

# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

August 2017



The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office provides guidance and leadership with legislated educational mandates to assist Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in preparing students to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. *To assist in your planning of the 2017-18 school year, some helpful resources and professional learning are highlighted in this newsletter.*

## HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

**Connecticut Core Standards Web site:** This [Web site](#) is devoted to providing Connecticut (CT) educators, families, and community members with valuable and accurate information as well as concrete supports.

**English Learners:** The CSDE [English Learners](#) Web page provides a repository of resources, guidance documents, professional learning modules, and tools for districts and families. Recent updates include [The Coaching and Self-Reflection Tool for Competency in Teaching English Learners](#), a presentation on [general information about English learners](#), and a presentation on [dual language learners in early childhood settings](#). For more information, contact Megan Alubicki Flick at [Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov).

**Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) Resource Center:** The CSDE has launched a dedicated MBL [Web site](#) designed to support local school districts implementing MBL as well as families and community partners who want to learn more about MBL. For more information, contact Suzanne Loud at [Suzanne.Loud@ct.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Loud@ct.gov).

**Mathematics: Instructional Materials Evaluation Toolkit (IMET):** In 2017, the CSDE hosted IMET training at each Regional Educational Service Center (RESC). This training was designed to give a high-level overview of the toolkit created to assist schools in evaluating materials for alignment to the Shifts and major features of the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS). The final training was videotaped and has been posted with all related materials in the [Library of Professional Learning Materials](#) section of the [CTCoreStandards.org](http://CTCoreStandards.org) Web site. For more information, contact Jennifer Michalek at [Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov).

**Science: Implementation Resources: [NGSS Storylines](#):** The Next Generation Science Storylines project is dedicated to providing tools that support teachers in developing, adapting, and teaching with strongly aligned Next Generation Science Standards materials in classrooms around the country. Other resources can be found on the CSDE [Science](#) Web page. For more information, contact Ron Michaels at [Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov](mailto:Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov).

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Reading Foundational Skills: [REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL-BASED TEAMS FOR READCONN!](#)** Don't miss-out on this amazing professional learning opportunity! ReadConn is designed to support the implementation of the Connecticut CCS in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills regardless of instructional approach. School-based teams will have their learning supported through online modules, face-to-face events, virtual coaching, and webinars. ReadConn was developed to increase knowledge and expertise in spotting student skills gaps, leading direct foundational skill instruction, and monitoring students' progress. Alliance Districts have priority registration. For more information, contact Joanne White at [Joanne.White@ct.gov](mailto:Joanne.White@ct.gov).

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## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

### **CCS Online Learning Modules:** *Anytime, anywhere access!*

The CSDE, in collaboration with Public Consulting Group (PCG), offers access to [online professional learning](#) focusing on the CCS. Module topics include: Focus on Content Standards (K-5 & 6-12), Focus on Practice Standards (K-5 & 6-12), Focus on Instructional Shifts in ELA, Focus on ELA and Literacy Instruction, Supporting CCS Success for ALL Students, CCS Mathematics Success for Students with Disabilities, and CCS Success for English Learners.

### **Connecticut Career and Technology Education (CTE):** *Save the date!*

The Annual CTE Conference will be occurring on November 29, 2017, at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill, CT. The conference is designed to support secondary and postsecondary career and technical educators, administrators, and counselors. Registration opens in mid-September. For more information, contact Suzanne Loud at [Suzanne.Loud@ct.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Loud@ct.gov) and Harold Mackin at [Harold.Mackin@ct.gov](mailto:Harold.Mackin@ct.gov).

### **English Learners (ELs):** *Robust professional learning plan!*

A robust professional learning plan is in development for 2017-18. Sessions will be developed with diverse stakeholders in mind to provide a range of options for general education teachers, TESOL and bilingual teachers, administrators, and parents and families. For more information, contact Megan Alubicki Flick at [Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov).

### **Grant Management System (Titles I, II, III and State Bilingual Grants):** *Web-based system!*

The CSDE has implemented a new system to reduce the burden placed on LEAs when applying for grant funding, while at the same time ensuring funds are spent in accordance with federal and state guidelines. The grant application component automates the program submission and review processes allowing LEAs to enter budget data and define program-specific activities. For more information, contact Marlene Padernacht (Title I) at [Marlene.Padernacht@ct.gov](mailto:Marlene.Padernacht@ct.gov), Jim Dargati (Title II) at [James.Dargati@ct.gov](mailto:James.Dargati@ct.gov), and Megan Alubicki Flick (Title III and State Bilingual Grants) at [Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov).

### **Mathematics:** *Argumentation Modules!*

The [Bridging Practices among CT Mathematics Educators](#) Web site was developed using MSP grant funds and is designed to enhance teachers' understanding of mathematical argumentation. This site contains argumentation professional learning modules and tools. For more information, contact Jennifer Michalek at [Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov).

### **Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Conference:** *Innovative work!*

The CSDE in partnership with the RESC Alliance is sponsoring a Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) Conference designed to spotlight STEM and increasing K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science. The conference is scheduled for September 27, 2017. For more information, contact Jennifer Michalek at [Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Michalek@ct.gov) and Ron Michaels at [Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov](mailto:Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov).

### **Science:** *No-cost, web-based, self-paced modules!*

[Next Generation Science-CT](#) offers modules that provide an introduction to NGSS and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning as envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012). For more information, contact Ron Michaels at [Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov](mailto:Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov).

### **Social Studies:** *Webinar series coming this fall!*

The CSDE will be hosting webinar series on the following topics: veterans and veteran's history, labor history and free market capitalism in CT, World War I and its impact on CT, and Armenian Genocide. For more information, contact Stephen Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).