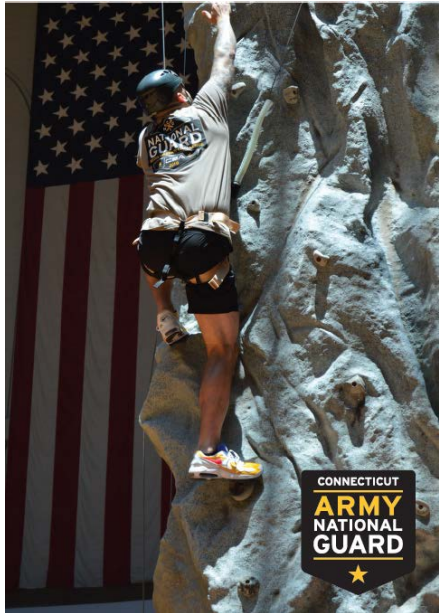
- Facilities; Training Areas, Classrooms, Simulators
- Distracted/ Impaired Driving Simulator
- Branded assets; Obstacle courses, Rockwall, Dunk tank, etc.
- Safety; Window Wrapping, Phone Pouches
- Lunch and Learn informational briefs for educators
- Combat to Classroom: Live Here, Serve Here, Teach Here
- Resiliency classes; HEAR (Helping Everyone Achieve Respect)
- Holistic Health and Fitness classes, Presidential Fitness Test Support





# Opportunities to Supplement Education

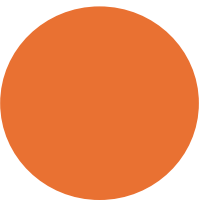
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# Counter Drug Task Force

Stashed Away Trailer is a mobile initiative to educate communities on the dangers of substance misuse among teens by learning cultural cues, common hiding spots, signs and symbols as a means to intervene and prevent.





# STARBASE

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- “Hands on, Mind on”, Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) - focused program for 5th graders
- STARBASE Advanced after school partnerships to design and implement STEM programming for 6-12 graders
- 2 sites: Windsor Locks and Waterbury
- 1500 Students annually – Windsor Locks
- 750 Students annually – Waterbury
- More than 27,500 since inception
- Federally Funded Program





# We Are Partners in Education: What Can We Do For You?

Major General Francis Evon  
The Adjutant General  
Connecticut Military Department  
Phone: 860-524-4953  
Email: [francis.j.evon.mil@army.mil](mailto:francis.j.evon.mil@army.mil)



# **A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES**

**Thank you & Closing Remarks**