



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Superintendent of Unified School Districts
Directors of Public Charter Schools
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Programs

FROM: Mr. Christopher M. Todd, Bureau Chief, Talent Office

DATE: September 6, 2019

SUBJECT: TEAM Program Updates

Connecticut's TEAM program continues to provide high-quality induction support to new and student teachers. The program provides opportunities for teachers to enhance their practice, improve instruction, grow professionally, and improve student outcomes. In preparation for the new school year, we provide the following important information about the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program for the 2019-20 school year.

To ensure the continued success of the TEAM Program, we respectfully request your assistance with the following:

1. Appointment of the District Facilitator
2. Assignment of the role of EDS LEA TEAM
3. TEAM Verification in EDS
4. TEAM Funding

Appointment of the TEAM District Facilitator

The District Facilitator (DF) is critical to the implementation of TEAM in the district and serves as the liaison between the Local Education Agency (LEA) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

Please verify your current DF on the attached spreadsheet. If the DF listed on the spreadsheet is not your current DF, please contact Gady Weiner at 860-713-6836 or via email at gady.weiner@ct.gov and provide the name of the individual whom you have appointed to the DF position for 2019-20.

Assignment of EDS LEA TEAM role

Last year, the CSDE added a new role, EDS LEA TEAM, in the Educator Data System (EDS). All districts are now required to enter all TEAM completions in EDS.

Please be sure that the role is assigned to the appropriate person in your district: a certified administrator or the TEAM District Facilitator (DF), who will act as your designee and enter all TEAM completions in EDS. You may assign the role to more than one individual. We encourage you to consider assigning the role to the DF either as the primary user or as a secondary user.

The individual assigned the EDS LEA TEAM role will have the ability to access a complete list of beginning teachers in your district who are required to complete TEAM, including their entry and deadline dates for completion. They will have the ability to export a file with the TEAM completion status of all of your district's teachers who are required to participate in TEAM.

Verification¹ of TEAM Completion

Superintendents no longer need to verify a teacher's successful completion of TEAM through the TEAM dashboard. When a teacher has successfully completed all TEAM requirements, the individual assigned to the role EDS LEA TEAM will enter a teacher's completion date in EDS. Each LEA may develop their own process for notifying the superintendent of teachers' successful completion of TEAM.

Funding in 2019-20 to Offset District Costs to Implement TEAM

We are pleased to announce that once again \$1.5 million in state funding has been allocated for the 2019-20 school year to help offset the costs of implementing the TEAM program at the local level. These funds may be used to offset the cost of new teacher induction in any of the following areas:

1. Mentor stipends
2. Mentor/cooperating teacher training
3. TEAM Data system
4. Professional development for mentors and beginning teachers

The CSDE, using data entered into the CSDE EDS, will determine the total number of beginning teachers in each local education agency LEA and calculate the amount of the allocation per beginning teacher. Funds will be distributed directly to each LEA via the state grant system in the early spring.

Because the amount of the allocation is based on the data in EDS, please be sure your educators are entered into EDS so that we will have accurate data to calculate the TEAM allocations.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Claudine Primack, TEAM Program Manager at 860-713-6826 or via email at Claudine.primack@ct.gov.

cc: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner
Ms. Claudine Primack, TEAM Program Manager, CSDE
Mr. Gady Weiner, TEAM Data Manager, CSDE

¹ Pursuant to Section 10-145o of the Connecticut General Statutes, local and regional boards of education are responsible for "verifying, through the local or regional coordinating committee, that the work of beginning teachers and instructional modules has been successfully completed to warrant provisional certification. Upon successful completion of the instructional modules, the superintendent of the school district shall submit the names of the beginning teachers eligible for receipt of a provisional educator certificate to the State Board of Education."