



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education *Dianna R. Wentzell*

DATE: June 13, 2016

SUBJECT: New Statewide K-3 Professional Learning Opportunity: ReadConn

Announcing a K-3 Reading Professional Learning Opportunity

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has designed a series of professional learning modules for K-3 teachers to support the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills and comprehensive reading instruction. This series begins September 20, 2016. Alliance Districts will have priority registration until July 1, 2016. Open enrollment for all districts will begin on July 2, 2016. **This series will be on a first come, first served basis for a total of 96 teams.** Districts may register up to two (2) school-based teams for the 2016-17 series. This initiative will be repeated annually through the 2019-20 school year.

K-3 Reading Professional Learning Components

This initiative, known as ReadConn, consists of **professional learning aligned to the teacher reading survey objectives**. School-based teams participating in ReadConn will have their learning supported through online modules, face-to-face events, virtual coaching, and webinars to assist teachers in increasing their knowledge and expertise in identifying necessary foundational skills, spotting student skills gaps, direct instruction in reading foundational skills, and monitoring students' progress. ReadConn will commence with a launch event on September 20, 2016, featuring Dr. Timothy Shanahan, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois and past president of the International Reading Association. Dr. Shanahan was a member of the National Reading Panel (2000) and his research emphasizes reading-writing relationships, reading assessment, and improving reading achievement.

Registration and Required Commitments of Participating Teams

This series is designed to support school-based teams. School-based teams consist of one K-3 school-based literacy leader, three teachers and an administrator. **The K-3 literacy leader is defined as a school-based individual with a formal literacy role and is responsible for supporting K-3 teachers in reading skills and knowledge.** The teachers on this team must currently teach Grades K-3, inclusive, and may include teachers of Grades K-3 special education and English learners. When registering a team, the building administrator must register all five (5) members at once. Commitment to the entire series is imperative. If the team does not access the online modules and/or is unable to attend the face-to-face sessions they will be disqualified from the remaining modules.

To register your school team, please direct your internet browser to:

<http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/READCONN-Registration>. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne White, Program Manager, at 860-713-6751 or e-mail at Joanne.White@ct.gov.

DRW:mh

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