



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

12 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Online

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ashley Wright, Jessica Ocasio, Mary Glassman, Todd Berch, Kate Dias, Paula Talty, Susan Saluru, Shuana Tucker, Benjamin Gagne-Maynard, Katie McGarry, Nicole Reddig, Olivia Rice, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, David Donaldson, Larry Satchell, Megan Krementowski

ABSENT: Fran Rabinowicz

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- Kate Dias called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.
- Kate Dias outlined the meeting agenda and meeting norms.
- Mary Glassman reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the JATC:
 - Cooperate in the selection of apprentices as outlined in the program.
 - Ensure that all apprentices are under written apprenticeship agreements registered with the Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) Office of Apprenticeship Training (OAT).
 - The JATC is responsible for reviewing all institutions that are interested in serving as Related Instruction Providers. NOTE: Apprentices may not serve as teachers-of-record during apprenticeship terms while they are completing an approved related instruction sequence.
 - The JATC will notify, within 45 days, the CTDOL OAT of all new apprentices to be registered for existing programs.

2. DISCUSSION

- Jessica Ocasio explained that expansion of the apprenticeship pilot program is available through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$1,215,000, which must be allotted

and budgeted by December 31, 2024. These funds will be used to expand the pilot program in the 2025-2026 school year.

- There were 2 informational webinars held to provide information on participation in the pilot program and to solicit district interest. These webinars targeted audiences of both current Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) NextGen school districts and educator preparation programs (EPP) that were interested in participating in NextGen or teacher residency programs.
- Any districts and EPPs that were interested in participating in the pilot program for the 2025-2026 school year were required to submit letters of interest and confirmed number of apprentices they could sustain by November 15, 2024. These letters were required to be signed by both the EPP and the school district, ensuring that both are in agreement to their commitment to the program and the exact numbers that the districts are willing and able to sustain within their district. Additionally, memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were due by December 2, 2024.
- All funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024, and are able to be encumbered by December 31, 2026.
- Shuana Tucker explained that the webinars resulted in the establishment of several new partnerships between school districts and EPPs planned for the 2025-2026 school year as outlined here:

Model	District	EPP	Total Apprentices 54
NEXTGEN	Bridgeport	SCSU	10
NEXTGEN	Bridgeport	UB	5
NEXTGEN	Waterbury	CCSU	4
NEXTGEN	New Britain	CCSU	8
RESIDENCY	East Haven	QU	6
RESIDENCY	West Haven	QU	6
RESIDENCY	Side by Side Charter	QU	5
NEXTGEN	Danbury	WSCU	5
NEXTGEN	Bethel	WSCU	5

Building on the NextGen model which began at CCSU, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), University of Bridgeport (UB), and Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) are adopting the Next Gen model. Quinnipiac University (QU), the only private university that is participating, is utilizing the residency model.

Due to the amount of funding available, the total number of apprenticeships has been capped at 54. The budgeted allowances per apprenticeship include \$10,000 for student teacher, \$5,000 for the mentor teacher's stipend, and \$7,500 for the EPP (\$5,000 for tuition and fees and \$2,500 toward licensure testing fees and certification).

- A legislative proposal has been initiated through the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) internal process requesting additional funding to support apprenticeships for the school year 2025-2026 and beyond. It was noted that there were additional districts and EPPs that were interested in participating in the apprenticeship program who were not able to meet the deadline. However, depending on the amount and nature of the funding provided via the upcoming legislative session, these interested parties may be given the opportunity to participate.
- A question was raised as to who would serve as the advocate for apprentices at the Side by Side Charter since they do not have a union at their school. While several alternative options were discussed, the decision was made to not move forward at this time with any charter schools until a solution to the apprentice advocate in lieu of union representation can be worked out. Once an initial solution is agreed upon, that can serve as the model for charter schools going forward. The apprentices allocated to Side by Side Charter School will be redistributed to East Haven and West Haven districts.
- CTDOL OAT advised that the National Grown Your Own organization has already developed models for agreements between districts and their unions in regard to memoranda of understanding and protection for the apprentices. He recommended that going forward, they should be utilized in setting up new districts and EPPs to be successful.

3. MOTIONS

- Shuana Tucker motioned to approve the \$1.2 million allocation of ARPA funds to submitted districts and EPPs, who applied by the deadline as the year two of the pilot program. Motion seconded by Paula Talty. Motion carried.

4. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Chair Kate Dias requested that updates on the status of the agreements and allocations for the new districts and EPPs be provided at the next meeting in January, as well as updates on the status of all apprentices currently participating in the pilot program. She set the next two meetings as follows:

- January 17, 2025 – 10:00 am – virtual
- April 4, 2025 – 10:00 am – in person at CCSU

5. ADJOURNMENT

- Kate Dias called the meeting adjourned without objection at 12:37 pm.