

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting  
October 25, 2012

**Call to Order**

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The meeting was held in room 1A of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members present were: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner, Department of Education  
Stephen Tracy, Department of Children and Families  
Roderick Bremby, Commissioner, Department of Social Services  
Jeffrey Beckham, Department of Administrative Services  
Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management  
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Department of Public Health  
Kip Bergstrom, Department of Economic and Community Development

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2012  
Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Presentation regarding the Connecticut Education Network  
Mr. Kendall Wiggin, de-facto chair of the Commission on Education Technology (CET), gave a brief overview of CET. CET connects all schools in Connecticut through a high speed network. All K-12 schools have access to internet as well as libraries and higher education.

Mr. Scott Taylor, Director of Connecticut Education Network (CEN), gave an overview and status report on CEN. Schools use CEN to access the internet. All public schools are supported by CEN. There is a partnership between Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) and the University of Connecticut. No other state has a fiber optic network for all schools.

Mr. Elliot Ginsberg, President for the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), discussed the role of CCAT. CCAT provides technology work, workforce planning, energy planning, manufacturing assistance, education and training.- CCAT is working with school districts by hosting technology services to students and staff.

IV. Update on the Education Reform Agenda  
Commissioner Pryor discussed the elements of the education reform agenda including Alliance Districts, Commissioner's Network and Wraparound Services. Bonnie Edmondson from the Connecticut State Department of Education discussed how the Alliance Districts and the four Commissioner's Network Schools are focusing on wraparound.

- VI. Presentations by School Districts Regarding Wrap Around Service Plans  
Interim Superintendent Kisiel, Manchester Public Schools, Heidi Mackey and Erica Bromley discussed their Alliance District initiatives that are focused on wrap around services. The collaborative effort to reduce arrests, student suspensions and truancy has been very successful.

Superintendent Conway, Vernon Public Schools, discussed the district's wraparound services supported by the Alliance District grant. There are high needs students in the schools located in Vernon because of this a Community Network with a Community Plan was established. Alliance funding helped to restore necessary wrap around services. Funding provided students with necessary supports in order to reduce the achievement gap.

- V. Update on Linking School and Community Resources  
Charlene Russell-Tucker discussed the definition of wraparound services and that there is a great focus on achievement. Wraparound Services include maximizing state and local resources, such as health, social service and adult education. The staff of the Connecticut State Department of Education will be leveraging and supporting the districts with the focus on achievement. We need to continue to work together for a "think tank."

- VII. Next Meeting  
The next meeting is February 28, 2013.

- VIII. Adjournment  
Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.