



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Virtual Online

MINUTES

PRESENT: Shuana Tucker, Jade Gopie, Ashley Wright, Jessica Ocasio, Victoria Malvey, Megan Krementowski, Kate Dias, Ashley Osborne, Ed Leavy, Frances Rabinowitz, Todd Berch, Ben Gagne-Maynard, Michelle Belcher-Felton

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- Kate Dias, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- The minutes of the meeting on September 12, 2025, were reviewed and approved as presented.

3. DISCUSSION

- Ashley Wright provided an update on the current teacher apprenticeship status:
 - 23 teacher apprentices have been registered
 - 5 school districts are participating in the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program (T-RAP)
 - 5 Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) are participating in the T-RAP
 - 5 monthly training sessions have been provided to both mentors and apprentices
- Mid-year feedback regarding both the training sessions and the T-RAP overall have been largely positive, with apprentices sharing that the experiences and support they have received through the program are invaluable. Mentors also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to see their apprentices grow through the entire school year and to build strong relationships as a foundational support for apprentices.
- Dr. Shuana Tucker provided an update on funding for the upcoming year 2026-2027. She explained that the apprenticeship program was originally funded through ARPA funds.

With those funds being fully expended this year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has requested funding through the state legislature and the governor's office, anticipating as much as \$2-3 million to be allocated to sustain the program through the 2026-2027 school year, potentially expanding to as many as 135 apprenticeships. However, some of these allocations may be used to fund either an apprenticeship or a mentoring program for paraprofessional training, with a longer goal of alleviating shortfalls in the special education field.

- Dr. Jessica Ocasio explained that there is language in legislation that was passed last year that allows apprentices who are enrolled in and have completed residency apprenticeship programs to be exempted from taking the PRAXIS II test to complete their certification requirements if they have the recommendation of the superintendent of the district where they completed their residency apprenticeship program.
- Dr. Ocasio explained that the CSDE would like to find a way to elevate the role of mentors through some form of acknowledgement possibly in the form of a badge, certificate, a notation on their teaching certification, etc. Todd Berch, Connecticut Department of Labor (CT DOL), advised that the CT DOL can present certificates to the mentors, in addition to the certificates of completion that apprentices receive.

4. MOTIONS

- Ed Leavy made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 12, 2025. Frances Rabinowitz seconded the motion, and the motion was carried without objection.

5. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The next meeting is scheduled as follows:
 - May 15, 2026 – 10:00 am to 11:00 am – virtual online

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Kate Dias called the meeting adjourned without objection at 11:00 a.m.