



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



April 5, 2012

Dear Connecticut Superintendent:

On February 10, 2012, the State Board of Education, as required by statute, adopted an evaluation framework (attached) for teachers and principals. Developed collaboratively by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), which includes representatives from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), Connecticut Federation of School Administrators (CSFA), Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC), Connecticut Education Association (CEA), and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut (AFT-CT), among others, the framework will help inform forthcoming statewide guidelines for teacher and administrator evaluation and support.

These guidelines are currently being developed by working groups that include PEAC members and additional educators. The working groups first met on March 20, 2012. In addition, Connecticut's RESCs are hosting informational meetings for superintendents who want to learn more about the PEAC process to date as well as next steps, including the development of the guidelines and implementation timeline. These meetings include question and answer sessions with Joe Cirusuolo, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, and are open to all superintendents regardless of locality. Three sessions have already been held by LEARN, EASTCONN, and CREC and I encourage you to participate in any of the remaining meetings below (whether or not your district is in the given RESC region):

RESC	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS
ED CONNECTION	April 9	8:30-10am	355 Goshen Road; Litchfield, 06759
CES	April 11	2-3:30pm	40 Lindeman Drive; Trumbull, 06611
ACES	April 26	9-10:30am	205 Skiff Street; Hamden, 06517

The Connecticut State Department of Education is planning to begin implementation via a pilot process during the 2012-2013 school year as a prelude to full state-wide implementation for the 2013-14 school year. There are a number of benefits that go along with being a pilot district and we invite your district to consider participating. The application package that outlines each participating district's responsibilities for pilot implementation during the 2012-2013 school year is attached.

The Department's goal is to have up to ten districts engaged in the pilot that represent the State's diverse regions and school systems. Should we receive more districts' responses to this request than we can accommodate, we will be utilizing the criteria to identify districts for the pilot:

- District size;
- Geographical representation;
- District designation as either urban, suburban or rural; and
- Small districts working collaboratively with other small districts in a consortium.

Districts selected for the pilot will engage in all aspects of implementing the educator evaluation system, including the collection and sharing of data, which will provide the Department with valuable information to improve evaluation and support processes and outcomes.

We hope you will give serious consideration to participating in this pilot. Should you wish to apply, please review and submit your signed application package electronically to Emily Byrne by May 18, 2012, in a PDF format. Districts will be notified, if selected, by June 1, 2012.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily at emily.byrne@ct.gov.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stefan Pryor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Stefan Pryor
Commissioner, State Department of Education