



NEWS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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State Department of Education Seeks Public Input on Priorities that Will Drive Equity and Excellence Goals

Feedback will inform development of Every Student Succeeds Act Plan

(Hartford, CT) – Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell announced this week the release of [Connecticut's Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) survey](#). This survey, which is available in English and Spanish, was designed to gather feedback from communities across the state about the education priorities that will drive Connecticut's goals around equity and excellence in education. The feedback will also help inform the development of the state's implementation plan for the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The new survey builds on previous community engagement efforts, including an extensive collaborative process to develop Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System and its [Five-Year Comprehensive Plan: Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students](#). Most recently, Commissioner Wentzell launched an Equity and Excellence Tour to highlight different priorities laid out in the five-year comprehensive plan.

"I encourage everyone who has a stake in education and who believes that students are our country's greatest resource to have their voices be heard in this important survey," said Commissioner Wentzell. "We relied heavily on input from families, educators, and other partners to develop the five-year comprehensive plan. Now we are returning to our communities to gather feedback as we put together our plan for implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act. We want to ensure voices from every corner of our state are represented in the plan."

The survey is part of a larger engagement effort that includes focus groups, parent engagement sessions, and the Commissioner's Equity and Excellence Tour. Preliminary drafts of the Every Student Succeeds Act implementation plan will be made available for public review and comment before it is approved by the State Board of Education.

The Every Student Succeeds Act was signed into law by President Obama in December 2015 and is designed to ensure all students have equal access to a high-quality public education. To achieve this,

the law gives states the flexibility they need to innovate, while simultaneously holding them accountable for student outcomes.

For more information about the Every Student Succeeds Act, visit [the State Department of Education's ESSA resources page](#).

Links to the [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions of the Every Student Succeeds Act community survey may be accessed [at the State Department of Education website](#).

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