



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: August 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Announcement of Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Continuation

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) is continuing the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program (UELP) for the 2026–2027 school year.

The purpose of the UELP is to enable local education agencies (LEAs), individual high schools, and their business and industry partners to place students ages 16 and 17 in unpaid work-based learning opportunities for up to 120 hours per year. The approved UELP application is a waiver that supports the efforts of LEAs to expand and build new pathways for students, while allowing for career skill development in an authentic setting.

All briefings and mandatory safety workshops will be virtual and self-paced this year, with webinars and assessments open for the entire month. The schedule and links are listed below. To participate in the UELP, you or your designee must watch the UELP Briefing Webinar and score 80% or higher on the UELP Briefing Assessment.

Schedule:

- September 2026 - covers the 2026-2027 school year, and summer 2027 placements.
- January 2027 - for LEAs/schools who did not join UELP in September and covers spring and summer placements for 2027.
- May 2027 - for LEAs/schools who did not join UELP in September or January and covers summer placements for 2027.

Links:

- UELP Briefing Webinar: <https://youtu.be/AO3HFDKJouY>
- UELP Briefing Assessment: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/FgWY0wvaQS>

Upon successful completion of the UELP Briefing Assessment, the completer will receive an email with the application to join UELP *and* the UELP Safety Webinar link and UELP Safety Assessment link. Please determine who will be placing students at UELP sites and share the safety links with them once they are received by you or your designee. All district staff placing students at worksites must watch the UELP Safety Webinar and score 80% or higher on the UELP Safety Assessment in accordance with the schedule listed above. Upon successful completion of the UELP Safety Assessment, the completer will receive an email with the safety

training resources for students, the UELP Student Application, and the UELP Employer Agreement.

In late spring, participating LEAs/schools will receive the UELP Desk Audit for timely completion.

Should you need additional information regarding the 2026–2027 UELP, please contact Rebecca Rose at Rebecca.Rose@ct.gov or 860-713-6866.

IEP:rr