



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Common Core District Leads  
FROM: Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer *DRW*  
DATE: October 8, 2014  
RE: October Newsletter

**ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER**

This is the October 2014 installment of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Academic Office monthly newsletter. We hope you will find helpful information within the newsletter that will support your district's implementation efforts of the Common Core State Standards as well as other key standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment topics. We hope that you will forward all useful items on to colleagues and that you will provide us with feedback to improve this communication.



**Professional Learning for CT Educators related to Math Standards**

Please see the attached letter from the CSDE related to professional learning sessions offered at no cost to CT educators. If you have questions, please contact [Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov)

**New Materials at CT Standards Website**

Our academic office website is dedicated to materials, resources, and professional learning opportunities in support of standards implementation in your district. This website is refreshed three times each week and there is always **NEW** material. Please consider submitting a unit or lesson that your teachers have created. Our team will provide feedback to you and possibly feature the work of your teachers on our site! We are happy that our resource list includes work developed by our teachers. Questions about the website should be directed to [Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Webb@ct.gov) the website is found at: <http://ctcorestandards.org/>



**Support for Arts Programming**

In order to support rich, well-rounded learning for students across our state, we are providing a new competitive funding opportunity for Arts in Education, as was previewed in our Back to School meeting in August. This initiative is a collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Arts Council.

Please be advised that the "Grant Opportunity to Support Arts in Education" Request for Proposals (RFP 811) is available on the CSDE website at:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=320346>. Please also find a copy of the RFP attached.

We encourage interested districts to apply for this opportunity. Multiple schools in one district may apply, but each must submit its own application unless the schools are applying for joint funding. The maximum funding one district may receive is \$50,000.00. Applications are due by October 31. Please contact Martha Deeds at [Martha.Deeds@ct.gov](mailto:Martha.Deeds@ct.gov).

### **Mini-grants for Educators**

Through the Governor's Task Force on Common Core Implementation, teachers voiced the need for support for projects that would help with classroom implementation of Common Core State Standards in ELA and Math.

Education Connecticut, on behalf of the RESC Alliance, will assist the CSDE by managing the application process from soliciting and evaluating applications to distributing grant awards. State funds up to \$500,000 will be distributed to teachers across the state. Please contact [June.Sanford@ct.gov](mailto:June.Sanford@ct.gov) for more information.

### **Update on Agricultural Science and Technology Centers Recruiting for 2015-16 School Year**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-220d, the following is required by public school districts and schools:

"Each local and regional board of education shall provide full access to technical high schools, regional agricultural science and technology education centers, interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools and interdistrict student attendance programs for the recruitment of students attending the schools under the board's jurisdiction, provided such recruitment is not for the purpose of interscholastic athletic competition."

The intent of C.G.S. 10-220d is to ensure that all students are provided full access to all available public school choices.

- "Full access" means that representatives of the public school choice programs listed above be granted opportunities to communicate with or make a presentation to all eligible students and their families.
- The opportunity must occur at a meaningful time, and with an appropriate audience, such as potential entering students.
- It is important that access be given to the public school choice program representatives to all such students, not simply a subset of a larger group.
- Recruiting materials from the public school choice program should be distributed and opportunities to communicate with parents/guardians should be made available to the public school choice program.

Questions about these programs may be directed to [Harold.Mackin@ct.gov](mailto:Harold.Mackin@ct.gov)

### **Webinar Series for Principals**

The Academic Office will continue to host a webinar series for principals to support Common Core implementation in schools. The webinars are live the last Wednesday of each month. A full schedule is attached to this memo. If you miss the live webinar, you can access the webinars at our website:

<http://ctcorestandards.org/>

### **Additional Opportunities for Educators**

Please see the attached information about ICONN, our CT Search Engine!

