

# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

June 7, 2022  
Meeting Notes  
(DRAFT)

[View meeting materials and watch recording.](#)



# OPENING REMARKS & ROLL CALL

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor  
State of Connecticut

# Opening Remarks

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz calls meeting to order and offers opening remarks:

- Acknowledges and thanks agencies for their efforts to ensure more equitable access to education, resources and opportunities. She remarks that closing all gaps is a priority for the administration.
- Notes that today's topic discussion is technology advancements that could redress learning loss and close the digital divide and welcomes presenters.

# Member Agencies

Lt. Governor asks Kari Sullivan Custer, State Department of Education (SDE) to conduct the roll call.

- Office of the Lieutenant Governor: The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, Chair, and Taijah Anderson
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU): Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Dean of Education, Southern Connecticut State University
- Department of Administrative Services (DAS): Doug Casey, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology
- Department of Children and Families (DCF): Matt Folan, Superintendent, Unified School District #2
- Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD): (Not present)
- Department of Housing (DOH): Shante Hanks, Deputy Commissioner
- Department of Public Health (DPH): (Not present)
- Department of Social Services (DSS): Astread Ferron-Poole, Chief of Staff
- Judicial Branch: Patricia Nunez, Program Manager
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC): Beth Bye, Commissioner, Lorna Thomas-Farquharson, and Elena Trueworthy
- Office of Policy and Management (OPM): Holly Williams, Director, Fiscal and Program Policy Section
- State Department of Education (SDE): Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, John Frassinelli, Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Irene Parisi, and Kari Sullivan-Custer,

# Agenda

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz reviews the agenda noting that the educational technology discussion will be co-facilitated by Doug Casey, Dr. Hegedus, and Holly Williams. She further notes that other agencies with comments are welcome to participate in the discussion.

## **I. Opening Remarks & Roll Call**

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut

## **II. Acceptance of Minutes and Follow-up from Last Meeting Discussion**

## **III. Educational Technology to Address the Achievement Gap**

Doug Casey, Commission for Educational Technology  
Stephen J. Hegedus, Ph.D., Southern Connecticut State University  
Holly Williams, Office of Policy and Management

## **I. Next Steps**

## **II. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

# Acceptance of Minutes and Follow Up from Last Meeting

Topic	Notes
March 11, 2022, Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lt. Governor notes the the topic of discussion was behavioral health.</li><li>• Lt. Governor notes that meeting minutes were circulated in draft to Council for review and edits received have been made.</li><li>• Lt. Governor notes that if anyone has corrections at this time to let her know and, seeing none, asks if there are objections to accepting minutes as final.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No objections; March 11, 2022, minutes accepted as final.</li></ul></li></ul>

Lt. Governor introduces Holly Williams to kick-off the educational technology presentation and discussion.

# Educational Technology to Address the Achievement Gap

Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap

June 7, 2022



# Presenters

- Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood
- Doug Casey, Commission for Educational Technology
- John Frassinelli, State Department of Education
- Ajit Gopalakrishnan, State Department of Education
- Stephen Hegedus, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
- Holly Williams, Office of Policy and Management



# Framing the Discussion

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Teaching and Learning through the Lens of Technology

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How Technology-Enhanced Learning Environments Can Address the Achievement Gap

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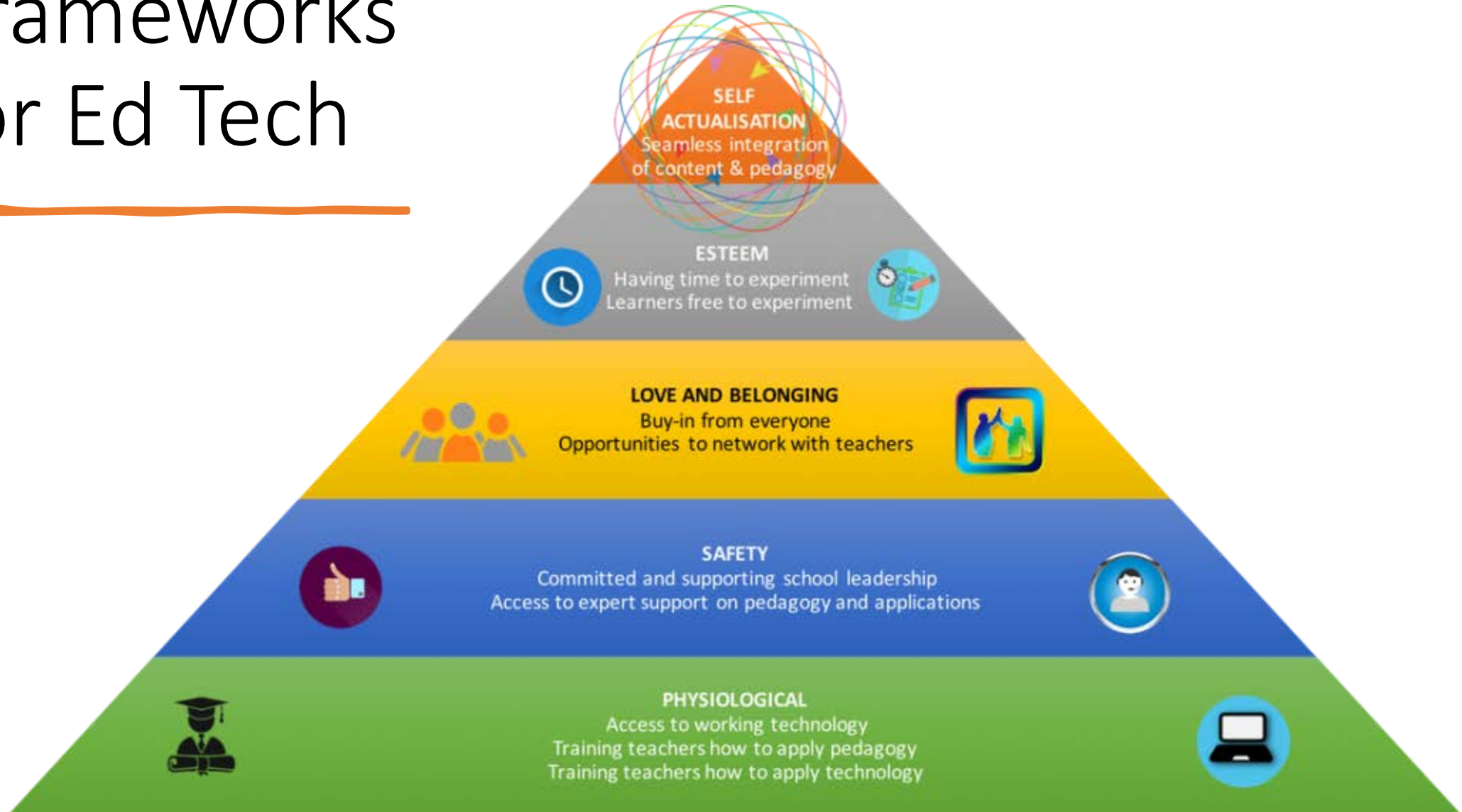
How to Translate One-Time Funding Opportunities into Creative, Sustainable Approaches to Support Innovation

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How the Affordance of Technology and Digital Pedagogies Can Widen Opportunities for All Students (Equity)

# Frameworks for Ed Tech

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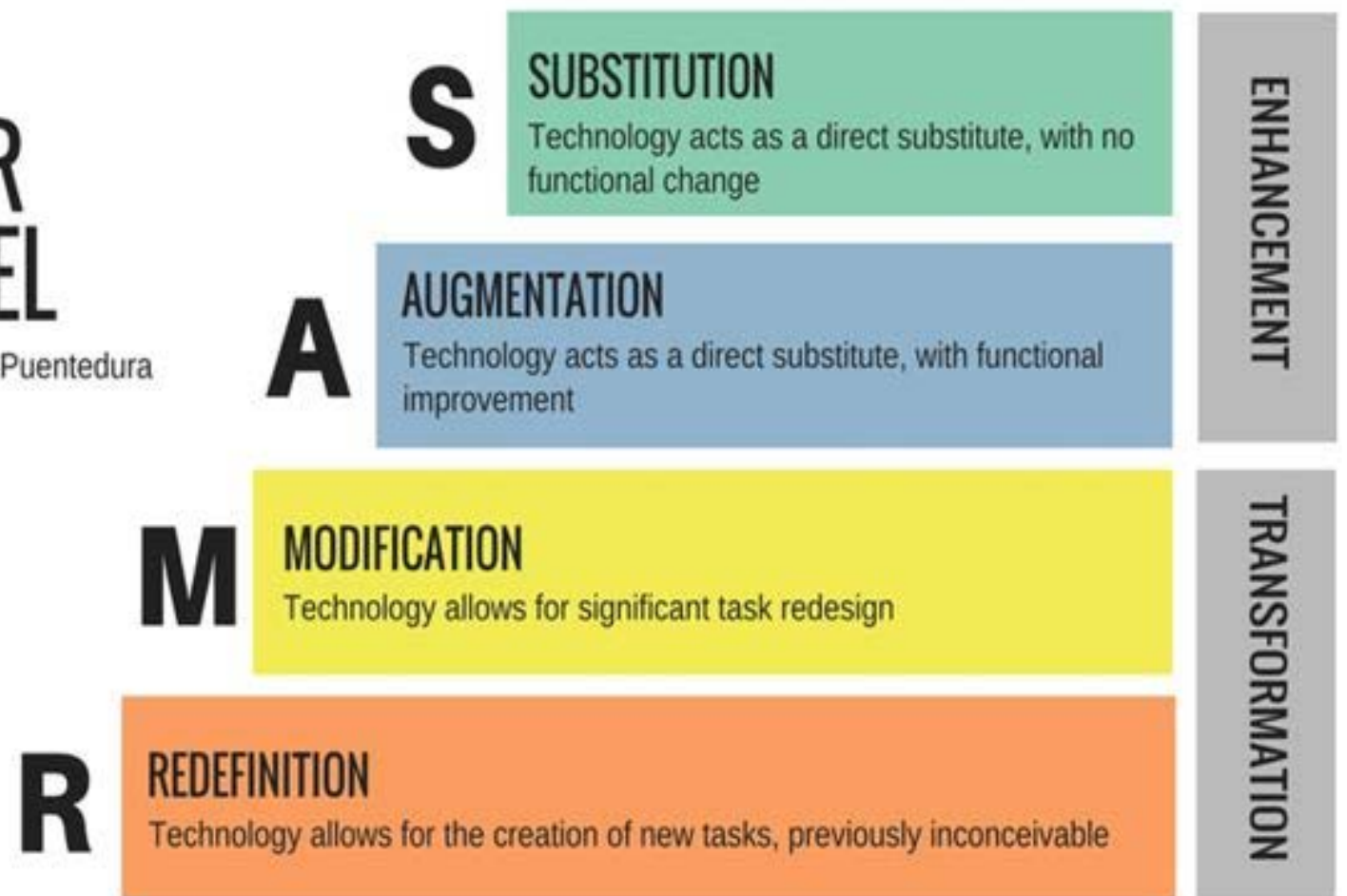


# Frameworks for Ed Tech

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## THE SAMR MODEL

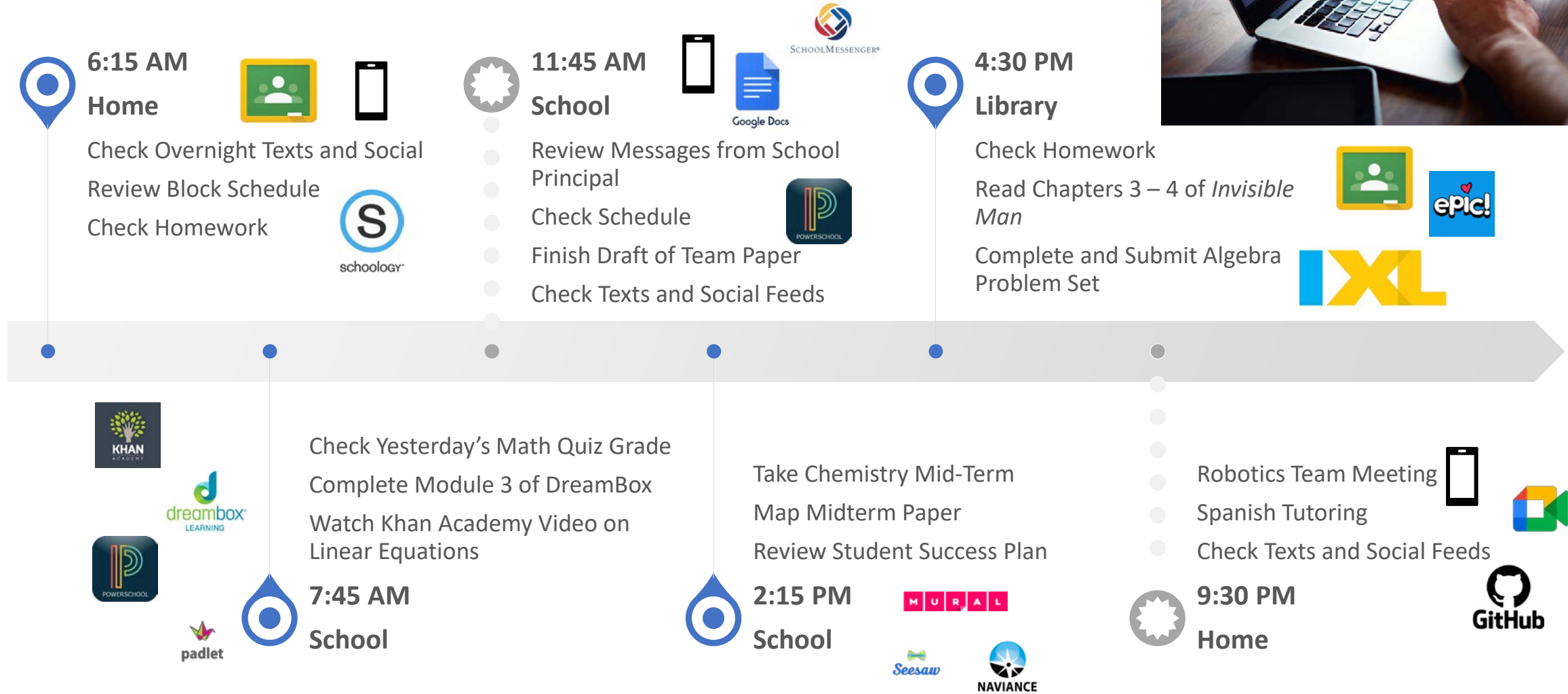
Dr. Ruben R. Puentedura



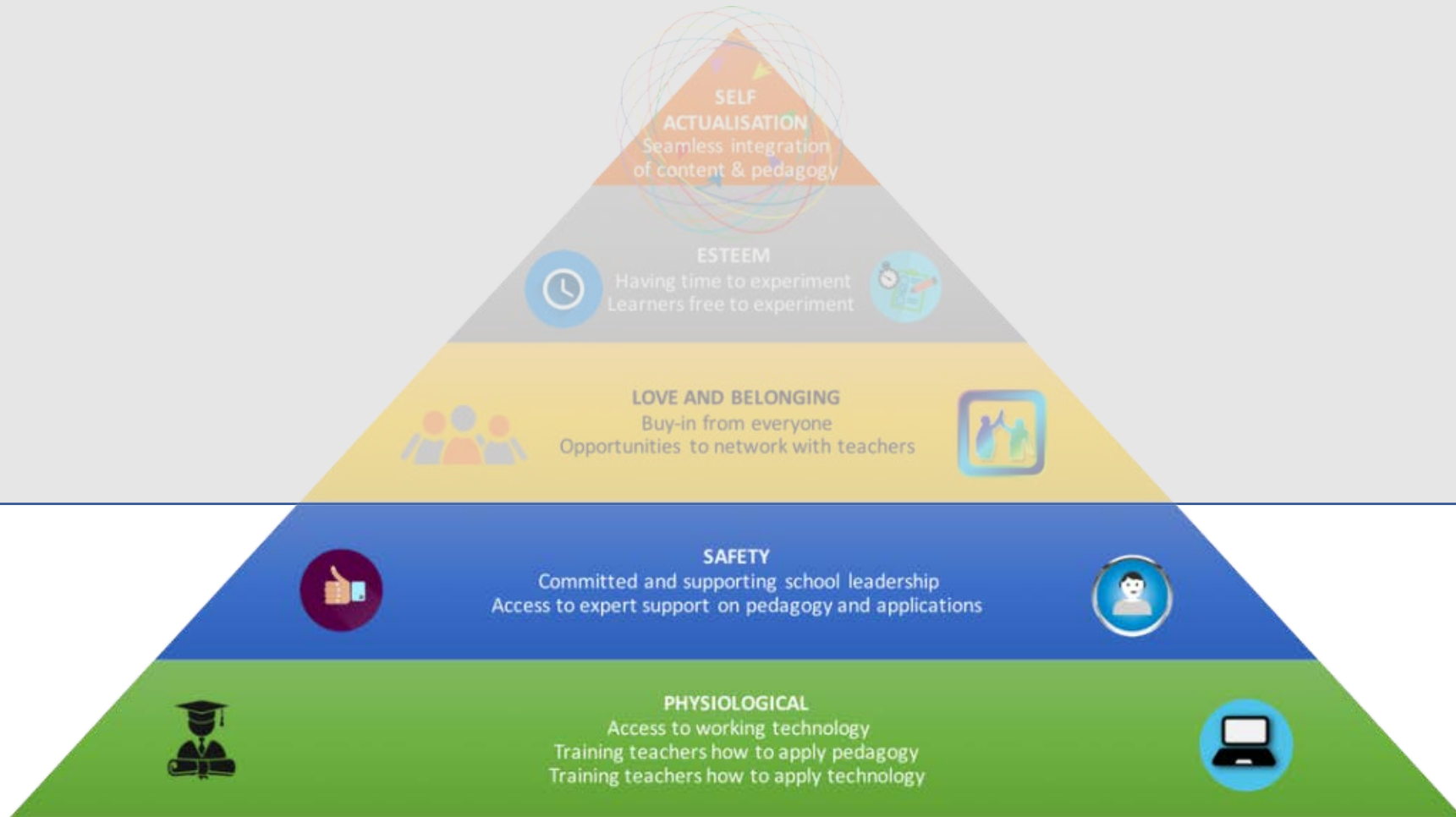
# Education Technology Design Principles

- Essential Conditions as Tools for Learning
- Enhanced Communication and Engagement Across Time and Spaces (inside and outside the classroom)
- Goal of Mastery through Personalized Learning
- Affordances of Technology as Design Principles for Activity Design (e.g., iPad as an input device)
- Legitimate Peripheral Participation – engagement for all learners

# “Day in the Life”



# Essential Conditions



# Internet and Devices

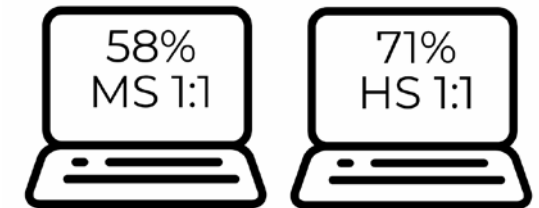
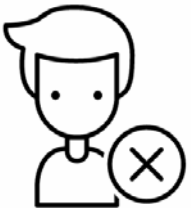
## Schools

- CEN Connects and Protects All Districts
- Built-In Cyber Protections and Filtering
- 71% High Schools, 58% Middle Schools 1:1 Pre-Pandemic
- Met 1:1 Demand During Remote Learning
- Districts Not Hiring to Meet Spike in Tech Support
- Average Staff-to-Device Support Ratio of 1:1,000






## Homes

- 30% CT Residents Without Broadband (2020 ACS)
- Estimated 8% (40,000 Students) Without Home Internet
- District Pandemic Requests for 62,000+ Home Internet Connections

8% =  
42K+



# Everybody Learns

-  142,102 Computers
  - 80,474 Windows Laptops
  - 61,628 Chromebooks
-  12,774 Mobile Hotspots (Kajeet)
-  ~40,000 Cable Broadband Connections
-  164 Community Access Points
-  Public Awareness Campaign



# Adoption Challenges and Lessons

## Among Families

- Already Connected
- Not Aware
- Distrust of Cable Carriers
- Concern Over Onboarding
  - Exposure and Liability with Forms
  - Too Confusing
  - Undocumented
- Simply Do Not Want Service

## Among Districts

- Need Overestimated or Already Met
- Have Not Communicated with Families
- Have Not Distributed Vouchers
- Needs Fulfilled by Other Means

# Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)

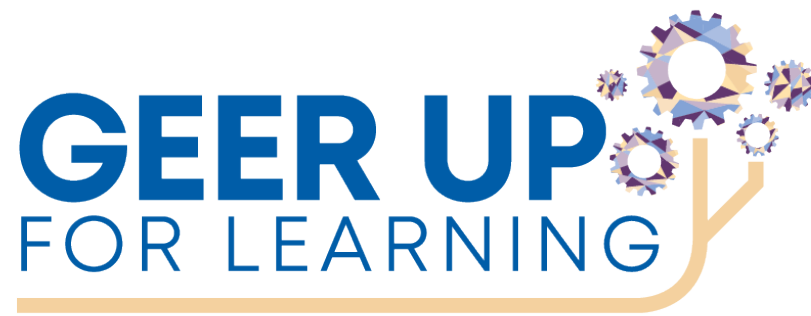
LEAP provides funding to the six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), which in turn coordinate directly with their respective districts (15) and local organizations (e.g., Youth Service Bureaus, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.) to expand people power and strengthen relationships through home visits to address specific student needs, including:

- engaging families in a relationship-building manner (not punitive) to address critical needs of students, such as behavioral and mental health services, housing stability, access to childcare, transportation, and meals;
- connecting families to summer enrichment programs;
- ensuring students are prepared for the new school year and attending school on a regular basis;
- using devices to log in for remote learning;
- relaying information about free and reduced-cost connectivity programs;
- troubleshooting problems with technology and new broadband services; and
- linking families with additional educational support services, like tutoring, adult education, and FAFSA support.

## **Home Visitor Log (as of December 31, 2021)**

- 12,000+ family contacts
- 7,000 families

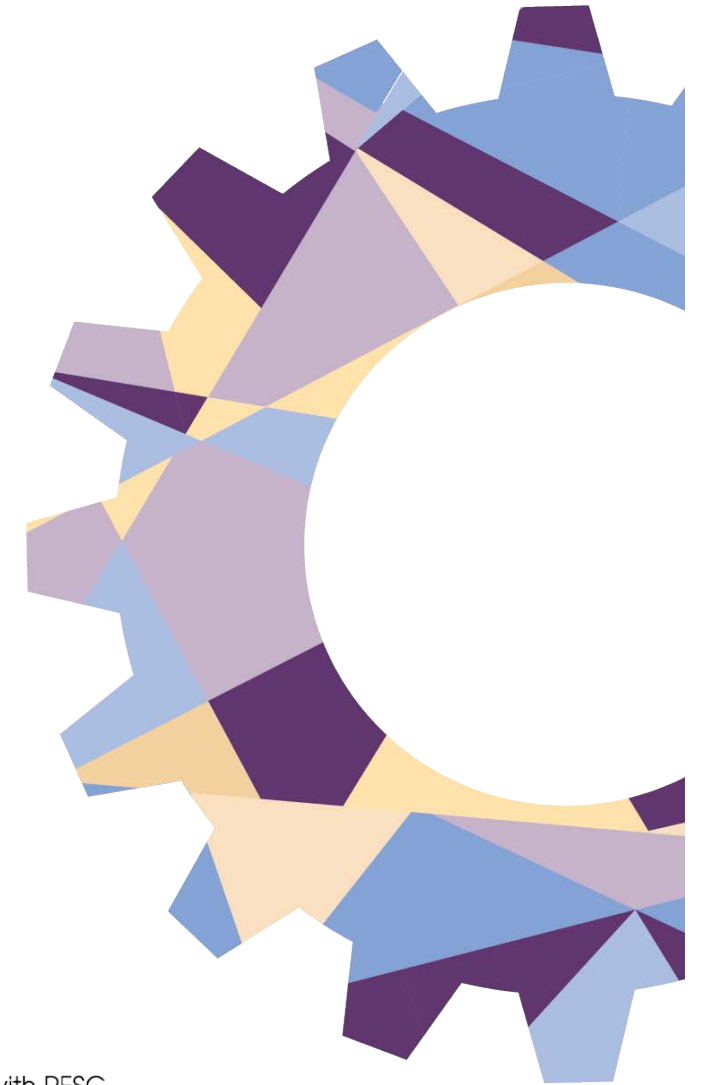




# Early Childhood Impact

During the pandemic, technology was distributed to families with young children to:

- Keep families in contact with Community based programs for story time, activities, parent communication
- To deliver early intervention services for children with special education needs through technology
- To deliver home visiting services to at risk families through technology.
- To provide professional development to early education professionals about best uses of technology with families and young children.



Funded by OEC through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with RESC.



Governor's Education  
Emergency Relief



Connecticut Office  
of Early Childhood

RESC Alliance  
CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS



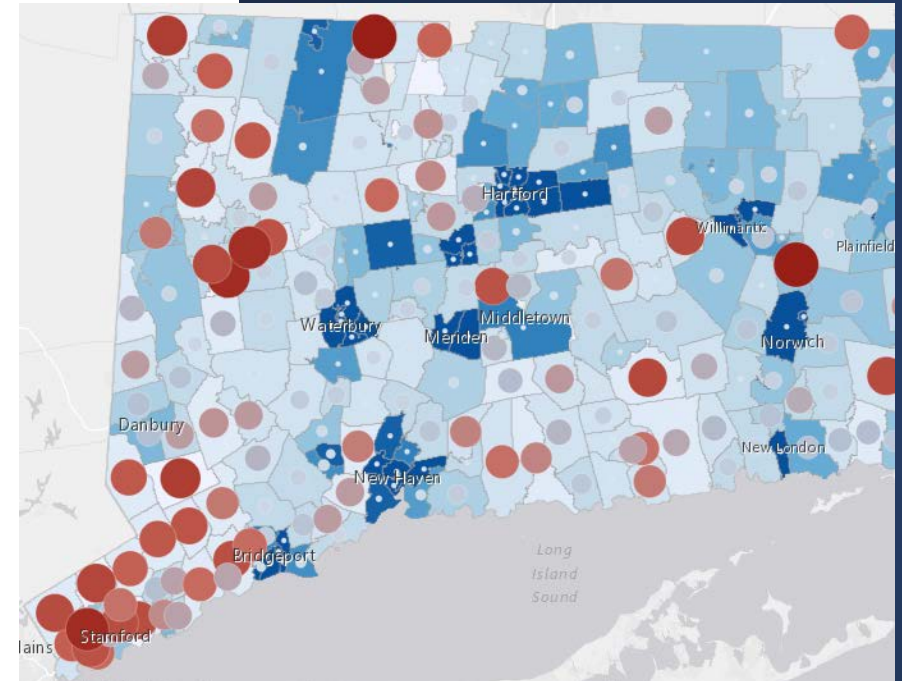
# Federal and State Broadband

## Federal

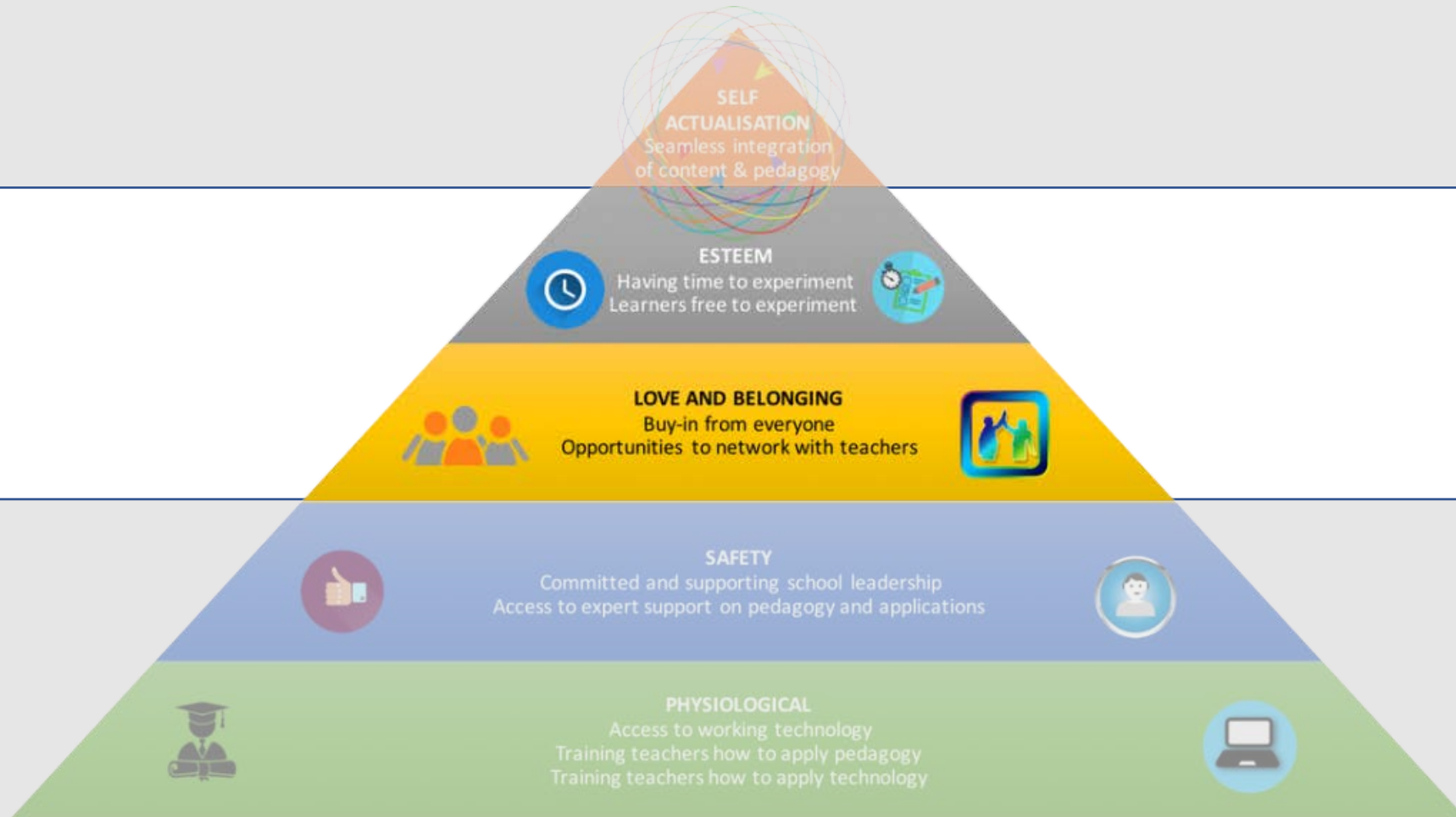
- Emergency Connectivity Fund: Home Internet for Schools and Libraries
- Affordable Connectivity Program: Internet for Qualifying Households
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - Broadband Buildout
  - Digital Equity

## State

- Governor's Broadband Bill ([PA 21-159](#))
  - Expansion of Broadband
  - Availability Mapping
  - Community Wireless

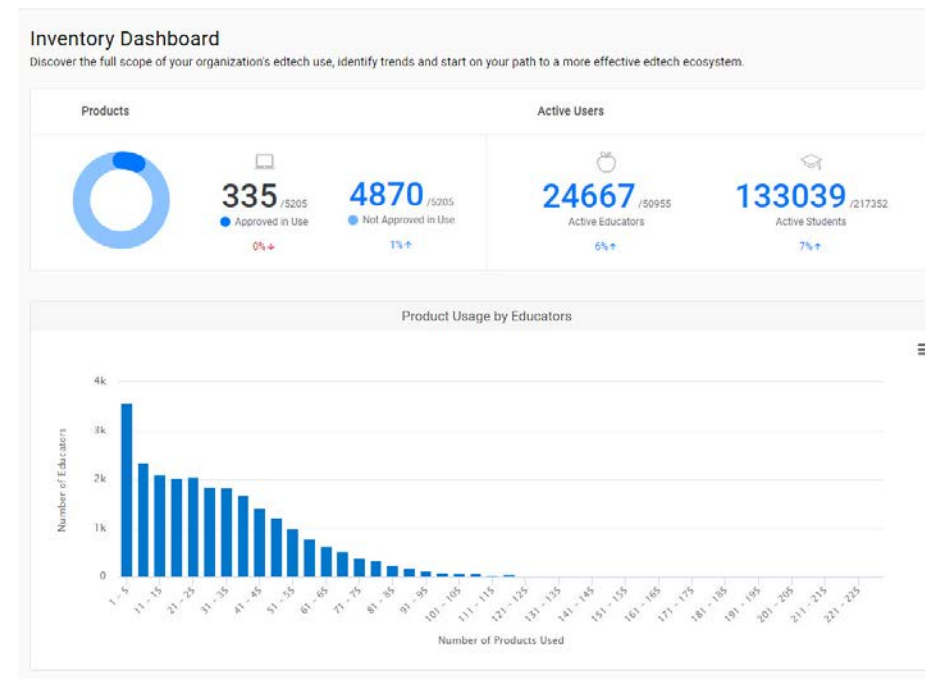


# Applications and Resources



# Educational Software

- CT Districts Using Nearly 5,000 Apps (96% Increase Since Q4 '19)
- Average District Uses 1,400+ Software Title
- LearnPlatform Allows for Free Ed Tech Tracking, Oversight, and Privacy Compliance



# GoOpen CT

- State Site for Creating, Curating, Sharing, and Finding Learning Materials
- 9,000 Courses, Texts, and Learning Materials
- Higher Education, K – 12, Adult Education
- Supports School-to-College Pathways
- Standards Alignment and Quality Rubrics
- Home for CSDE Model Curriculum



## Comprehensive Searchable Library, Powerful Connections



K-12 blended learning resources

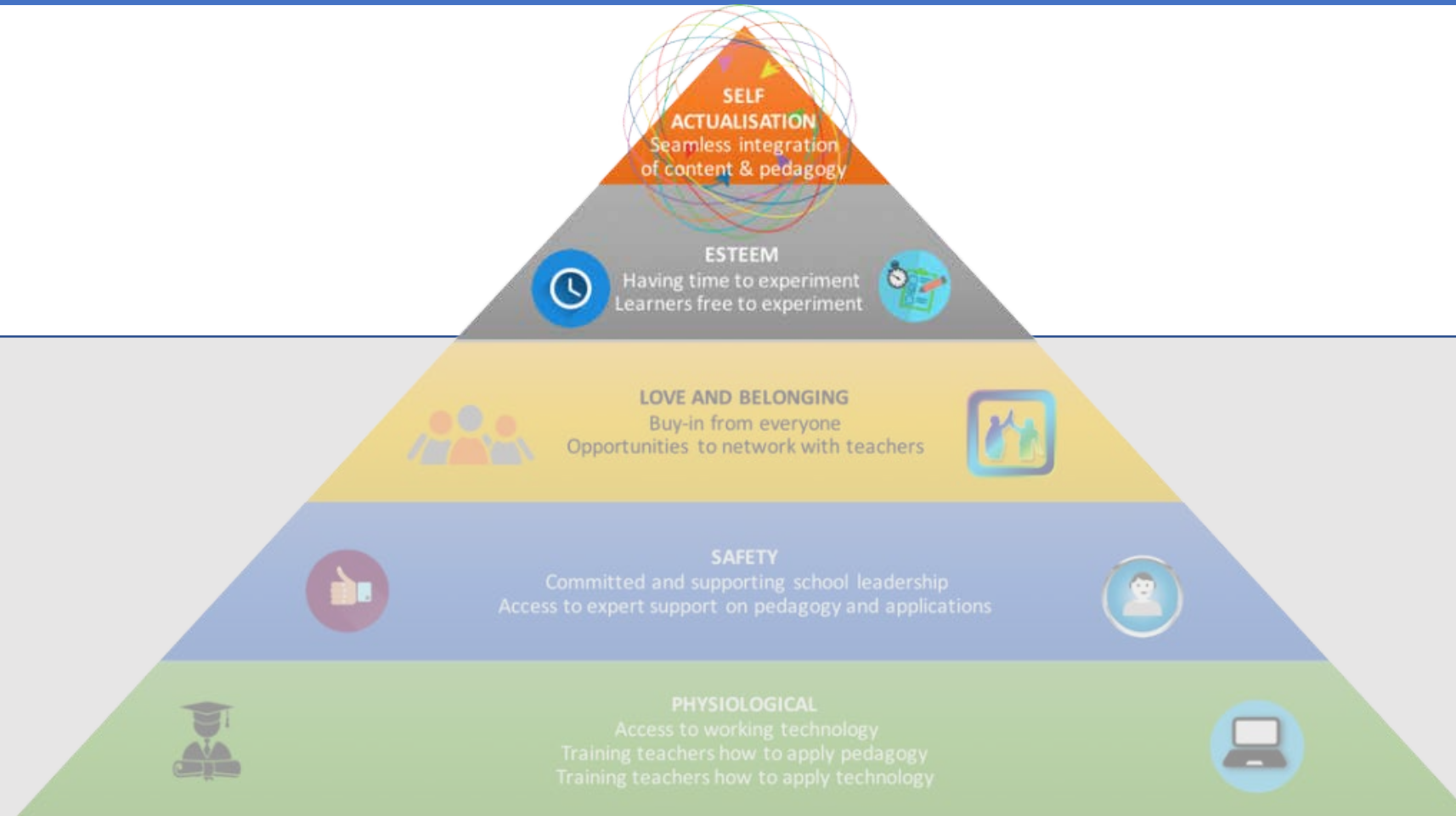
Blended Learning



Collections by and for Connecticut colleges and universities

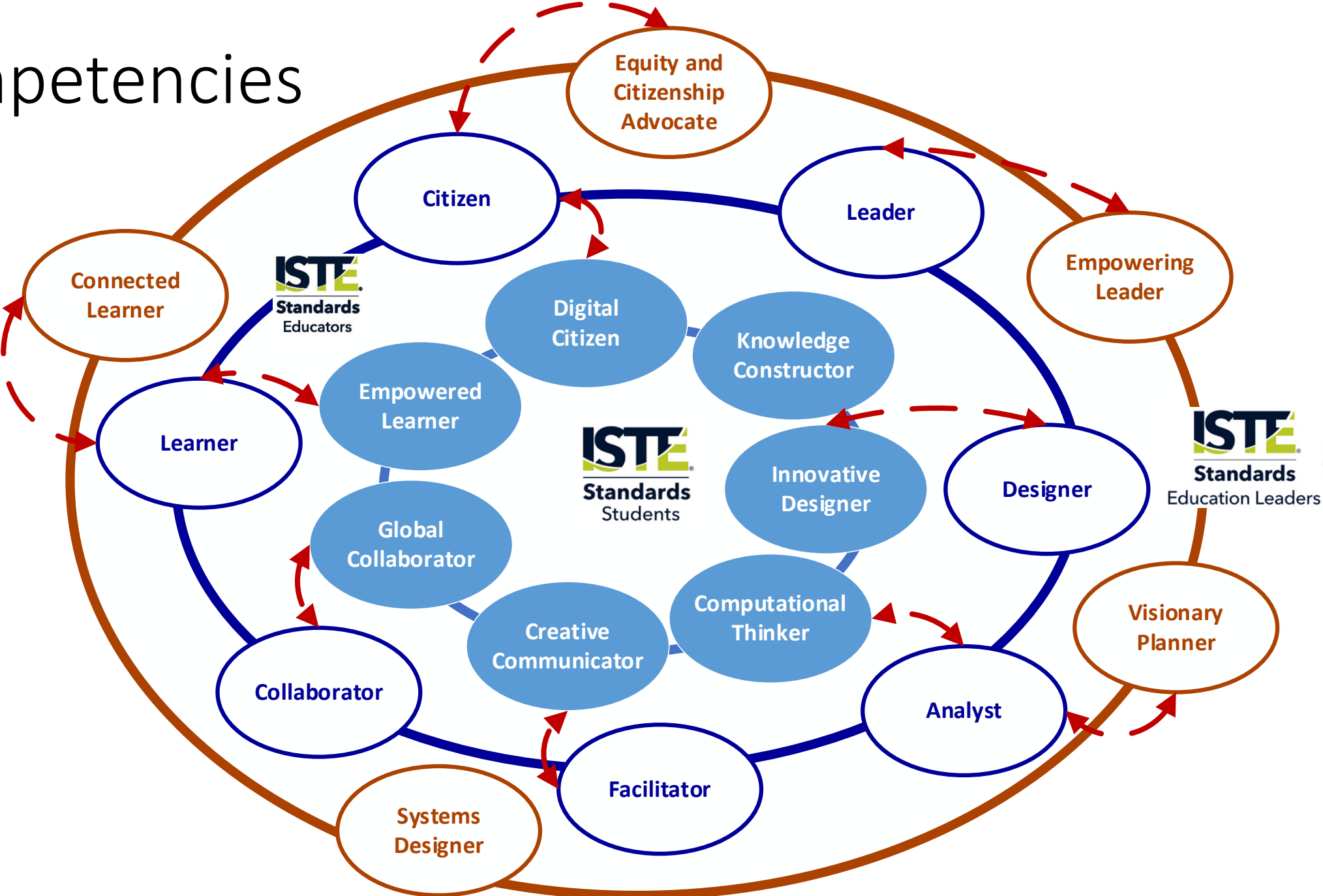
Higher Education Resources

# Competencies and Achievement





# Competencies



# Educator Needs and Support



Pre-Service



In-Service



Ongoing Practice, Growth  
Mindset, and Use of Resources

# Design for Learning

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Mastery (Competency) Based Learning

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Multiple Pathways to Achievement

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Online Learning (Remote, Hybrid, etc.)

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Use of Time, Space, and People

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Engagement of Community and Other Partners

# Recommendations



Adopt Policies That Encourage Creativity and Innovative Practices to Benefit Students



Infuse Trust Among Stakeholders (Board, Administrators, Educators, Agencies) to Support Innovation and Student Achievement



Focus on Outcomes Versus Inputs



Design Solutions for Sustainability



Coordinate Efforts Across Agencies and Programs



Encourage viewing these through the lens of our digital footprint and current teaching and learning needs



Adopt an Opportunity Mindset — Reconsider “Achievement Gap”

# Questions

- Lt. Governor Bysiewicz asks for clarification about the demand for internet connectivity, including the 12,774 hotspots.
  - *Multiple agencies engage in a discussion on removing barriers to broadband access: efforts to increase parent awareness, and increasing understanding, capacity, access, and use of technology through federal COVID-19 relief funds.*
- Lt. Governor highlights the city of East Hartford's recent RFP for underground Internet access - in two years every home that's eligible will have free Internet. The wires are underground and not have issues in bad weather. She shares that this is something that we should be thinking about for the future.
- Doug Casey shared that the State is engaging in digital equity efforts funded through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Digital Equity Act, part of IIJA, provides for planning and capacity building to identify and eliminate barriers to broadband availability, affordability, and adoption as well as the development of digital literacy skills and technical support for all residents, including K – 12 students and educators. The Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology will lead the Digital Equity efforts on behalf of the state and welcomes interested agencies and community leaders to contribute input and ideas toward the development of Connecticut's digital equity plan.

# Next Steps

*Lt. Governor thanks each presenter and then reviews next steps.*

<p>2022 Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>September 16, 2022, and December 13, 2022 (all meetings will be held from 1 to 3 p.m.)</p>
<p>Preparation and planning for future meetings</p>	<p>Lieutenant Governor shares that the Department of Housing and Office of Early Childhood will co-facilitate discussion on the efforts of what their departments are doing to connect housing and childcare needs. Members are asked to notify Commissioner Bye and Deputy Commissioner Hanks by Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> if their agency would like to contribute to the subject</p> <p>Lt. Governor reviews potential topics for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of the DCF education unit that will provide administrative oversight of education for youth in juvenile justice facilities*</li> <li>• Fatherhood initiative</li> <li>• EBT and food insecurity</li> <li>• EdSight Data Portal</li> </ul> <p>Lt. Governor asks that Council members keep three things in mind for future meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify any applicable Task Force Report Results Statement(s) and policy recommendations with respect to the information you are sharing</li> <li>2. Explain how any other agencies might help advance the work, and invite any relevant non-Council member agencies to participate in the meeting; and</li> <li>3. Identify any existing or proposed legislation, as may be applicable</li> </ol> <p>Lt. Governor additionally reminds the Council to be proactive about sharing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Program updates and measured progress with respect to existing programs</li> <li>2. Any new initiatives consistent with goals of the Council,</li> <li>3. Any proposed legislation relevant to the work of the Council and highlights the child's mental health bill that was signed by the Governor as a topic that should be in our report.</li> </ol> <p>Lt. Governor asks for any comments or questions.</p>

Closure/Meeting Adjourned  
(apx. 2:30 pm)

