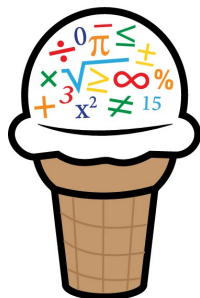


# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

June 2017



## THE COMMISSIONER'S 2017 SUMMER **MATH** CHALLENGE

### COMMISSIONER'S SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is proud to announce the 2017 Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge: *Math All Around Us*. With engaging activities, students in mathematics, students will be better prepared for the upcoming school year. Schools with the highest percentage of participating enrollment and the highest number of badges earned by participating students will be recognized for their efforts.

Math education is a priority and to assist students in retaining math learning during the summer the Summer Math Challenge, sponsored by the CSDE in partnership with Metametrics, offers a FREE math skills maintenance program based on grade-level standards that help prepare students for college and careers. The program is targeted to students who have just completed grades 1 through 8. It is designed to help students retain math skills learned during the previous school year.

For more information visit the [Connecticut Summer Math Web page at http://www.ct.gov/sde/summermathchallenge](http://www.ct.gov/sde/summermathchallenge).

### MATHEMATICS SURVEY

**Materials and Resource Survey:** Connecticut (CT) teachers, curriculum specialists, and administrators have been requesting information regarding the mathematics programs currently being utilized across the state for both instruction and SRBI. This work aligns to the Commissioner's Council on Mathematics Report as the information will enable districts to engage in discussions about curriculum and instructional materials are reviewed. The CSDE does not endorse any specific program, but we have created a survey to help gather this information. The CSDE requests that you take a few moments to complete the [survey](#).

#### What's Inside:

1. Summer Math Challenge & Mathematics Survey
2. Professional Learning Opportunities
3. Professional Learning Opportunities (continued)

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**ReadConn:** The CSDE has designed “ReadConn,” a professional learning series, to support the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Reading Foundational Skills regardless of instructional approach. This series is designed to support school-based teams consisting of one K-3 school-based literacy leader, three K-3 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 will have their learning supported through online modules, face-to-face events, and virtual coaching. Teachers will increase their knowledge and expertise in identifying necessary foundational skills, spotting student skills gaps, providing explicit, direct instruction in critical reading foundational skills, and monitoring students' progress. Identifying student skills gaps, leading direct foundational skill instruction, as well as monitoring students' progress.

**Don't miss-out on this amazing professional learning opportunity!** [Register](#) your school-based teams now for the upcoming 2017-18 ReadConn cohort. Alliance Districts have priority registration. For more information, contact Joanne White, Education Consultant, at [Joanne.White@ct.gov](mailto:Joanne.White@ct.gov).

**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 scheduled for August 7-10. These institutes are designed for social studies teachers and curriculum leaders. Special sessions will be held for elementary teachers. Sessions will focus 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, Education Consultant, at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

**Arts:** Register for the CSDE [Summer Arts Conference](#)! This exciting four-day conference will occur at Central Connecticut State University from Monday, June 26, 2017 - Thursday, June 29, 2017. Session topics include cornerstone assessments aligned to the new arts standards, cultural responsiveness, curricula writing, media arts, and an institute track for deeper curricula work. [Register](#) here.



## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

**Science:** The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the [Connecticut Science Center](#) are pleased to announce continued registration for several Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) professional learning opportunities.

- **[Next Generation Science-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). No-cost; web-based; self-paced; Eleven (11) modules are available offering 16 to 60 hours of structured professional learning for groups of educators.
- **[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.
- **[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. Expert-facilitated; tuition fee; 30-36 hours of seminar-style learning for groups of teachers. Plans for several more cohorts in 2017 have been announced.
- **[Why NGSS?](#)**: Designed to be a “hands-on” introduction to NGSS, this 2-day workshop leads participants through immersive NGSS experiences as adult learners.
- **[Curriculum Unit Development Institute](#)** (CUDI): Designed for educators possessing a working knowledge of the pedagogical shifts required by the NGSS, this five-day workshop will equip participants with the skills and tools needed to develop three-dimensional units. As part of the workshop, participants will work in teams to develop a three-dimensional unit at a grade band of the team’s choice. It should be noted that all units developed as part of the institute will be collected by the state and vetted for potential statewide sharing. Look for workshop opportunities of the CUDI in Spring/Summer of 2017 through the state RESC system.

### **[NGSS Implementation Resources](#)**

**Science Implementation Resources** can be found on the following websites:

- NGSS - <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>
- NSTA – <http://www.nsta.org/>
- CSTA - [http://www.cssaonline.org/uploads/2/5/2/5/25256662/may\\_2017.pdf](http://www.cssaonline.org/uploads/2/5/2/5/25256662/may_2017.pdf)
- CSSA - <http://www.cssaonline.org/>
- CT Science Center - <https://ctsciencecenter.org/education/welcome/>
- Jason Project - <http://www.jason.org/>
- CSDE Science Webpage - <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=320890>

For more information contact CSDE Science Consultant, [Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov](mailto:Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov).

