

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
September 19, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
[Meeting Recording](#)

I. Opening Remarks and Roll Call

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to the September 19th meeting of the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap. She introduced Kari Sullivan Custer to conduct Roll Call.

Roll Call:

Kari Sullivan Custer recorded the following agency personnel present:

Office of the Lieutenant Governor: The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, and Christine Jean-Louis, General Counsel

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU):

Department of Administrative Services (DAS): Mark Raymond, Deputy Commissioner

Department of Children and Families (DCF):

Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD): Tekowa Omara-Otunnu, Manager for Arts Education

Department of Housing (DOH): Shante Hanks, Senior Advisor

Department of Public Health (DPH): Miriam Miller, Policy Director

Department of Social Services (DSS): Talitha Coggins, Manager, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

Connecticut Judicial Branch (JUD): Patricia Nunez, Regional Manager, Court Support Services Division

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE): Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner; Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, Deputy Commissioner, John Frassinelli, Division Director; Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, Education Manager; and Kari Sullivan Custer, Education Consultant

Office of Early Childhood (OEC):

Office of Policy and Management (OPM): Holly Williams, Fiscal and Policy Section Director, Education and Workforce Development; Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer; Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, Director of Evaluation and Impact; and Scott McWilliams, Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director

Lieutenant Governor reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives set forth. She shared that the focus of today's meeting will be a presentation by CSDE on the EdSight data portal and a review of use of American Rescue Plan funds by OPM.

She shared that we welcome the active engagement of our Council members, and we will continue to follow the format of our previous meetings where we will address policy

recommendations from the 2014 Master Plan and seek input from Council members. She invited participants to ask questions or share anything that you would like to add.

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

Lt. Governor shared that the Council last met on July 18, 2023. The minutes of that meeting were circulated to the Council in draft form for your review. We did not receive any edits or comments to the minutes.

Participants were invited to make suggested changes at this time. Seeing and hearing none, Lt. Governor asked for any objections to the minutes as final? Seeing and hearing no objections, the July 18, 2023, minutes were accepted as final.

III. EdSight Data Portal – Connecticut State Department of Education

Commissioner Russell-Tucker opened with comments about EdSight, CSDE’s interactive data portal that keeps data statistics and reports about schools in one place.

She introduced CSDE’s Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan who provided a comprehensive overview and a demonstration to highlight a few of the new dashboards now available.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan shared that the data in these reports come for districts and other outside sources. Although there are many, many reports, he shared the following dashboards:

- Connecticut Report Cards
- Accountability Index
- Computer Science
- Educator Diversity
- Students Experiencing Homelessness
- College Enrollment
- School Expenditures
- Grant Expenditures

This presentation and discussion can be [watched online](#).

IV. Review of American Rescue Plan Funds

Holly Williams, Section Chief, opened the presentation of OPM’s annual performance report, evaluation and impact of the work that’s been done to date.

She introduced Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer, Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, Director of Evaluation and Impact, and Scott McWilliams, Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director covering federal funds for OPM.

This presentation and discussion can be [watched online](#).

Ms. Williams and the team provided an overview of the funds that have come into Connecticut from the American Rescue Plan (\$2.8 billion) that is under the purview of OPM. The presentation described the process for allocating, reporting and evaluating the use of funds.

V. Next Steps

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz provided an overview of the next steps going forward. The last quarterly meeting of 2023 will be on Tuesday afternoons including December 12th, 2023.

She reported that the agenda will include the OEC presenting its thoughts on the importance of continuity of learning between grades and where play focus education becomes a lost.

DSS is invited to provide updates on the Fatherhood Initiative and EBT. We hope to have CSDE present on maintenance on the technology that schools receive during the pandemic at either the December or March meetings.

She invited members to offer any suggestions for guest speakers who can provide a particular insight on topics related to the Council's work.

VI. Closing/Meeting adjourned

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz expressed her and the Governor's appreciation of all the work put forth in this legislative session. We appreciate your time and talent and dedication, and we will see you next time. Thank you so much for your participation in our Interagency Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.