



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: CT Core Standards Districts Leads

FROM: Mary Anne Butler, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: January 26, 2016

RE: January Academic Office Newsletter

This is the January 2016 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 CT Core Standards, as well as other important work related to standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development.

Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions about the Saturday SAT administrations

How does a grade 11 student receive a refund for a Saturday SAT in March, May or June?

Any grade 11 student who has registered for a Saturday SAT exam this spring and no longer wants to sit for the exam is entitled to a refund. The refunds will be processed in mid-February once test day registrations for the Connecticut SAT are complete. Families **do not** need to have a voucher to receive a refund. A College Board Customer Service representative will assign a voucher number to the request to expedite the refund process. Refunds may be requested by contacting College Board at **866-756-7346**. In lieu of a refund a student may move their registration to another test date at no cost or apply the payment towards a SAT Subject Test without a change in fee.

Are the tests for the Tuesday, March 2, 2016, Connecticut SAT and the Saturday SATs the same?

Any subsequent SAT administrations for the Class of 2017 will be unique from the Connecticut SAT. Students will have access to their March 2nd Connecticut SAT scores in mid-May 2016.

Directions on Connecticut SAT Registration and Accommodations

The directions for Connecticut SAT student registration and the process for entering requests for Student Test Accommodations can be found in the [January 11, 2016, memo](#).

Academic Standards

New English Learners Resources

Please visit the new and improved English Learners page of the CSDE Web site! The direct link is www.ct.gov/sde/Englishlearners. Over the past few months, the page has been updated to include a number of new resources and updated content. The new content can easily be identified by the bold, red **NEW** that precedes the heading. Some of the new content includes:

- The new Connecticut English Language Proficiency Standards
- Revised and Updated Home Language Survey recommendations
- Updated Assessment Guidelines for English Learners
- The 2nd edition of *English Learner Programs & Services in Connecticut Public Schools: A Resource Handbook for Administrators*
- New state legislation that pertains to English Learners

For questions or information pertaining to English Learners, please contact Megan Alubicki Flick, ESL/Bilingual Consultant at megan.alubicki@ct.gov or 860-713-6786.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Inquiry in Connecticut's Social Studies Classrooms

The Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring a winter webinar series "Inquiry in Connecticut's Social Studies Classrooms." These will be presented "live" from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays; the webinars will also be archived.

February 2: Introduction to Connecticut's Social Studies Frameworks

February 16: The Inquiry Arc; An Overview

March 1: Inquiry Dimensions 1 & 2; Questions and Concepts

March 15: Inquiry Dimensions 3 & 4; Evidence, Claims, and Action

March 29: Social Studies Literacy and the Connecticut Core

April 12: K-5 Social Studies Inquiry; Tying It All Together

Information on "signing up" for the webinars will be available shortly.

For additional information contact Stephen Armstrong, Connecticut Social Studies Consultant at Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov or 860-713-6706.

Exciting New Resource for Social Studies Teachers

The Connecticut Humanities Council has established a new online resource for teachers entitled "Teach It!" This resource allows educators to incorporate Connecticut history into the classroom through the use of inquiry-based activities that reinforce the learning principles promoted in the Connecticut State Social Studies Frameworks. Teach It! allows students and teachers to access information about Connecticut history either by topic or by town; inquiry activities on various topics of Connecticut history can also be found on the site. The site also allows a teacher to find inquiry-based field trips from museums and historical institutions across the state.

To access "Teach It!," go to <http://teachitct.org>.

Connecticut English Language Proficiency Training of Trainers

The Academic Office is pleased to announce that the registration for the Training of Trainers on the Connecticut English Language Proficiency (CELP) Standards, is now open.

Trainings will be offered at each RESC between now and May. There are two sessions at each RESC: one for ESL Service Providers and one for general educators. The ESL coordinator/teacher/director or other English Learner point person **may** go to both sessions in order to then turn in the presentation in their district with other teachers. However, that does not preclude other individuals from attending. The sessions are designed both, for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the CELP Standards and build capacity to turn this training around in district.

Below please find registration information:

1. Visit the registration site: registration.pcgeducation.com.
2. If you are not already a user, select "Create New Account." Creating an account takes less than 5 minutes.
3. Under the Course Registration tab, select the course category "CELP."
4. Under the Course dropdown, there are options for General Educators and ESL Service Providers. Selecting either of these courses will populate a list of class options.
5. Select the green "Register" button next to the class you'd like to attend.

RESC	CELP training for ESL service providers	CELP training for general educators
ACES	2/25	3/24
CES	5/4	5/5
CREC	4/26	5/5
EASTCONN	4/26	5/3
Education Connection	3/8	3/9
LEARN	5/16	5/17

Please note that each session will run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Participants are requested to bring their laptop or other device. Participants should also bring a lunch or plan to purchase one at a nearby restaurant, as lunch will not be served. If you have questions, please contact Megan Alubicki Flick at megan.alubicki@ct.gov or Maggie Stevens Lopez at mstevens@aces.org.

Connecticut Next Generation Science Standards Web-based Short Courses

The Connecticut State Department of Education, and its professional development partner, the Connecticut Science Center, are pleased to announce that registration is now open for two short courses designed to help educators understand and implement the advances to teaching and learning called for in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). As a result of participating in professional learning, educators will be able to make informed and appropriate NGSS modifications to curriculum, classroom culture, and instructional materials. Both short courses will continue to be available year-round starting in 2016.

- [Next Generation Science-CT](#): an introduction to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012). No-cost; web-

based; self-paced; 15 modules offer 16 to 60 hours of structured professional learning for groups of educators.

- [Next Gen Science Exemplar System](#) (NGSX): a web-based, expert-led experience of a “3-Dimensional” culture of science learning, where students use science “practices” (specifically modeling and arguing with evidence) and “crosscutting concepts” to co-construct scientific explanations of real-world phenomena. Expert-facilitated; tuition fee; 30-36 hours of seminar-style learning for groups of teachers.

If you have questions, please contact Liz Buttner at Elizabeth.buttner@ct.gov.