

## Contact Information



### Students are Connecticut's leaders of tomorrow and our communities' changemakers of today.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is putting \$1.5 million in the hands of high school students across the state to encourage them to get involved, be heard, and make change. A first-of-its-kind statewide civic engagement initiative, Voice4Change empowers high school students to propose and vote on how \$1.5 million in federal relief funds will be invested to reimagine Connecticut's schools. Students in participating districts will submit proposals to the CSDE. Proposals deemed eligible to receive American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds according to federal guidelines will ultimately be voted on by their high school peers on March 11, 2022—one year after the historic American Rescue Plan Act was passed.

In March of 2021, the CSDE set out to “reimagine schools to transform students’ lives” with ARP ESSER. With the launch of Voice4Change, we are proud to lead the way as the only state that gives high schoolers an active role in reimagining this collective transformation. Thank you for your interest in joining the CSDE in these efforts!

LEAs are being asked to opt-in to this program because **the amount of funding available for each school will depend upon the number of high schools that choose to participate. Funding is not limited to one-per-LEA; multiple high schools within one LEA can participate and will each have the potential for funding. For this reason, this survey will strictly close at Friday, October 29, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., and LEAs will not be able to opt-in after that time.**

#### Equal Opportunity Statement

The CSDE is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The CSDE

does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, civil air patrol status, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes. Inquiries regarding the CSDE's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie; Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator; Connecticut State Department of Education; 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505; Hartford, CT 06103; 860-807-2071; [Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov](mailto:Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov).

Please provide the following information:

Local Education Agency (LEA)

Your Name

Your Position Title

Your E-mail

Number of High Schools Participating

### Name(s) of High School(s) Participating

Please provide an additional point of contact to be included on Voice4Change communications. We recommend a communications personnel who can help facilitate social media posts and communication with schools, families, staff, and students.

### Point of Contact Information:

Name

Position Title

E-mail

If you would like to provide additional points of contact to be included on Voice4Change communications (individual school principals, assistants, etc.), please provide below following this format:

Madi Csejka / Executive Assistant / madi.csejka@ct.gov

### Assurances

#### Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation

In applying for this grant, applicants agree to the following:

- Complying with all state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements as detailed further in the program assurances sections, including but not limited to all legal requirements regarding oversight of schools;
- Voting will take place on March 11, 2022. Voting will close at 3 p.m. March 11, 2022;
- Working with the winning student(s) to implement their proposal;
- Participating in any data collection that is required by the state or federal government for the use of this funding;
- Permitting visits at any time for quality advising and/or monitoring; and
- Providing documentation to the CSDE upon request pertaining to the status of the winning proposal.

## Connecticut Department of Education Assurances For the Voice4Change Funding Application

### I. ASSURANCES

1. I acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this application, all relevant provisions and requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021, Pub. L. 117-2, or any other applicable law or regulation may result in liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, et seq.; OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and 18 USC § 1001, as appropriate.
2. All Voice4Change funds will be used for activities allowable under Section 2001(d) and (e), ARP Act 2021. No funds shall be used: to subsidize or offset executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of our district; for expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.
3. LEA shall provide reports as may be required by the CSDE which could include but are not limited to: the methodology we use(d) to provide services or assistance to students and staff in public schools; the uses of funds (by our district and/or other entities) and demonstration of their compliance Section 2001(e), such as any use of funds addressing the digital divide, including securing access to

home-based connectivity and remote-use devices, related issues in supporting remote learning for all students, including disadvantaged populations.

4. All requests for payment shall be based upon allowable purposes and made in accordance with cash management principles.
  
5. Records pertaining to the Voice4Change award under 2 C.F.R. § 200.334 and 34 C.F.R. § 76.730, including financial records related to use of grant funds, will be retained separately from other grant funds, including funds an LEA receives under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act). Our district shall cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such Voice4Change funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the United States Department of Education and/or its Inspector General; or (ii) any other federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.
  
6. LEA will comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) requirements in Subpart D-Post Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR §§200.300-345) and Subpart E-Cost Principles (2 CFR §§200.400-475), which states that (ARP ESSER) funds must be used for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the American Rescue Plan Act.
  
7. LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

8. The LEA will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.
  
9. With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State Education Agency (SEA) will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B); and the SEA will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
  
10. Control of funds provided to the LEA, and title to property acquired with those funds, will be in a public agency and that a public agency will administer those funds and property.
  
11. The LEA will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds.

## **II. Special Reporting Assistance for Grants in Excess of \$150,000**

For allocations more than \$150,000, the LEA hereby assures the SEA that as a condition of receiving more than \$150,000, it will report to CSDE on such forms and in such manner as required:

- a. the total amount of funds received from U.S. Department of Education;
- b. the amount spent or obligated for each project or activity supported with CRRSA Act funds;
- c. a list of projects supported with CRRSA Act funds (including name, description, and estimated number of jobs created or retained); and
- d. information on subcontracts and subgrants.

## **III. General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Section 442 Assurances**

The LEA hereby assures the SEA that the LEA follows all regulations applicable for CSDE, including those outlined below.

1. Each program will be administered in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
2. Control of funds and property acquired using program funds will be maintained and administered by the appropriate public agency;
3. Fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds;
4. The LEA will make reports to the state agency or board and to the Secretary as may be needed for the state agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties under each program, and each LEA will maintain records (as required in Section 443) and provide access to those records as the state board or agency Secretary deems necessary to carry out their responsibilities;
5. The LEA will provide opportunities for the participation in, planning for, and operation of each program by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals;
6. Applications, evaluations, plans, or reports related to each program will be made available to parents and the public;
7. Facilities constructed under any program will be consistent with overall state construction plans and standards and with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure that the facilities are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities;

- 8. The LEA has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating information and research regarding the programs and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices to teachers and administrators participating in each program; and
  
- 9. None of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment if such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees.

**IV. GEPA Section 427, Equity for Students, Teachers and Other Program Beneficiaries**

U.S. Department of Education's GEPA Section 427 Requirement  
 Section 427 of GEPA requires each applicant for funds to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

For GEPA Section 427 documentation, see the following:

U.S. Department of Education's GEPA - Section 427

Provide examples of how your district will address the Section 427 requirement:

I, the Superintendent of schools or Agency Head, do hereby certify that the LEA acknowledges and will abide by the assurances indicated above.

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**SIGN HERE**

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