



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## Request for Public Comment: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Out-of-School Time Waiver for 20-21 School Year

Public Announcement Released October 14, 2020

This Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) announcement serves as notice to the public, school districts, and the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) for an opportunity to comment on the CSDE's plan to pursue a waiver request from the USED with regard to flexible use of 21st CCLC funds.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education is offering states flexibility in the implementation of the federally-funded 21st CCLC in order to best meet the needs of students, families, and educators during this national emergency.

Currently, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Section 4201(b)(1)(A) restricts activities provided by programs funded under the 21st CCLC to activities provided only "during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session (such as before and after school or during summer recess)." The CSDE plans to apply for a waiver to the above restriction, for the 2020-2021 school year only, which will allow current grant recipients to apply to the CSDE for utilization of this waiver which will permit successful applicants to provide academic enrichment activities and other allowable 21st CCLC activities to occur during times when school is in session. This includes times when students are attending school remotely, virtually, and/or through independent completion of classwork instead of in person due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. All other requirements of a 21st CCLC program will continue to apply, and grantees (i.e., schools and community-based organizations) that do not apply for the waiver will continue to exclusively provide 21st CCLC programming during hours when school is not in session. All other requirements for a Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC program will continue to apply.

Through this announcement, the CSDE is providing the public, school districts, and 21st CCLC grantees in Connecticut with notice and an opportunity to comment on the plan to pursue the waiver described above. Comments are due via email to [eseawaiver@ct.gov](mailto:eseawaiver@ct.gov) by 5:00 PM on Monday, October 26, 2020. All comments received will be a matter of public record and will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education when the CSDE submits the waiver request.