



# School Governance Council Update

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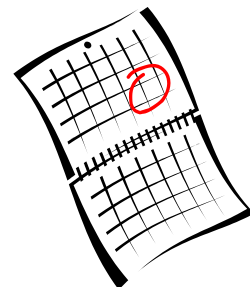
## Web page for School Governance Councils

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC>

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) communicates periodically with School Governance Councils through the Update in order to provide information on new policies and training opportunities, and to solicit feedback from councils.

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events

School Governance Councils may wish to send representatives to these statewide and regional training opportunities happening in May and June.



### Statewide Events

- ***School Safety: It's Everybody's Business Conference***

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**CT Convention Center**  
**Hartford, CT**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to attend the School Safety: It's Everybody's Business conference, hosted by CREC and featuring a presentation by national experts. The conference is open to anyone interested in learning more about school safety, including school staff, safety personnel, and business managers.

There is no cost to attend the conference, but seating is limited and registration is required. Register online by April 19, 2013. For more information and to register, visit [www.crec.org/school-safety](http://www.crec.org/school-safety).

- ***Solving the Chronic Absenteeism Problem: A Wraparound Approach to Strengthening School-Community Connections***

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Cromwell, CT**

This conference is an opportunity for schools and their community partners to strengthen their understanding of wraparound/school-linked services and identify key partners to help reduce barriers to school attendance and student achievement. For registration information:

Heather Dawes, SERC, (860) 632-1485, ext. 263 or [dawes@ctserc.org](mailto:dawes@ctserc.org)

## ***Regional Trainings***

- ***Create a School-Parent Compact that Will Get Results***

Developing the School-Parent Compact is one of the responsibilities of School Governance Councils. Connecticut has a new model that links the compact to your school improvement goals – creating strategic links between classroom and home to support student success.

Participants will receive sample templates and resources for creating their own School-Parent Compact using a new 10-step process.

**This workshop will be offered from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the dates below.**

- ***How Welcoming is Your School? Creating a Climate that Engages Families and Your Community***

Educators understand more than ever that the key to engaging parents is to make their schools feel “like family.” Schools that extend a genuine welcome to parents have stronger partners in the educational process.

This half day workshop will incorporate hands on activities using a mock walk through of a school to assess family friendliness. Participants will leave with the complete CT Welcoming Schools manual, a promotional DVD and a plan to implement recommendations from the Welcoming Walkthrough.

**This workshop will be offered from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. on the dates below.**

<b><i>9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Create a School-Parent Compact that Will Get Results</i></b>	
<b><i>12:00 – 3:00 p.m. How Welcoming is Your School?</i></b>	
CES, Fairfield	May 6 June 3
LEARN, Old Lyme	May 8 May 17
EASTCONN, Hampton	May 13 May 15
ACES, Hamden	May 22 May 23
CREC, Hartford	May 20
Registration information will be available after April 10 at <a href="http://www.crec.org/events">www.crec.org/events</a>	

## School Governance Council Responsibilities

Important Reminder: Schools that are piloting the System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) or are participating in the Commissioner's Network must engage their School Governance Councils.

### ***Districts Piloting the System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED):***

The Guidelines for Educator Evaluation and the System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), state that "School governance councils shall assist in the development of whole-school surveys, if applicable, in order to encourage alignment with school improvement goals." This applies to both the 5% of a teacher's evaluation that may be based on student feedback, if and when the survey is administered at the whole-school level, AND to the 10% of a teacher's evaluation that may be based on parent feedback. Pilot districts that currently have school governance councils are reminded to ensure that councils are involved in the development of whole-school surveys.

### ***Schools in the Commissioner's Network:***

State statute requires that the turnaround committee established for schools in the Commissioner's Network shall consult with the School Governance Council regarding the operational and instructional audit, the turnaround plan and monitoring the implementation of the plan. Schools in the Commissioner's Network are reminded to work with their School Governance Council as they plan and implement their reform model.

For a full list of School Governance Council responsibilities, go to [www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC) and click on "Responsibilities"

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## Don't Forget... Councils Must Follow the Freedom of Information Act

School Governance Councils, as publically elected bodies, must follow the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.

For example, councils must be sure they are adhering to FOI requirements such as:

- All meetings must be open to the public
- Notice of a meeting must be made public at least one week prior to the meeting date
- The agenda for a meeting must be posted at least 24 hours in advance
- Following the meeting, minutes of the meeting must be posted within seven days (excluding weekends and holidays)

### **Test Your “FOI” Knowledge**

**Question:** Can School Governance Council members e-mail each other about council business or is that a violation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act?

**Answer:** If council members deliberate an issue via e-mail, it could be considered a meeting under the FOI Act. Councils can disseminate information via e-mail but should avoid the conversations and deliberations that should be held in public.

### **Does your council need more information on how to comply with the Freedom of Information Act?**

- A video presentation for School Governance Councils by Tom Hennick of the Freedom of Information Commission is available online at [www.ctserc.org/school\\_governance](http://www.ctserc.org/school_governance)
  - The Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission Web site has a number of useful resources at [www.ct.gov/foi](http://www.ct.gov/foi)
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