



# NEWS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## **Department of Education launches new interactive data portal** EdSight is Connecticut's new website for public school information

(HARTFORD, CT)—Connecticut State Department of Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell today announced the launch of a new interactive data website that will strengthen transparency and streamline online access to important school and district information.

EdSight is a brand new data portal that successfully integrates information from over 30 different sources – some reported by districts and others from external sources. The portal can be accessed here: <http://edsight.ct.gov/>.

Information is available on key performance measures that make up the Next Generation Accountability System, as well as dozens of other topics, including school finance, special education, staffing levels and school enrollment.

“The launch of our new data portal is a critical step in our mission to ensure all Connecticut students have access to the kind of high-quality education that prepares them for success in college, career and civic life,” Commissioner Wentzell said. “School and district leaders, teachers, parents and policymakers rely on data every day to make informed decisions about public education in Connecticut. Through increased transparency and ease of use, this new system will help us understand what we are doing well and where we need to focus efforts to make sure we are delivering on our promise to students.”

This is the first phase of the EdSight launch. Over the coming months, additional information and reports will be made accessible to the public through this portal. The site is the culmination of more than two years of work and development by the Department with support from important partners, including the state Department of Administrative Services.

“We are pleased to be a part of this important project,” said Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Melody A. Currey. “DAS/BEST and SDE technical staff worked together to make this solution possible.”

“We have looked forward to the launch of the new portal. CAGE and our school boards use data to inform and make the best decisions possible,” said Robert Rader, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. “For many years, we have used the data available from the State Department of Education to help frame educational issues and decision making. Appropriate use of

further information serves the best interests of the educational community and we hope that this portal will contribute to that effort.”

Visitors to the EdSight portal can interact with the information in many ways. Information can be sorted, filtered, and compared across schools and districts, and across racial, ethnic, and gender lines. Users can export the information for their own analysis, too, if they wish.

EdSight includes school profiles, which break out data by subgroups such as race, English language learners, special education students, and students who receive free or reduced-price meals—something that the old school profiles did not do.

The site also provides extensive documentation that describes the source of the information as well as terms and definitions.

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