

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting
(Subject to Revision)
October 6, 2016

Call to Order

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The meeting was held in Conference Room 307A of the State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

Member agencies
represented by:

Jeffrey R. Beckham, Staff Counsel and Director of Communications, Department of
Administrative Services
Michael Carone, Legislative and Regulations Analyst, Department of Social Services
Leah Grenier, Principal Budget Specialist, Office of Policy and Management
Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager and Director of Higher Order Thinking (HOT)
Schools, Department of Economic and Community Development
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Health Program Associate, Children and Youth with Special Health Care
Needs, Department of Public Health (telephone)
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

Guests:
Joan Barere, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
Caroline Smith-Cooke, Connecticut State Department of Education
John Frassinelli, Connecticut State Department of Education
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Connecticut State Department of Education
Jaquita Monroe, Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division
Kari Sullivan, Connecticut State Department of Education

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2016 and April 7, 2016

Minutes from both meetings were unanimously approved.

III. Next Generation Accountability System for Districts and Schools

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education

Mr. Gopalakrishnan provided an overview of the State Department of Education's new Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System. This new system contains a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. It moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan outlined that there are two main differences in the new system. First, in addition to measuring academic achievement, the new system also focuses on student growth

over time. The second change is that the system now includes additional key indicators, such as chronic absenteeism, physical fitness and arts access.

A key feature of the new accountability system is that it separates data for high-needs subgroups of students. This information will give us a better idea of how students living in poverty, students who have disabilities and students learning English are performing in school.

For more information on the Next Generation Accountability System and to review the PowerPoint Presentation visit the [Performance & Accountability Web page](#).

**IV. The Connection Between Academic Progress and Summer Meals:
State and Local Efforts and the Importance of Community Partnerships**

John Frassinelli, Chief
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education
Connecticut State Department of Education

Mr. Frassinelli provided a presentation on the State Department of Education's Summer Meals Programs including the Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, Academic Summer School and the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program and the important role these programs have in providing summer meals to Connecticut's children. Some highlights from the presentation include:

- Summer meals ensure children continue to receive safe, nutritionally complete meals during the summer when school is out. These programs are an extension of the National School Lunch Program.
- Meals are provided in a variety of community settings such as parks, churches, libraries, playgrounds, and recreation centers – locations where children and families congregate.
- Connecticut serves summer meals to 1 in 4 children that rely on free and reduced-price lunches during the school year.
- Connecticut is 5th in the nation for the ratio of summer meals participation compared to National School Lunch Program participation.
- Connecticut has also been recognized as 2nd in the nation for participation in the summer breakfast program. (<http://frac.org/pdf/frac-summer-breakfast-report-2016.pdf>)

Additional information about the Summer Meals Programs can be found on the Connecticut State Department of Education [Web page](#).

V. Member Roundtable

A roundtable discussion was conducted and provided an update for members on the work of the participating agencies on behalf of children and families.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2017, at 3 p.m., at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Room 307A.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.