



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Common Core District Leads
FROM: Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, *DRW*
RE: June Newsletter
DATE: June 23, 2014

ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER

This is the June 2014 installment of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Academic Office monthly newsletter. We hope you will find helpful information within the newsletter that will support your district's implementation efforts of the Common Core State Standards, as well as other key standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment topics. We hope that you will forward all useful items on to colleagues and that you will provide us with feedback to improve this communication.

Summer Learning for Teachers - TeachFest Summer Academy - Tuesday July 29

TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy will be a day-long, hands-on workshop for K-12 teachers focused on drafting practical resources to help put the Connecticut Core Standards into practice. Participants will collaborate with colleagues, the Connecticut Dream Team teachers and LearnZillion coaches to create their initial draft, and then revise and finalize their resource via an online PLC in the two weeks immediately following TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy. Sign up to learn more: <http://bit.ly/1i7qs0c> or contact Jennifer Webb at Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov

Summer Professional Learning for Educators

There are other great opportunities for teachers and leaders to build capacity to implement Common Core State Standards this summer! These opportunities are free of charge to Connecticut educators, but do require registration. Please see the attached flyers of summer professional learning opportunities and contact Jennifer Webb with any questions. Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov

Supporting Summer Curriculum Design Work: Sample Units and Lessons

Please continue to visit our website at http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=475 in order to access our growing library of units and lessons aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Each lesson or unit is accompanied by expert guidance from Connecticut educators trained in the use of tools to assess alignment. The units feature guidance regarding areas that Connecticut educators may want to adapt for their local context, as well as a quality rating system. **We are in the process of vetting units that have been submitted from Connecticut educators. As your district educators develop curriculum this summer, please provide feedback on the usefulness of these samples and consider submitting your work to be featured on our website.** For questions or to submit units or lessons please contact Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov.

Summer Learning for Students

The Academic Office is providing resources for parents to support students during the summer. These are web-based resources for parents and caregivers that support students in math and reading and can be useful in summer school programs as well. These resources can be found at http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=32. Additionally, the Governor's Summer Reading Program materials may be found on our website at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322>

Social Studies Standards

The CSDE has partnered with the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies to support the development of revised social studies curriculum frameworks for our state. The draft is currently in review. Educators interested in participating in the review and feedback process are directed to the announcement at <http://www.ctsocialstudies.org/>. Attached to this newsletter you will find a document focused on the critical instructional shifts accompanying the C3. The C3 is the Framework for social studies developed by the National Council of the Social Studies and stands for College, Career and Civic Life.

Recruitment for Agricultural Education Programs

In relation to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-220d, clarification of district obligations regarding recruitment for agricultural education programs is attached to this newsletter. Questions may be directed to Harold Mackin at Harold.Mackin@ct.gov.

Reference on the Development and Purpose of Common Core State Standards

Many of you have asked for information regarding the development of the Common Core State Standards. Attached to this newsletter you will find a brief compiled by David Conley that summarizes the purpose of the standards, the history of their development and includes a list of the educators included in the development of the standards. David Conley is well known for his work on college readiness and focuses on both academic preparation and other dimensions of readiness our students need in order to succeed. We hope you will find this resource helpful.

Information on Alternate Assessment Transition and Training

Please see the attached letters regarding important training opportunities for required training for the administration of Connecticut Alternate Assessments.

Annual update of Academic Newsletter Mailing List

We hope you find this newsletter helpful in support of your implementation efforts. We would like to reach as many educators as possible with this information. If you are currently receiving this newsletter directly, you will continue to do so in the coming academic year. If you are receiving this newsletter forwarded by a colleague, please email Elizabeth.Rivera@ct.gov and you will be added to our mailing list.