

# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

April 2017



## CONNECTICUT COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMIT

On February 24, 2017, a Connecticut (CT) Computer Science Summit was held at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School. This event brought together a variety of stakeholders and was filled with a lot of promise regarding the deep desire to implement computer science into the education curriculum. Participants brainstormed needed metrics and strategies necessary to ensure opportunities for all students in computer science. Discussions centered around three key areas, namely, Computer Science Education K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, Quality teachers of Computer Science, and Connecting Talent to Jobs.



Commissioner Smith from the DECD



Pat Yongpradit from Code.org



Deputy Commissioner Cohn from the CSDE

## K-3 READING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR 2017-18

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has designed ReadConn, a series of professional learning modules, to support the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills. This series is designed to support school-based teams consisting of one K-3 school-based literacy leader, three teachers and an administrator. The K-3 literacy leader is defined as a school-based individual with a formal literacy role and is responsible for supporting K-3 teachers in reading skills and knowledge.

School-based teams participating in 2017-18 ReadConn will have their learning supported through online modules, face-to-face events, virtual coaching, and webinars to assist teachers in increasing their knowledge and expertise in identifying necessary foundational skills, spotting student skills gaps, direct instruction in reading foundational skills, and monitoring students' progress.

Don't miss-out on this amazing professional learning opportunity! Learn the foundational skills of early reading, regardless of your instructional approach. [Register](#) your school-based teams now for the upcoming 2017-18 ReadConn cohort. Alliance Districts will have priority registration .

### What's Inside:

1. Computer Science and ReadConn Updates
2. EL Updates
3. Professional Learning Opportunities

## ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) UPDATES

### **Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**

Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) is accepting applications for the 2017-18 Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Language Learners (ARCTELL). ARCTELL is an advanced educator preparation program approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE). The program in operation since \*\*\* was developed by ACES in response to the statewide shortage of qualified, certified PK-12 teachers in the areas of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Bilingual Education in Connecticut. Teachers who complete the program of study, as well as Connecticut standardized testing requirements, will earn cross-endorsement #111 TESOL PK-12. Participants may also be eligible to earn a bilingual education cross-endorsement in their content area, if they demonstrate oral, written, and other proficiencies in two languages.

Visit [www.aces.org/arctell](http://www.aces.org/arctell) for full details, application and schedule. The [ARCTELL program brochure](#) provides additional information. For program questions, contact John Gustafson at [jgustafson@aces.org](mailto:jgustafson@aces.org) or [203.407.4451](tel:203.407.4451).

### **Coaching and Self-Reflection Tool for All Teachers of English Learners**

[The Coaching and Self-Reflection Tool for Competency in Teaching English Learners](#) is an interactive learning tool designed to support educators' understanding of *The Common Core of Teaching* through the lens of effective practice for ELs. This resource was designed by the CT Strategic English Learner Partnership, a collaboration between the CSDE and the Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) to support all educators in their work with ELs.

The tool is organized by the domains and indicators from the 2016 CCT Rubric and provides:

- A research base relevant to ELs;
- Examples of highly effective practices with hyperlinks to examples, resources, and videos;
- Sample “might sees” describing diverse classroom scenarios of best practices in action; and
- Sample questions for coaching and self-reflection.

While not intended for evaluative purposes, the tool will assist principals, coaches, and educators in collaborative conversations regarding the instructional shifts and rigor inherent in the [Connecticut English Language Proficiency \(CELP\) Standards](#) and best practices in teaching to the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of ELs.

Full-day trainings will be provided by the RESCs beginning May 2017 through September 2017. If you have any questions regarding EL, contact Megan Alubicki Flick, CSDE English Learner Consultant, at (860) 713-6786 or [Megan.alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.alubicki@ct.gov) or Joe DiGarbo, CSDE English Learner Consultant, at (860) 713-6863 or [Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov](mailto:Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov).



## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Subscribe to All of our Academic Communications

#### ACADEMIC

To subscribe to the Academic Newsletter, email Irma Francis at [Irma.Francis@ct.gov](mailto:Irma.Francis@ct.gov)

#### HUMANITIES

To subscribe to the Humanities Newsletter, visit [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8W9UhYMYwZxRb17YpRCgFnecBLY-Mb4JiYYE6\\_UXBb\\_5vGg/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8W9UhYMYwZxRb17YpRCgFnecBLY-Mb4JiYYE6_UXBb_5vGg/viewform?c=0&w=1).

#### MATHEMATICS

To subscribe to the Mathematics listserv, email Jennifer Michalek at [jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:jennifer.michalek@ct.gov).

#### STEM

To subscribe to the STEM newsletter, email Harold Mackin at [harold.mackin@ct.gov](mailto:harold.mackin@ct.gov).

**Mathematics:** The 2017 INTEL MATH STATE COHORT [application](#) is now open for K-8 teachers in any CT school district! The cohort will meet Monday through Friday, June 19 - 30, 2017. This cohort class will take place at the Green Street Teaching and Learning Center in Middletown, CT. Intel Math is an intensive, 80-hour, content-based course that requires full participation including take home assignments. The course is designed for you as a learner to deepen your own understanding of the K-8 math content and connections between concepts. [There is no cost to the participants or the districts to attend.](#)

**Social Studies:** This summer the CSDE and Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring two summer institutes: one from June 26-29 and one on August 7-10. These institutes are aimed for all teachers who teach social studies as well as curriculum leaders (special sessions will be held for elementary teachers). Workshops will be held on inquiry instruction, effectively leading discussions in politically divided classrooms, cutting-edge uses of technology and other critical topics. For additional information contact Stephen Armstrong, CSDE social studies consultant, at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

**Science:** The CSDE and the [Connecticut Science Center](#) are pleased to announce continued registration for several Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) professional development opportunities. Click on the links for more information:

**[Next Gen Science Exemplar System](#)** (NGSX): a web-based, expert-led experience of a “Three-Dimensional” culture of science learning, where students use science “practices” (specifically modeling and arguing with evidence) and “crosscutting concepts” to co-construct scientific explanations of real-world phenomena.

**[Next Generation Science Standard-CT](#)**: an introduction to NGSS and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012).

**[Why NGSS?](#)** Designed to be an introduction to NGSS, this 2-day workshop will lead participants through immersive NGSS experiences as adult learners.

**[Transitioning to NGSS, A Video Collection](#)**: This set of over two dozen video clips shows experienced Connecticut educators making good-faith efforts to shift their instruction to support the NGSS.

**[NGSS Storylines](#)**: CT science educators are finding they need to find, adapt, or create new curriculum materials to support the three-dimensional approach to science learning required by the NGSS. The Next Generation Science Storylines project is dedicated to providing tools that support teachers in developing, adapting, and teaching with strongly aligned NGSS materials in classrooms around the country. Check out the latest Storylines at <http://www.nextgenstorylines.org>.