

# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

October 2017



The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Academic Office provides guidance and leadership on educational initiatives to assist schools and districts in preparing students to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. *Helpful updates, resources and professional learning are highlighted in this newsletter.*

## **NEW GRANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Grant Management System (Titles I, II, III and State Bilingual Grants)**: 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. 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). Please see chart below for Roll-Out Schedule:

CSDE Grant Management System		
Year	eGrants Roll-Out	
2017-2018	Fall 2017	Title I Title II Title III – EL Title III – Immigrant State Bilingual Grant
	Spring 2018	Planning Tool
2018-2019	Perkins Alliance District Priority School District	
2019-2020	IDEA	

## **CONNECTICUT SEAL OF BILITERACY GUIDELINES**

**Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines**: The Seal of Biliteracy was established to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more other languages. [The Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#) have been developed for interested school districts to provide guidance regarding the purpose; district implementation; and paths to proficiency for students. For more information, contact Megan Alubicki Flick at [Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov](mailto:Megan.Alubicki@ct.gov).

### **What's Inside:**

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## SUMMER CHALLENGES UPDATES

**Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge:** Over 12,000 Connecticut students enrolled in the first year of this program which aims to limit summer learning loss. The program will identify the schools with the highest percentage of participation and the highest number of badges received by participating students. Top-performing schools from the 2017 Summer Math Challenge will be recognized during the May 2018 summer math challenge event. Summer Math School Reporting Forms are due November 30, 2017. For additional information, visit [Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge](#).

**Governor's Summer Reading Challenge:** Students across the state are competing in the 2017 challenge to safeguard against summer learning loss. The program will identify the schools with the highest percentage of participation and the highest number of books read by participating students. Top-performing schools from the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge will be recognized during the May 2018 summer reading launch event. The 2017 Summer Reading School Reporting forms are due November 30, 2017. For additional information, visit [Connecticut Reads](#).

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**English Learners (ELs):** The CSDE, in collaboration with ACES, the RESC Alliance, and the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), is excited to roll-out a robust professional learning program targeted to support school and district personnel including general educators, TESOL and bilingual teachers, special educators, ESL tutors, building- and district-level administrators. An additional component to the professional learning initiative will be the collaborative revision and updating of resource guides and manuals pertaining to EL policies and best practices.

**Connecticut Career and Technology Education (CTE):** The Annual CTE Conference will be occurring on November 30, 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. 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). ***If interested in presenting, visit [CTE Conference RFP](#) to submit a workshop proposal.***

**Social Studies:** *Webinar series during the 2017-18 school year! Dates and details forthcoming.*

The CSDE and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring three webinar series:

- Teaching Difficult Issues in the Social Studies Classroom;
- Teaching the Holocaust; and
- Teaching the History of African Americans in Connecticut.

The CSDE and PIER Programs at Yale University will be co-sponsoring the following webinar series:

- Critical World Issues.

For information contact Stephen Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

## RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

### Students

**Applications Available for Hearst Foundation U.S. Senate Youth Program:** The U.S. Senate Youth Program annually chooses two students from each state to spend a week in Washington and receive a one-time \$10,000 college scholarship. Two CT students will be chosen on the basis of leadership abilities they have demonstrated in their schools. The application and additional information can be found at [Hearst Foundation U.S. Senate Youth Program](#). For more information, contact Stephen Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

### Teachers

**Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST):** PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional mathematics, computer science, or science teachers currently teaching grades K-6. Nominations for the 2017-18 year opening soon and teachers may also apply directly at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).

### Schools

**Red, White, and Blue Schools Program:** The CSDE and the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut will again be co-sponsoring the [Red, White and Blue Schools](#) program. This program is designed to recognize schools who do an exemplary job of teaching civic education. The theme for the 2017-18 school year is *Engagement at the Local Level*. For additional information contact CSDE social studies intern Erin Bezzini at [SocStudiesIntern1.CSDE@ct.gov](mailto:SocStudiesIntern1.CSDE@ct.gov).

**Remembering Our Heroes - Teaching about Veterans:** The CSDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, has established a recognition program for schools that do an exemplary job of teaching about veterans and their contributions to American society. This program encourages schools to work closely with local veterans' organizations to teach about the contributions of veterans throughout the school year. This program is designed for elementary school, middle school, and high school students and teachers. Additional information will be available soon on the CSDE website; for additional information contact CSDE social studies intern Erin Bezzini at [SocStudiesIntern1.CSDE@ct.gov](mailto:SocStudiesIntern1.CSDE@ct.gov).