



# NEWS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## **Gov. Malloy, U.S. Secretary of Education John King, and Education Commissioner Wentzell Attend Educator Equity Lab**

(NEW BRITAIN, CT) – Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell today joined U.S. Secretary of Education John King and education leaders from across the state for an Educator Equity Lab at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Connecticut’s Educator Equity Lab is one of three that are being held across the country to focus on ensuring all public school students have equitable access to excellent educators.

The event allowed Connecticut education and state leaders to collaboratively develop action steps for implementing the [Connecticut Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators](#), which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in 2015.

“Every student in our state is entitled to a high-quality education regardless of his or her background, and ensuring that all students in Connecticut public schools have equitable access to excellent educators is critical to bringing that vision to fruition,” said Governor Malloy. “Connecticut’s teaching force is one of the strongest in the nation, yet the data show that students from low-income households and those from minority backgrounds are more likely to be taught by inexperienced teachers and attend schools led by less experienced principals. This Equity Lab allows us to build upon the work we have done to create more equitable access to the resources students need to be successful and achieve their full potential.”

“Research shows that strong classroom teachers and strong school leaders are two of the most important factors in determining students’ educational outcomes,” said Commissioner Wentzell. “As a result, we’ve determined that focusing our efforts on increasing the number of highly-qualified teachers and school leaders is the most effective way to fulfill our promise to provide a high-quality education to every student in our state. Connecticut already has a strong teaching corps that is making a difference in students’ lives every day, and we are working to ensure that every student has equitable access to these great educators.”

Educator Equity Labs are a part of the [Excellent Educators for All Initiative](#), which was launched in July 2014 by the U.S. Department of Education to help states and school districts support access to great

educators for the students who need them most. The initiative required states to consult with stakeholders and create strategies to ensure that poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers. Each state compiled their strategies into comprehensive educator equity plans, which were submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for approval.

The Connecticut State Department of Education submitted the Connecticut Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators to the U.S. Department of Education in May 2015. The plan was developed in collaboration with a broadly representative stakeholder group, and examined a number of equity gaps between students attending high-poverty and high-minority schools and their counterparts. The equity gap analysis found that students attending high-poverty and high-minority schools were more likely to: (1) be taught by inexperienced teachers who were less likely to remain at their schools; (2) attend schools led by inexperienced principals who were less likely to stay; and (3) attend schools with vacancies in designated shortage areas.

The plan outlines six strategies for addressing these gaps, which include:

- Strengthening the preparation, support, and development of principals;
- Strengthening preparation and support for teachers;
- Addressing gaps in educators' cultural consciousness and competence;
- Improving working conditions;
- Examining the effective use of per pupil expenditures; and
- Increasing the supply of candidates in specific teaching areas.

Connecticut's Educator Equity Plan will be implemented in eight designated Equity Districts, which include Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, Waterbury, West Haven, and Windham.

For more information about Connecticut's Educator Equity plan visit [here](#).

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