



# Alliance District Bulletin

Updates and Announcements | July 7, 2014

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Morgan Barth, Division Director

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CSDE Turnaround Office

## 1. Year 3 Consolidated Alliance and Priority School District Applications:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to refine your district's Year 3 Consolidated Alliance and Priority School District application and budget for Fiscal Year 2015. We appreciate your responsiveness to the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) feedback. Congratulations to the following districts on the recent approval of their Year 3 plans: Bloomfield, Bristol, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Killingly, Meriden, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Norwich, and Windsor.

The Turnaround Office will continue to review revised plans on a rolling basis as they are received. If you have not already done so, please revise your plan based on the feedback you have received from your Point of Contact and resubmit a revised version as soon as possible. Please make additions or modifications in **red text** to clearly denote the edits. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Turnaround Office Point of Contact or Morgan Barth directly at [morgan.barth@ct.gov](mailto:morgan.barth@ct.gov) or 860-713-6705.

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## 2. Summer Professional Development Opportunities:

The summer months provide a great opportunity for teachers and administrators to advance their professional learning and begin preparations for the next school year. The CSDE offers a variety of professional development opportunities during the summer at no cost to participants or their districts. A summary of these offerings is below. Please forward this information to the administrators and teachers in your district. Pre-registration is required.

The CSDE's **Talent Office** is offering four different trainings this summer:

- Understanding the Revised CCT Rubric for Effective Teaching 2014 (intended for all educators, including teachers);
- Teacher Evaluation Refresher Using the New CCT Rubric for Effective Teaching 2014 (intended for previously-trained evaluators);
- Five-day Teacher Evaluation Training for Administrators (intended for evaluators of teachers who have not been previously trained); and
- Administrator Evaluation Training (intended for administrators evaluating administrators).

Sessions will be offered at the Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) on multiple dates from late June through August. All sessions run for one day except the five-day teacher evaluation training for new evaluators and the two-day administrator evaluation training. Please register for the Talent trainings at Connecticut's [System for Educator Evaluation and Development \(SEED\) website](#).

The CSDE's **Academic Office** is offering multiple professional development opportunities to continue to support teachers in implementing the Connecticut Core Standards. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided at all workshops. Summer Academy offerings include:

- **CT Core Standards: Cooperating Teachers Summer Academy on July 16 and 17**  
*When and where:* 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Farmington Marriott  
This two-day Academy will offer a variety of breakout sessions on the newest information about the Connecticut Core Standards and teaching and learning, specifically as they relate to the role of a cooperating teacher. Participants will have an opportunity to network with other cooperating teachers from around the state. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- **CT Core Standards: Novice Teachers Summer Academy on July 22 and 23**  
*When and where:* 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Farmington Marriott  
This two-day Summer Academy is specifically designed to help novice teachers (with 1-3 years of experience) successfully implement the Connecticut Core Standards. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of breakout sessions. More information on this Academy can be found [here](#).
- **TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy on July 29**  
*When and where:* 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT  
TeachFest is a day-long, hands-on workshop for K-12 teachers focused on creating exciting and useful resources to help put the Connecticut Core Standards into practice. Participants will collaborate with colleagues, the [Connecticut Dream Team](#) teachers, and LearnZillion coaches during TeachFest, and will continue their learning for two weeks through an online professional learning community. The CSDE will share the finalized work widely across the state. Attendees who complete a final, shared product will receive a \$200 stipend. Principals and superintendents are also welcome to join TeachFest for an administrator-focused track. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- **PLUG IN to Teaching: New to the Profession Teachers on August 7**  
*When and where:* 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Farmington Marriott  
This one-day conference is specifically designed to support newly-hired teachers who are just entering the profession. Participants will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of breakout sessions targeted to the unique needs of newly-hired teachers as they implement the instructional expectations of the Connecticut Core Standards. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Teachers and administrators can register for any of the Connecticut Core Standards sessions by going to the [CREC Registration website](#) and register for TeachFest at the [TeachFest registration website](#). Further information on any of these professional development opportunities is available on the Professional Development Opportunities page on [CTCoreStandards.org](#) or by contacting Jennifer Webb at [Jennifer.webb@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.webb@ct.gov) or 860-713-6754.

### **3. Alliance District Paraprofessionals Recognized:**

The CSDE and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council established the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program to recognize outstanding paraeducator contributions to schools and communities. The program honors one paraeducator who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of his/her job, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers, and parents.

This year, five paraeducators from Alliance Districts were nominated by their districts for this award: Denise Matusovich (Ansonia), Maria Bowers (Derby), Carolyn Coogan (East Hartford), Sylvia Fagan (Hartford), and Matthew Montgomery (Manchester). We are pleased to announce that Maria Bowers is one of the finalists for the award. Ms. Bowers has been an instructional paraeducator for seven years and is currently a Grade 1 and Grade 2 Paraeducator at the Irving School in Derby. Principal Jennifer Olson notes that Ms. Bowers' impact and contributions stretches across the school: "One of Maria's greatest strengths is her ability to develop teams and unite people. She is a culture-builder; her energy, enthusiasm and humor are contagious and help to create an environment where people feel invested and part of the community."

Congratulations to all of the nominees and the eight finalists from districts across the state! All district nominees for this year's award will be recognized at a ceremony on Thursday, November 6, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT.